

BRIEFLY

Afghan war worries Ghali: Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said Tuesday he was deeply distressed over the latest outbreak of fighting in the Afghan capital, Kabul, and appealed for an immediate end to hostilities. Reuter reports from UN.

"This violence further delays the day when Afghans can embark on the reconstruction of their shattered country, with the help of the international community," he said in a statement issued through a UN spokesman.

The secretary-general is deeply distressed at the renewed outbreak of violence in Kabul on the first day of the year, which is continuing with heavy loss of life. He urgently appeals to all groups engaged in the violence to cease hostilities immediately and resolve their problems peacefully," the statement said.

The statement was prompted by fighting, now in its fourth day, between forces of president Burhanuddin Rabbani and those loyal to northern warlord general Abdul Rashid Dostum, an ex-communist whose defection toppled Afghanistan's former communist government in 1992.

US welcomes Indo-Pak talks: The resumption of senior level talks between India and Pakistan over the disputed territory of Kashmir was welcomed Tuesday by the US State Department, AP reports from Washington.

"We hope that further talks can take place soon ... (and) encourage both parties to approach the entire range of issues constructively with the aim of achieving tangible agreements leading to reduced tensions," the department said in a statement.

It added that the United States "is willing to assist India and Pakistan to reach and implement agreements if they both so desire. However, we do not see ourselves in a mediator's role."

Judge shot dead in Algeria: Suspected Islamic militants shot dead a judge in front of his house in Western Algeria, an official statement said on Monday. Reuter reports from Algiers.

Judge Djilali Zaagane, 43, was attacked on Monday at the doorsteps of his home in Oued Rhiou, 215 km (125 miles) west of the capital Algiers, said the Justice Ministry statement carried by state media.

His death brings to nine the number of judges killed in the last seven months by suspected fundamentalist militants battling the Algerian authorities who cancelled a 1992 election the Islamists were winning.

Bombs mailed to Sinn Fein office: Two small parcel bombs arrived Tuesday at offices of the IRA political party, Sinn Fein, and one exploded while being examined by bomb disposal officers, slightly injuring two of them, AP reports from Ireland.

Protestant extremists in Northern Ireland, the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force, claimed responsibility in a statement issued in Belfast.

An Irish police spokesman said one parcel was sent to Sinn Fein headquarters at Dublin's Parnell Square and another to the nearby offices of the IRA-Sinn Fein weekly newspaper, Republican News.

Foreign spy to die in Iran: Iran sentenced a foreign spy to death, Tehran Radio quoted prosecutor-general Abol Fazl Mousavi Tabrizi as saying yesterday but did not name the person. Reuter reports from Nicosia.

The trial of a foreign spy has ended and his death sentence has been issued," the radio quoted Mousavi Tabrizi as telling a Tehran news conference. The broadcast gave no other details.

Mousavi Tabrizi said a year ago that German engineer Helmut Szimkus had been sentenced to death for spying for Iraq. It was not immediately clear whether he was referring to Szimkus or someone else yesterday.

Arab League concerned at Vatican-Israel pact: CAIRO, Jan 5: The Arab League expressed "grave concern" Tuesday over the Vatican-Israel accord, saying it feared that meant the holy see recognised Israel's sovereignty over the disputed holy city of Jerusalem, reports AFP.

A statement issued after a meeting between the league's Secretary General Esfiah Abdel Meguid and PLO Foreign Affairs Chief Faruq Kaddumi, said Jerusalem was a "very sensitive" issue for all believers.

The statement said the league feared that the accord signed on December 30 to establish relations between the Jewish state and the Vatican for the first time since the creation of Israel in 1948 could be interpreted as an approval of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory.

The Arab League said the Vatican's position on Jerusalem, had always conformed with UN resolutions which oppose Israel's control of the holy city.

Kaddumi, in Cairo since Monday, said the main thing that concerned the Palestinians in the Vatican-Israel accord was that it did not affect the final status of Jerusalem.

According to a PLO-Israeli

US Pacific forces commander to visit Vietnam

HANOI, Jan 5: The US Pacific forces commander plans to visit Vietnam this month, the highest-ranking US military officer to do so since the Vietnam War ended in 1975, a US official said Wednesday, reports AP.

Adm Charles R Larson will come to Vietnam to observe progress on accounting for the more than 2,000 Americans missing in action from the war, said Air Force Maj Roger Overturf. The visit starts January 16.

India to train Malaysian air force to handle Mig-29 jets

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 5: India has agreed to train Malaysia's air force to handle Russian-made Mig-29 fighter jets which Kuala Lumpur is buying from Moscow soon, Malaysian Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak said today, reports AFP.

The Indian air force will also be providing us logistics support and spare parts for the aircraft which it should be manufacturing in two years," Najib told reporters after talks with India's visiting air force chief, S K Kaul.

Najib said a group of 100 Malaysian air force personnel would be sent soon to Poona, near Bombay, to learn all aspects of handling and maintaining the Russian fighters, which are used extensively by India.

Rabbani's forces capture Kabul Airport

OIC asks Afghan warring factions to stop bloodshed

DUBAI, Jan 5: The 51-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) said on Tuesday it was sending an envoy to Afghanistan to mediate an end to bloody battles raging in Kabul and the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, reports Reuter.

"The special representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan, ambassador Ibrahim Bakr, has renewed efforts to restore peace and stability in Afghanistan and will be proceeding to the region shortly," said an OIC statement received by Reuters.

It said OIC Secretary General Hamid Al Ghabid appealed on the warring sides to "stop this senseless bloodshed... by arranging a ceasefire and effective cessation of armed hostilities and to resolve all mutual differences through dialogue and negotiations."

He appealed to the international community and Islamic states to send medical and other relief aid to Afghanistan.

The five-day battles between forces of president Burhanuddin Rabbani and fighters loyal to northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum have killed dozens of people and injured more than 2,500.

Reuter from Kabul says: Afghan government forces captured Kabul Airport from ex-communist rebels early today on the fifth day of bloody

battles for supremacy that have killed dozens of people and injured more than 2,500.

Heavy ground fighting resumed at dawn just south of the city centre as forces of President Burhanuddin Rabbani tried to push back fighters loyal to northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Amid signs that Dostum's ex-communist militia were losing ground infantry fighters of Rabbani's arch for Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar of the hardline Hezb-i-Islami Party had joined the militia forces, witnesses said.

Rockets and shells rained down on the war-shattered capital for a fifth day in the worst bombardment since battles in August 1992 which left more than 3,000 dead.

At Kabul's airport, a lifeline for Dostum's forces from his base in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, government troops had taken the last pocket of resistance after five days of fierce infantry battles.

"We have taken control of the whole airport," said Lieutenant General Ahmed Shan as he drove a reporter around the perimeter of the runway — the frontline for several days.

In the basement of an Ariana airlines building about 40 militia prisoners sat huddled on bunk beds, guarded by Rabbani's men.



Three members of the "Diggers", a private group exploring Moscow's underground tunnel system as a hobby, Jan 4 make their way through a metal net, which should seal off the underground entrance to the Kremlin. Exploring the widespread tunnel system became very popular after many of the defenders of the Russian White House managed to escape through this underground system during the events of October 3/4, 1993. — AFP photo

Kashmiris to continue war for freedom

SRINAGAR (India), Jan 5: Muslim militants vowed today to continue their guerrilla war for an end to Indian rule over Kashmir, blaming New Delhi for the failure of talks with Pakistan on the disputed region, reports AFP.

Al Burq, a guerrilla group which favours Kashmir's attachment to Pakistan, said the secessionist fight had forced India to negotiate with Islamabad over the dispute which has twice taken the neighbours to war.

Kashmiris will continue their "armed and political struggle for freedom" from India, a spokesman for the organisation said in Srinagar.

Kashmir's summer capital and urban hub of militancy.

Two other militant groups, Hizbullah and Jamiat Ul Mujahideen, also called for a continuance of the secessionist fight which has claimed more than 7,000 lives since flaring in 1989.

The statements followed the two-day talks between Indian and Pakistani foreign secretaries which ended in Islamabad Monday in deadlock over Kashmir, held in part by the two countries.

Muslim-majority Kashmir has been a subject of dispute since its erstwhile Hindu Maharajah decided to join India

after the subcontinent's independence from British rule in 1947.

The failure of the talks was no surprise, Muslim militants said, adding that India had agreed to negotiate with Pakistan only under international pressure, and to buy time in the fight against secessionists.

The Ikhwam, Ul Muslimeen militant group said Pakistan should refuse to hold "fruitless" talks that would only ease pressure on New Delhi and enable it to unleash "reprression" on Kashmiris.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the militants, Islamabad denies the charge but openly extends moral and political support to the secessionist campaign it calls a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

Some Kashmiri civilians voiced dismay at the stalemate dialogue while readying for continued strife.

"We were hoping that serious talks would follow this round," said a Srinagar lawyer. "But it seems the Kashmiris have to drum up more support for their cause to force India and Pakistan to negotiate seriously," he said.

Meanwhile, Indian security forces arrested 10 suspects during a drive against militants in the northern town of Sopore, police said.

Clinton invites Kravchuk to visit US

KIEV, Jan 5: US President Bill Clinton has invited President Leonid Kravchuk to visit Washington before Ukraine's parliamentary election in March, a senior official said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Leonid Kozhara, a presidential adviser on foreign affairs, said the invitation was contained in a letter late last month. Kravchuk asked Clinton in his reply to include Kiev on his tour of former Soviet republics this month, which includes stops in Russia and Belarus, Kozhara said.

Speculation has mounted in recent days that Kravchuk will meet Clinton either in Moscow or in Minsk, capital of Belarus.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said no decision had been made on a meeting.

Clinton is due to attend a NATO summit in Brussels before travelling on to Prague, Moscow and Minsk.

Kravchuk has been seeking a meeting in Washington for months to discuss US objections to the conditions imposed by Ukraine on giving up former Soviet weapons for good.

ANC asks Iran to lift sanctions

TEHRAN, Jan 5: The African National Congress and other South African organisations have asked Iran to lift sanctions, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said, reports AFP.

Velayati, quoted on Tuesday by Resalat newspaper, said Iran believed the developments in South Africa "are real and apartheid is being dismantled."

"These groups have asked us to end economic sanctions against their country," Velayati said, naming only the ANC.

Clinton vows to stand by CIA

LANGELY, Va, Jan 5: President Clinton vowed Tuesday to "stand by" the Central Intelligence Agency, which some critics want to scale back or scrap now that the Cold War is over, reports Reuter.

On his first visit to the spy agency's sprawling campus-like headquarters since he took office nearly a year ago, Clinton seemed to go out of his way to show he bore no grudge over intelligence analyses that have complicated his job in some hot spots like Haiti and North Korea.

"While much of your work is sensitive and cannot be discussed publicly, I know what you do, I value it, and I respect you for doing it," he said.

Last year, the intelligence community circulated a disputed and unflattering psychological profile of exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide at a time that the administration was seeking to "build support for him."

More recently, the CIA and other intelligence agencies said in a classified assessment that North Korea probably had developed one or two nuclear bombs. This deepened Clinton's dilemma as he tries to reach diplomatic accord with Pyongyang on nuclear inspections while also fulfilling his

pledge that "North Korea cannot be allowed to develop a nuclear bomb."

Clinton hailed the CIA and the 12 other units that make up the U.S intelligence community for warning him of threats, spotlighting trends and protecting U.S interests worldwide.

"Those activities are particularly important now," he told a crowd of perhaps 2,000 agency employees gathered in the headquarters' white marble lobby.

In many ways, you helped to win that Cold War ... but

Armed peasants retreat into Mexico's southern jungles

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico, Jan 5: Indian rebels retreated into Mexico's southern jungles as thousands of government soldiers fought to extinguish the New Year's offensive, reports AP.

Shortly before nightfall Tuesday, army planes bombed a poor neighbourhood near a military base south of San Cristobal de las Casas, indicating some guerrilla resistance remained.

Witnesses saw five army planes and counted seven bombs. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The army said snipers had fired on its base Monday night.

A government spokesman, meanwhile, blamed the uprising on extremists, including some Salvadorans and Guatemalans, who he said are manipulating the Mayan Indians in the dirt-poor region.

It's an indigenous group in

the hands of violent professionals," said Eloy Cantu, chief aide to interior Minister Patrocinio Gonzalez.

A military statement said 93 people were killed in four days of fighting, including seven soldiers, 59 rebels and 27 civilians and police. Eight rebels were detained, the statement said.

The rebels pulled out of three towns they occupied on New Year's Day. The army reported sniping continued in Ocosingo, scene of the fiercest fighting, and in some other areas.

The rebels, calling themselves the Zapatista Army for National Liberation, are protesting injustices in Chiapas, a state plagued by poverty, illiteracy and chronic land disputes.

They appeared to have some 1,000 fighters.

The army had about 14,000 soldiers in Chiapas, the inde-

pendent Excelsior news agency reported.

Reporters who visited the formerly occupied villages of Altamirano and Huixtlan on Tuesday said they saw no sign of rebels. The rebels left two other towns seized Saturday — San Cristobal and Las Margaritas — Sunday and Monday.

Hundreds of army troops occupied Ocosingo. Villagers said the rebels had fled into the hills.

Msr Samuel Ruiz, the area's Roman Catholic bishop, said the rebels had not responded to the church's offer to mediate the conflict.

Ruiz said he was worried the army's "massive response" might result in human rights violations. He called for a cease-fire and for international observers to come to Chiapas and monitor the situation.

In Ocosingo, reporters saw 24 corpses in the streets and markets.

Off the Record

16 live cobras saved from soup pot

HONG KONG: A Hong Kong customs officer discovered 16 live cobras hidden in a box of vegetables and saved them from the soup pot Wednesday, reports Reuter.

A government spokesman said a 39-year-old man had tried to smuggle the Asiatic cobras in from China in a canvas bag inside a box, covered by vegetables.

He was arrested on suspicion of violating laws to protect endangered species.

Snake is a popular winter delicacy in Hong Kong and is generally made into soup.

Many Chinese consider snake bile, removed from the live reptile and often mixed with wine, and excellent all-round tonic and particularly good for alleviating rheumatism.

"Women need not marry"

TOKYO: An increasing number of Japanese women need not marry, according to a poll by the Daily Mainichi Shimbun, reports Reuter.

About 28 per cent of respondents thought women should not have to marry if they were economically independent, while 58 per cent said women should marry, the daily said on Tuesday.

In a 1987 government poll, 74 per cent of Japanese said marriage was necessary and 21 per cent said it was not.

"This change in attitude gives a sense of foreboding, of the destruction of a society in which marriage is the norm, and takes Japan a step further toward a society of fewer children" the newspaper said.

The Mainichi poll, taken in December in cooperation with a life insurance company, covered 2,526 adults nation wide.

A record low 1.21 million babies were born in Japan in 1992, down by about 14,000 from 1991. The average number of children born to a Japanese woman in her lifetime fell to a post-war low of 1.5 in 1992.

Government reports have blamed the low birth rate on a growing tendency among Japanese to stay single or marry later.

Nude Olympics in minus five degree centigrade

PRINCETON: At Princeton, they don't call it streaking. The traditional run-in the buff across the Ivy League campus to celebrate the first snowfall is dubbed the Nude Olympics, reports AP.

Administrators disapprove of the freezing frolic, which involved about 300 Princeton students on Tuesday. Men and women both disrobed and raced around the grounds in 22-degree (-5 C) weather, slipping and sliding on the ice-covered pathways.

The runners were cheered by hundreds of fully-clad colleagues while music from the movie "Chariots of Fire," blared from a dormitory window.

Their torsos were bare, but most wore shoes and socks, hats and gloves, some donned wigs. One wore a football helmet.

"It was a mob scene," said student Danny Hoffman, who said many of his naked peers had been drinking.

Two students were taken to the campus clinic. One has scraped knees and the other was intoxicated, said nursing supervisor Connie Oldham.

For a poor vegetable diet

MOSCOW: Siberian bears have turned to hunting sheep and cows to make up for a poor vegetable diet, and there even have been several attacks on humans, a news agency said Wednesday, reports AP.

In one region, hunters killed a giant bear, who had devoured a total of 49 sheep, Itar-Tass said. The animal was so strong the hunters had to fire six bullets to kill it, the agency reported.

Jt committee last chance for peace: Ranariddh

PHNOM PENH, Jan 5: Forming a committee to negotiate an end to Cambodia's civil war is the last chance for a peaceful solution to the Khmer Rouge insurgency, the country's first premier said Wednesday, reports AP.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh said the government elected in a UN-organised poll last May first had demanded that the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group stop attacking its positions before the administration would negotiate an end to 15 years of war.

"Now we accept to talk first," Ranariddh told the Associated Press en route to Phnom Penh from a private visit to Bangkok. "It's the last chance. I'm very impatient."

Ranariddh proposed several days ago forming a committee of senior government and Khmer Rouge officials to negotiate an end to the bloodshed.

He said he still was waiting for a response from Khmer Rouge President Khieu Samphan, dismissing reports that the two leaders had met in Thailand.

The Khmer Rouge, which killed hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during a radical reign in the mid-1970s, boycotted the UN-organised election, which was aimed at ending more than a decade of fighting.

Though the guerrilla group has made overtures to join its former battlefield allies in the new administration, it had kept up attacks against government positions.

Ranariddh discounted reports that in the coming days, the government planned to storm the Khmer Rouge's two main bases of Anlong Veng and Pailin in northwestern Cambodia along the Thai border.

He said the reports had been exaggerated and that the only fighting in the country now and in the foreseeable future was small-scale clashes.

"The situation is quite calm," he said.

Nevertheless, government sources said the government had sent three tanks and more than 600 soldiers to reinforce positions near Anlong Veng, along the Thai border, with plans to attack the munitions base this month and then the stronghold of Pailin.

The one man believed capable of ending the civil war, Ranariddh's father, King Norodom Sihanouk, is undergoing chemotherapy in China.

India to train Malaysian air force to handle Mig-29 jets

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 5: India has agreed to train Malaysia's air force to handle Russian-made Mig-29 fighter jets which Kuala Lumpur is buying from Moscow soon, Malaysian Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak said today, reports AFP.

The Indian air force will also be providing us logistics support and spare parts for the aircraft which it should be manufacturing in two years," Najib told reporters after talks with India's visiting air force chief, S K Kaul.

Najib said a group of 100 Malaysian air force personnel would be sent soon to Poona, near Bombay, to learn all aspects of handling and maintaining the Russian fighters, which are used extensively by India.

Clinton vows to stand by CIA

LANGELY, Va, Jan 5: President Clinton vowed Tuesday to "stand by" the Central Intelligence Agency, which some critics want to scale back or scrap now that the Cold War is over, reports Reuter.

On his first visit to the spy agency's sprawling campus-like headquarters since he took office nearly a year ago, Clinton seemed to go out of his way to show he bore no grudge over intelligence analyses that have complicated his job in some hot spots like Haiti and North Korea.

"While much of your work is sensitive and cannot be discussed publicly, I know what you do, I value it, and I respect you for doing it," he said.

Last year, the intelligence community circulated a disputed and unflattering psychological profile of exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide at a time that the administration was seeking to "build support for him."

More recently, the CIA and other intelligence agencies said in a classified assessment that North Korea probably had developed one or two nuclear bombs. This deepened Clinton's dilemma as he tries to reach diplomatic accord with Pyongyang on nuclear inspections while also fulfilling his

Clinton invites Kravchuk to visit US

KIEV, Jan 5: US President Bill Clinton has invited President Leonid Kravchuk to visit Washington before Ukraine's parliamentary election in March, a senior official said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Leonid Kozhara, a presidential adviser on foreign affairs, said the invitation was contained in a letter late last month. Kravchuk asked Clinton in his reply to include Kiev on his tour of former Soviet republics this month, which includes stops in Russia and Belarus, Kozhara said.

Speculation has mounted in recent days that Kravchuk will meet Clinton either in Moscow or in Minsk, capital of Belarus.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said no decision had been made on a meeting.

Clinton is due to attend a NATO summit in Brussels before travelling on to Prague, Moscow and Minsk.

Kravchuk has been seeking a meeting in Washington for months to discuss US objections to the conditions imposed by Ukraine on giving up former Soviet weapons for good.

Jt committee last chance for peace: Ranariddh

PHNOM PENH, Jan 5: Forming a committee to negotiate an end to Cambodia's civil war is the last chance for a peaceful solution to the Khmer Rouge insurgency, the country's first premier said Wednesday, reports AP.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh said the government elected in a UN-organised poll last May first had demanded that the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group stop attacking its positions before the administration would negotiate an end to 15 years of war.

"Now we accept to talk first," Ranariddh told the Associated Press en route to Phnom Penh from a private visit to Bangkok. "It's the last chance. I'm very impatient."

Ranariddh proposed several days ago forming a committee of senior government and Khmer Rouge officials to negotiate an end to the bloodshed.

He said he still was waiting for a response from Khmer Rouge President Khieu Samphan, dismissing reports that the two leaders had met in Thailand.

The Khmer Rouge, which killed hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during a radical reign in the mid-1970s, boycotted the UN-organised election, which was aimed at ending more than a decade of fighting.

Though the guerrilla group has made overtures to join its former battlefield allies in the new administration, it had kept up attacks against government positions.

Ranariddh discounted reports that in the coming days, the government planned to storm the Khmer Rouge's two main bases of Anlong Veng and Pailin in northwestern Cambodia along the Thai border.

He said the reports had been exaggerated and that the only fighting in the country now and in the foreseeable future was small-scale clashes.

"The situation is quite calm," he said.

Nevertheless, government sources said the government had sent three tanks and more than 600 soldiers to reinforce positions near Anlong Veng, along the Thai border, with plans to attack the munitions base this month and then the stronghold of Pailin.

The one man believed capable of ending the civil war, Ranariddh's father, King Norodom Sihanouk, is undergoing chemotherapy in China.

India to train Malaysian air force to handle Mig-29 jets

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 5: India has agreed to train Malaysia's air force to handle Russian-made Mig-29 fighter jets which Kuala Lumpur is buying from Moscow soon, Malaysian Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak said today, reports AFP.

The Indian air force will also be providing us logistics support and spare parts for the aircraft which it should be manufacturing in two years," Najib told reporters after talks with India's visiting air force chief, S K Kaul.

Najib said a group of 100 Malaysian air force personnel would be sent soon to Poona, near Bombay, to learn all aspects of handling and maintaining the Russian fighters, which are used extensively by India.

Armed peasants retreat into Mexico's southern jungles

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico, Jan 5: Indian rebels retreated into Mexico's southern jungles as thousands of government soldiers fought to extinguish the New Year's offensive, reports AP.

Shortly before nightfall Tuesday, army planes bombed a poor neighbourhood near a military base south of San Cristobal de las Casas, indicating some guerrilla resistance remained.

Witnesses saw five army planes and counted seven bombs. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The army said snipers had fired on its base Monday night.

A government spokesman, meanwhile, blamed the uprising on extremists, including some Salvadorans and Guatemalans, who he said are manipulating the Mayan Indians in the dirt-poor region.

It's an indigenous group in

Southeast Asian Islamic econ council in offing

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 5: Muslim officials said today they were forming a Southeast Asian Islamic economic cooperation council among Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore to strengthen Islamic unity in the region, reports AFP.

The proposed council could also serve as a forum for economic matters and assist Muslim businesses in the four countries. Zainal Abidin Abdul Kadir, a senior Islamic official in the Malaysian prime minister's department told Bernama news agency.

Zainal said the council would be formed under an existing religious association among the four states and decisions made by it would be subjected to approval by Islamic ministers of the countries.



A group of Indians leave their homes Jan 4 during bombardments by planes of the Mexican army on the hills near San Cristobal de las Casas. The army is on its fourth day of clashes with the rebel Zapatista army. It has been reported that some 100 people have been killed. — AFP photo