

BRIEFLY

6 cops killed in Colombia: Leftist rebels attacked police stations in several towns killing six policemen and three other people, authorities said on Saturday.

Scottish opera founder dead: Sir Alexander Gibson, the founder and former music director of the Scottish Opera Company, died on Saturday aged 68.

Quake shakes S Japan: The southern Japanese island of Kyushu and surrounding areas were shaken by a strong earth tremor yesterday.

24 killed in Thai bus mishap: Twenty-four teachers on a weekend outing were killed on Saturday when their bus lost control on a mountain road.

Communists win Uzbek polls: Uzbekistan's communists won a crushing overall victory in the second round of general elections and will hold at least 231 of the new parliament's 250 seats.

10 killed in Liberian rioting: At least 10 people died in the Liberian capital Monrovia on Saturday after a peace demonstration involving thousands of people degenerated into rioting and looting.

Robbery at US Casino: Three masked gunmen emptied cash from the drawers of a casino's cashier counter early Saturday and escaped in a car.

Opposition wins Niger polls: Opponents of President Mahamadé Ouassane have won Niger's parliamentary elections by a short majority of seats.

Fires claim 21 in US: Fires trapped four families inside their homes early on Saturday in Minnesota, Ohio, suburban Chicago and Washington state.

Chinese immigrants worry Fiji: After falling for more than a century to come to terms with an influx of Indian immigrants, many indigenous Fijians are alarmed by a plan to admit up to 30,000 Hong Kong Chinese.

Journalist killed in Algeria: Suspected Muslim guerrillas abducted and killed an Algerian journalist working for the government-controlled newspaper El Chaab.

Train mishap kills 4 in Florida: A train slammed into a van carrying five people returning from a funeral Saturday, killing four passengers and injuring a fifth.

Israel imposes curfew in Hebron: The Israeli army imposed a curfew on Palestinians living in Hebron today after an anti-tank missile slammed into a settler's house.

First reports said soldiers accidentally unleashed the missile during a training exercise, but settlers accused Palestinian extremists.

Tensions were running high in the city after troops on Saturday used tear-gas to halt clashes between Palestinians and Jews.

So it looks like the big stuff, the exciting stuff, the fun stuff the emotion-provoking stuff will be what captures the audience's imagination.

Republicans for revival of Regan's 'star wars' plan

WASHINGTON, Jan 15: A bill to promote the only foreign policy goal of the Republicans "Contract with America" would curb UN peacekeeping and support expansion of NATO without Russia, reports AP.

The proposed "National Security Revitalisation Act" also would revive former President Regan's "Star Wars" defence against ballistic missiles.

bring all of the provisions to a vote in the first 100 days of the new House. Republicans also have introduced legislation to reduce foreign aid, but that is not part of the candidates' signed manifesto.

Revival of former President Regan's "Star Wars" plan, dropped by President Clinton, for a defence of the continental United States against incoming missiles.



In this photo released by the University Hospital of Cartagena, Leonor Delgado (L) poses with her niece Erika Delgado, 9, and Erika's doctor (C) and psychologist 14 January.

Chechnya, a tragic mistake for Yeltsin: Christopher

WASHINGTON, Jan 15: Russian President Boris Yeltsin has made a tragic mistake in the conflict with the break-away Republic of Chechnya and is paying a hefty price.

He said he would tell his Russian counterpart that the "indiscriminate killing of women and children, the excessive use of force are all things that are of great concern to the world community."

But despite the criticism, Christopher again reiterated the US position that Chechnya was part of Russia and that Moscow had sole authority over its 89 constituent republics.

Pakistan asked to withdraw 15 officials from Delhi

NEW DELHI, Jan 15: India has asked Pakistan to withdraw 15 officials from its high commission (embassy) here.

around 20 compatriots from a closed mission in Bombay when the Indian plea came.

he said. "The Indians could have asked that their staff in Karachi be posted in Islamabad. They could have had an extra 20 staff in Karachi."

Hollywood movie menu for '95

January," said AD Murphy, financial expert at The Hollywood Reporter. "It used to be that nothing of importance came out until Washington's birthday."

Among the films due this month: director John Singleton's "Higher Learning"; "Murder in the First," starring Christian Slater and Kevin Bacon.

They did not want it... of course, we are for parity in numbers," he said. Khokhar said the 15, all non-diplomats, has been asked to leave India in one month.

1200 US troops arrive in Panama

PANAMA CITY, Jan 15: The first of 1,200 American troops arrived in Panama City on Saturday to reinforce security and prepare to move nearly 8,000 Cuban refugees out of Panama.

Haiti likely to be declared secure tomorrow

NEW YORK, Jan 15: The United States and United Nations could declare Haiti a "stable and secure environment" as early as Tuesday.

Iran urges OIC to send team to Russia

TEHRAN, Jan 15: Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on Saturday urged the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to send a delegation to Russia to discuss the war in Chechnya.

Off the Record

All you need is love

AMSTERDAM: If you're Dutch and your heart is broken, someone will listen to your problems. In fact, a nationwide television audience will eavesdrop, reports AP.

A king is a king in Jordan

AMMAN: Britain's monarchy is haunted by the spectre of the government cutting the family's allowances, while its European cousins ride about on bicycles cultivating the image of the common man.

Britons prefer William to Charles as king

LONDON: The bad news for Prince Charles is that most Britons would prefer to see his son - or even his sister - on the throne, according to a poll published Saturday.

Iran urged OIC to send team to Russia



Mary MacKillop (1842-1909), portrayed in a painting by Mary Brady in this undated photographic reproduction, is destined to become Australia's first saint when she is beatified by Pope John Paul II in Sydney on 19 January.

4 killed in Bihac's UN safe area

ZAGREB, Jan 15: Four people were killed and at least four others wounded by a shell which slammed into the UN-designated safe area of Bihac in northwestern Bosnia on Saturday.