

Iraqi disarmament

UNSC nears agreement on inspection process

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 23: The UN Security Council appeared Friday to have inched toward ending a stalemate on how to inspect Iraq's disarmament after December's US, British air strikes, diplomats said, reports AFP.

During Indo-Pak visit next week

Talbott to suggest new ideas to resolve nuclear differences

WASHINGTON, Jan 23: US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott will suggest new ideas for resolving nuclear differences with India and Pakistan when he goes to South Asia next week for high level talks, a senior official said on Friday, reports Reuters.

Ethnic riots in Indonesia: Death toll rises to 45

JAKARTA, Jan 23: Searchers looked for more victims Saturday in the ashes of burned out houses set on fire during bloody religious rioting in Eastern Indonesia. Troops patrolled the streets as the death toll from clashes between Christians and Muslims hit 45, reports AP.

A curfew was imposed to prevent further fighting between rival gangs on Ambon, Sanana and Seram island, known in Dutch colonial times as the Spice Islands. The islands in eastern Maluku province are the latest site of rioting that has plagued crisis-ridden Indonesia in the past year.

China launches anti-religion campaign in Tibet

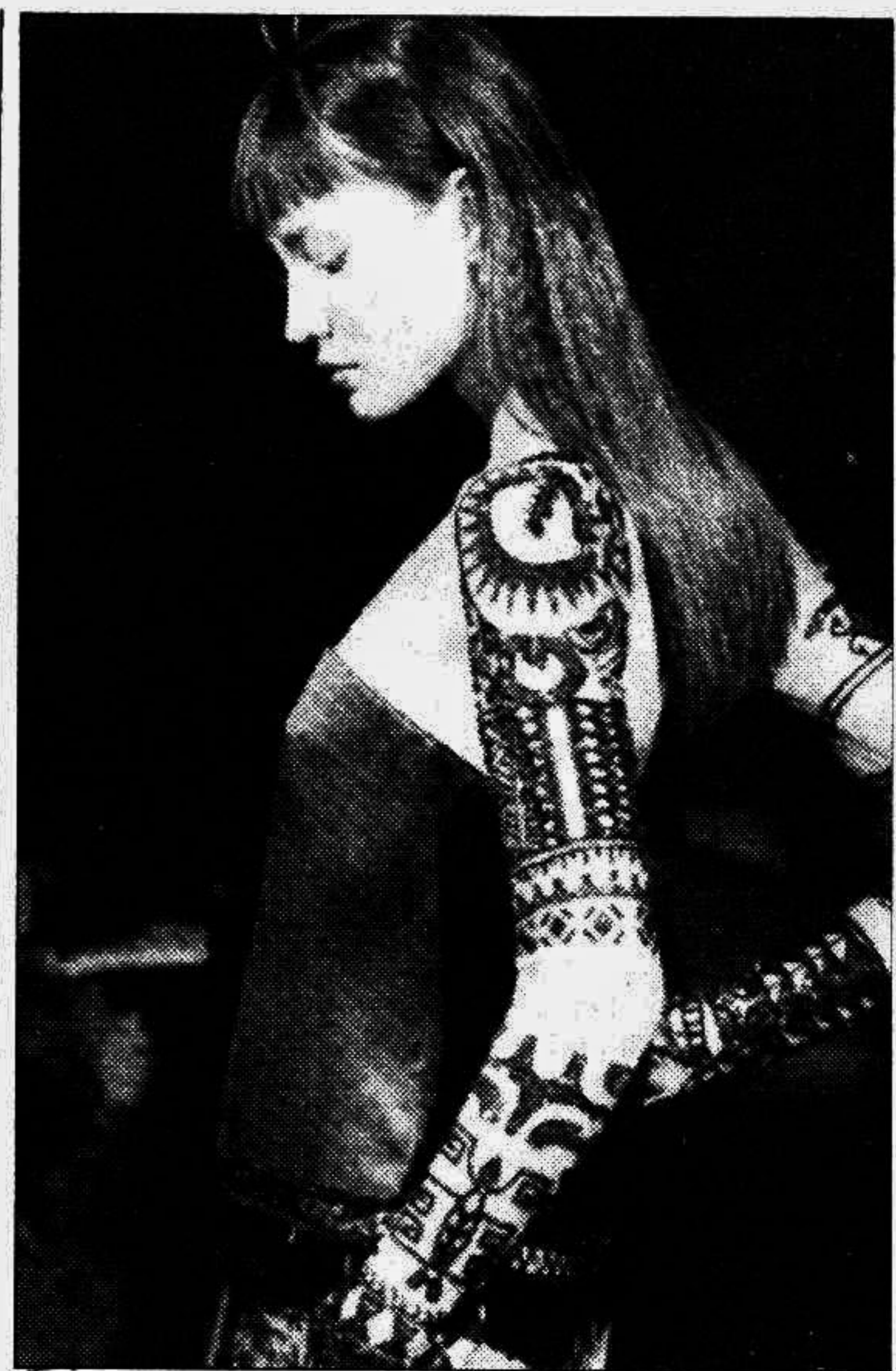
BEIJING, Jan 23: China has launched a three-year-propaganda campaign aimed at stamping out religion in Tibet and ending support for the Dalai Lama living in exile, the Tibet Information Network (TIN) said today, reports AFP.



Performers on the float representing West Bengal and the theme of World Peace rehearse Friday in New Delhi for the annual Republic Day Parade.

Violence in Kashmir: 5 killed

NEW DELHI, Jan 23: Five people including an Indian soldier have been killed in separatist-linked violence in the troubled region of Kashmir, the Press Trust of India said on Friday, reports AFP.



A model presents an evening dress, part of Italian designer Fausto Sarli collection, during Spring-Summer 1999 high fashion show in Rome Friday.

BRIEFLY

10 bodies found in Manila: The bodies of 10 men have been found inside five steel barrels in a remote village north of Manila, authorities said yesterday, AP reports from Manila.

Muslim rebel killed in Philippines: Government soldiers killed a suspected Muslim rebel and two militiamen have also died in clashes in the southern Philippines, the military said Saturday, AP reports from Philippines.

Gas blast kills 3 in US: An explosion apparently caused by a natural gas leak leveled three buildings Friday, killing three people and critically injuring several others, AP says from Alabama.

3 burnt to death in Orissa: An Australian working with leprosy patients in India and his two young sons were burnt to death in the eastern state of Orissa, a diplomat said yesterday, AFP reports from New Delhi.

Japan to resume talks with DPRK: Japan is ready to resume talks with North Korea frozen since August last year when Pyongyang launched a ballistic missile, a report said yesterday, AFP reports from Tokyo.

One burnt alive in W Bengal: A woman was burnt alive and 17 others were injured in a clash between two groups, while 49 houses were torched and looted station Thursday night, according to the police, PTI reports from West Bengal.

US analysts, politicians believe independence of Kosovo only solution to Balkan crisis

WASHINGTON, Jan 23: It is the policy shift that dare not speak its name in official Washington, but many US analysts and politicians believe it is time to consider an independent Kosovo as a way out of the latest Balkan crisis, reports Reuters.

During Ramadan 157 killed in road accidents in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 23: At least 157 people have died on Malaysian roads during a holiday rush at the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, police said Saturday, reports AP.

A spokesman at Malaysia's federal police headquarters said more fatalities were expected as travellers clog roads this weekend ahead of the unofficial end to post-Ramadan celebrations on Monday.

The end of the Muslim fasting month, known as Hari Raya in this Southeast Asian nation, fell on Tuesday and Wednesday. Many stretch the holiday out for a week, flooding roads in an annual exodus.

House seeks Starr's help to make Monica testify

WASHINGTON, Jan 23: US House of Representatives impeachment prosecutors obtained Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's help Friday in attempting to force Monica Lewinsky to talk to them, according to their immunity agreement requires it, two congressional officials confirmed Friday, reports AP.

UNSC 'concerned' over fighting in Sierra Leone

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 23: The UN Security Council said Friday it is "deeply concerned" about the worsening of the humanitarian situation after two weeks of fighting in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, reports AFP.

Off the Record

Section containing 'No dumb clucks' and 'Where pigeons fail the dope test!' articles.

US plans to promote Iraqi opposition in media

WASHINGTON, Jan 23: As part of its efforts to bolster Iraqi opposition groups, the United States plans to promote them in the media as the authentic voice of the Iraqi people, a senior US official said on Friday, reports Reuters.

Lay off the pizza, hamburgers and live longer, say experts

ANAHEIM, California, Jan 23: It is actually easy to live longer—just lay off the pizza and hamburgers, experts said on Friday, reports Reuters.

'Titanic' director's marriage ends

NEW YORK, Jan 23: Being married to James Cameron was a titanicly miserable experience, says actress Linda Hamilton, who fled for divorce from the director of 'Titanic' and 'The Terminator' after nearly eight years of marriage, reports AP.