

## International



Princess Caroline of Monaco and Prince Ernst August of Hanover pose for the official photographer before their private civil wedding ceremony in Monaco Saturday. The religious wedding will take place at a yet undisclosed date.

— UNB/AP photo

## BRIEFLY

### China detains dissident, reporter

Police have detained a dissident and a reporter and told the dissident's friends that the pair could not be released because they weren't carrying identity cards, a human rights group said yesterday, AP reports from Beijing.

Liu Xianbin, a member of a would-be opposition party targeted in a government crackdown on dissidents, and journalist Yuan Yanjuan were taken away Saturday from a guest house in Changsha, capital of southern Hunan province, the New York-based group Human Rights in China said.

### 35 illegal immigrants held in HK

Police arrested 35 people from India, Pakistan and several African countries yesterday in a pre-dawn sweep aimed at illegal immigrants, a police spokesman said, AP reports from Hong Kong.

Police and immigration officials searched 157 guest houses in the tourist district of Tsim Sha Tsui and conducted identity checks on 600 people during the five-hour raid, police said in a statement. Of the 26 men and nine women, aged between 26 and 77, one overstayed his visa, 16 were suspected of also overstaying and 18 failed to produce proof of identity, the statement said.

### ROK FM begins visit to Russia

South Korean Foreign Minister Hong Soon-young left Seoul yesterday to visit Russia and three African countries, AP says from Seoul.

During a three-day visit to Moscow, which will continue until Tuesday, Hong will meet Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov to discuss peace on the Korean peninsula, aides said.

### John Glenn in Japan

Astronaut John Glenn arrived in Japan on Sunday with four other crew members from the space shuttle Discovery on a trip to promote international links for the US space programme, AP reports from Tokyo.

The astronauts were greeted at Narita airport, near Tokyo by Chaki Mukai, Japan's first female astronaut. Mukai was also a member of the Discovery crew that returned to earth on Nov. 7 after a 10-day mission. Glenn and the other astronauts will hold news conferences at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo on Monday and at the Tsukuba space centre on Wednesday.

### 14 guerillas freed in Kosovo

Five kidnapped Serb civilians and nine ethnic Albanian guerillas were set free on Saturday in Kosovo, as the prospect of immediate NATO action appeared to diminish, AFP reports from Pristina.

The five Serbs, including two women, were turned over to members of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)'s ceasefire verification mission. Meanwhile, Yugoslav authorities on Saturday freed nine KLA members who had been in custody for more than a month.

### Quake jolts S Japan

A strong earthquake measuring 5.9 on the open-ended Richter Scale hit southern Japan yesterday, but there were no reports of casualties or damages, the meteorological agency said, AFP reports from Tokyo.

The epicentre of the quake, which struck at 9:37 am (0037 GMT), was in the seabed off Tanegashima Island in Kagoshima prefecture some 1,000 kilometres from Tokyo, the agency said. The agency said no tidal wave warning was issued.

### Troops, Moro rebels exchange fire

Government troops and Muslim rebels exchanged mortar fire as military jets roared over rebel positions during the latest of a series of clashes in the southern Philippines, the military said, AP says from Zamboanga.

Romero said the rebels belonging to the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front fired mortars on several army outposts in the village in Buldun town, prompting government troops to retaliate with mortar and automatic weapons fire.

### Fire claims 14 in China

Fourteen people were killed in a fire at a Taiwanese factory in the southern Chinese city of Dongguan local reports said yesterday, reports AFP.

The 14 were on an overnight shift Saturday when the blaze broke out at the Dongguan Plastic Factory owned by the Taipei-based Zhishen group in Guangdong province the Oriental Daily News reported.

### Framed scraps of silk

Framed scraps of silk left over from the making of the dress worn by Britain's Princess Diana at her 1981 wedding to Prince Charles, which are expected to fetch around 100 thousand pounds (US \$164,000) when they are sent to auction later in 1999, probably in America. The scraps were a gift to an elderly couple by the dress' designer Elizabeth Emmanuel, as a 'thank you' for baby sitting while the dress was being sewn.

— UNB/AP photo

### 62 killed Fighting soars in northern Afghanistan

KABUL, Jan 24: More than 410 Taliban troops have been captured and 62 men from both sides killed as fighting escalates in the far north of the Afghan opposition said today, reports AFP.

Anti-Taliban alliance spokesman Abdullah said 38 militia troops were killed by forces loyal to ethnic Tajik commander Ahmad Shah Massoud in north-west Faryab province in the last two days.

A further 12 opposition troops were killed by the Taliban and another 28 wounded by the fighting in Faryab around the town of Sheerin Tagab, he said.

"We also captured 200 horses which were being used to ferry the Taliban and supplies in the area," he said.

Independent confirmation was not immediately available. A Taliban spokesman was not available for comment.

Abdullah said another 60 Taliban had been imprisoned and a further 12 killed during a recent uprising at Shire Tepah in Balkh province near the border of Uzbekistan.

### Gunmen kill 11 in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 24: Gunmen burst into a house and killed 11 people in a violence-plagued area hours after a political boss was slain, authorities said Sunday, reports AP.

The massacre Saturday night came amid fears that the killing of Sifiso Nkabinde would re-ignite violence in Richmond, in southeastern KwaZulu-Natal province.

"We believe it's a reaction to the death of Sifiso Nkabinde," said Richmond Mayor Andrew Ragavalo. "It's sort of a revenge attack."

Seven people were wounded in the attack, the SAPA news agency said.

### Indian Express journalist murdered brutally in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Jan 24: Shivani a senior journalist with the Indian Express was yesterday found murdered at her East Delhi residence with her three month-old child as a mute witness, reports PTI.

The body of 31 year old Shivani, a special correspondent with the newspaper, was found lying in a pool of blood at her Navkunj apartment flat in Patparganj area by her brother-in-law yesterday evening, police and family sources said.

Police said two blood soaked kitchen knives and a frying pan used in the killing of Shivani, wife of Times of India's Legal Editor Rakesh Bhatnagar were recovered from the spot.

There were strangulation marks on her neck besides stab injuries in the abdomen and chest, they said.

### Diana's butler writing book on etiquette

LONDON, Jan 24: The former butler to Diana, Princess of Wales, is writing a guide to etiquette and the art of entertaining, the Sunday Times reported says AFP.

Paul Burrell, whom Diana called "my rock" during his years of service, is drawing on his experience of working at Prince Charles's home of Highgrove, in southern England, said the paper.

The book will reportedly contain tips on everything from Charles's own recipe for his favourite pudding and Charles's own bath salts concoction, to advice on not to clink wine glasses during a toast when in royal company.

Charles is famous for taking an extremely close interest in the hospitality he offers at Highgrove, which often features his own cooking and organic vegetables his gardeners grow on the estate.

The inspectors must certify that Iraq has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction, as called for in Gulf War cease-fire resolutions, before the UN Security Council will lift the sanctions.

The sanctions, which limit the sale of oil, were imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which sparked the 1991 Gulf War.

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The announcement came on the heels of a Palestinian Cabinet request for an international boycott of products made in Jewish settlements, in response to the freeze in the peace process.

Last month, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu froze the Wye River land-for-security agreement, citing what he said were Palestinian violations of the accord.

The Gulf countries were expected to present a paper calling on Iraq to reiterate its acceptance in 1994 of a UN demarcation of the border with Kuwait.

Iraq last week appeared to challenge the agreement.

### Death toll in ethnic violence in Indonesia rises to 49

## Air force drops leaflets calling for an end to riots

JAKARTA, Jan 24: Police and soldiers on Sunday searched for victims in the rubble of burned buildings after religious fighting on Indonesia's Spice Islands left at least 49 people dead, reports AP.

Violence between Muslims and Christians flared for a fifth day on Saturday when a mob reportedly ambushed a truck on the island of Ambon and stabbed to death five people.

"They threw their bodies into a gorge, poured gasoline over them and burned them," police Sgt Prasetyo told The Jakarta Post newspaper by telephone.

Military commanders have threatened to shoot rioters in the worst unrest since nationwide riots and protests helped oust former President Suharto in May after 32 years of authoritarian rule.

Since Suharto's downfall, state authority has continued to erode and ethnic, religious and political tensions have frequently spilled over into violence.

Hardship stemming from Indonesia's worst economic turmoil has also sparked deadly unrest, while conflict between political rivals is expected to escalate ahead of

## Saddam says in article Saudi Arabia, Kuwait lending hand to US conspiracy

BAGHDAD, Jan 24: President Saddam Hussein has accused Saudi Arabia and Kuwait of flooding the global oil market, leading to the impoverishment of other Arab countries and the enrichment of the United States, reports AFP.

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