



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

## 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 escalated 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 Shore Teph 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 reignite violence in Richmond, in southeastern KwaZulu-Natal province.

"We believe it's a reaction to the death of Sifiso Nkabinde," said Richmond Mayor Andrew Ragavaloo. "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 Lagai 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.

## 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 AP.

In a rare front-page editorial published Saturday, Saddam accused the rulers of the two countries of being more concerned about their thrones than their people.

"Saudi rulers have caused great calamities to the Arab nation and committed aggression on its right since they became a bridge for the foreigner," Saddam wrote in the government's al-Jumhuriya newspaper.

He wrote that the United States has built up a huge stock of oil by buying cheaply, and is in a position to sell it at a profit when the prices go up. The United States has often used its inventory to influence the oil markets.

"It is America, to a large extent, which controls the price of oil throughout the world and not laws of supply and de-

mand," Saddam wrote.

Oil prices are now at a record low, selling at \$10 a barrel, down from about \$20 a year ago. Efforts by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries have failed to boost prices.

Saddam wrote he does not see any solution to the global oil crisis until there is drastic change in policy in the two countries.

He said Kuwait and Saudi Arabia exerted pressure on OPEC members to lift their production ceiling "which led to the collapse of oil prices ... inflicting great damage on the interests of member countries including those of the Saudi people."

The two countries have handed America and Zionism knives to pierce the Arab nation," he said.

Asia's economic crisis and unseasonably warm fall in 1998 cut demand for oil, causing a glut in the market after OPEC had already increased output. OPEC controls 40 per cent of the world's daily oil production.

The crisis has hit Iraq hard. The United Nations currently lets Iraq sell oil worth not more than \$5.2 billion every six months for buying essential goods.

But low oil prices have prevented Iraq from reaching the UN ceiling. Its run-down oil industry could hardly make \$5.2 billion during the past six-month period that ended in November though the country kept pumping at its maximum limit of about 2.5 million barrels a day.

It is the second time in less than a month that Saddam has unleashed criticism against the two Arab Gulf states.

Early this month, he exhorted Arabs to rise up against the rulers who did not denounce the mid-December US-British airstrikes on Iraq.

Iraq has hardened its position against the United Nations since the airstrikes and demands an unconditional lifting of sanctions. It also refuses to let the inspectors resume work in Iraq.

## Netanyahu sacks his defence minister

TEL AVIV, Jan 24: In a dramatic move, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday fired his defence minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, accusing him of disloyalty and duplicity, reports AP.

Netanyahu said he offered the job to his former mentor, Moshe Arens, who is challenging the prime minister for leadership of the Likud Party. The primaries are to be held Monday.

Netanyahu's decision to fire Mordechai came after the defence minister conducted negotiations with a new centrist party and was promised the top slot if he left the Likud.

Mordechai's departure is seen as a major blow to Netanyahu's chances of getting re-elected May 17. Mordechai, a strong supporter of the peace process with the Palestinians, was the most popular minister in Netanyahu's government.

As leader of the centrist party, Mordechai, who is of Kurdish ancestry, would appeal to voters with family origins in the Arab world — a mainstay of Likud support. Surveys have indicated that he would beat

Netanyahu in the race for prime minister.

The two men traded bitter accusations Saturday night.

Netanyahu said Mordechai demanded assurances that he would be named defence minister in the next Likud government and turned to the centrist party when he, Netanyahu, refused to make such a promise.

Mordechai responded sharply to Netanyahu.

"The prime minister sent me a letter full of lies, slander, and inaccuracies that are appropriate for a petty politician," Mordechai said, shaking with anger.

"I'm sorry to say that the prime minister is no longer worthy my personal support or, I suppose, the support of the Israeli people," Mordechai said. "Israel deserves a better leadership."

Mordechai is the fifth minister appointed by Netanyahu to quit or be dismissed in Netanyahu's two and half-year tenure as prime minister. Four were ministers serving in top positions of defense, foreign affairs, and finance.

## Impeachment trial

## House set to interview Monica Lewinsky

WASHINGTON, Jan 24: House of Representatives prosecutors were set to interview Monica Lewinsky today as congressional impeachment trial faded amid testy exchanges over the surprise move, reports Reuters.

Representative Lindsey Graham, one of 13 House "managers of prosecutors," said he expected Lewinsky to be debriefed under orders from a federal judge sometime in the afternoon.

"I understand two managers will be there 'The South Carolina Republican said, Graham did not name them but said he would not be present."

Other Republicans said Lewinsky whose affair with Clinton led to the impeachment proceeding — would not be under oath during the session, which they described as an informal meeting to ascertain whether she will later be called as a witness.

If they're going to call Monica Lewinsky it makes sense that they know what in fact she is going to the testifying about,"

said Republican Sen. Connie Mack of Florida.

But Democrats cried foul complaining the Lewinsky development violated a bipartisan agreement that put off consideration of witnesses until later this week.

Democratic Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia who will move to have the case dismissed on Monday, predicted it would exacerbate already deepening tensions. "For the good of the country, this political jockeying has got to stop," he said.

Lewinsky flew into Washington on Saturday and was instantly mobbed by the media at the airport and her downtown hotel, reminiscent of a year ago when news of the scandal broke.

The sudden return of the 25 years old former White House intern raised new uncertainty over the course of the trial.

The charges of perjury and obstruction of justice against Clinton appeared headed for early resolution with prosecutors apparently far short of the two-thirds over 67 of 100 senators needed to convict and remove the president from office.



Chief Justice William Rehnquist, escorted by Deputy Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Loretta Symms, left, arrives in Capitol Hill, Saturday. President Clinton's impeachment trial resumed with attention divided between the senators' questions and a new legal battle touched off by the prosecutors' efforts to force Lewinsky's cooperation. — UNB/AP photo

## Lifting of UN sanctions on Iraq

## Arab League foreign ministers face tough task

CAIRO, Jan 24: Trying to forge a unified position on Iraq and its demand that UN sanctions linked to the Gulf War be lifted was the tough task facing Arab League foreign ministers as they met Sunday, reports AP.

In advance of the session here, the League's secretary-general, Esmat Abdel-Meguid, held a series of closed-door sessions Saturday with visiting ministers to try to draft a document that would spell out member nations' policy toward Iraq.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf repeated Iraq's position Saturday that the Arab governments should back Baghdad's demand for a complete lifting of the UN sanctions.

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

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.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said Saturday that the Arab ministers would not meet Iraq's demand to defy the sanctions, saying "there must be international agreement, not just Arab agreement, concerning the Iraqi issue."

## Arafat to visit US, Europe

GAZA CITY, Gaza, Jan 24: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will travel to Europe and the United States asking leaders to pressure Israel to implement the latest peace agreement, his advisor said Saturday, reports AP.

The announcement came on the heels of an international 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.

Arab diplomats said a draft statement circulated among the delegations proposed that the Arab ministers reiterate their sympathy for the plight of Iraq's 22 million people. But it refrains from expressing any support for the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, they said. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity.

The statement also will urge Iraq to comply fully with all UN resolutions stemming from the Gulf War, including the monitoring of its weapons of mass destruction.

Ahmed Ben Heli, deputy secretary-general of the league, acknowledged that the ministers will have tough discussions Sunday.

"This is a big and complicated issue which needs a lot of effort," he told Abu Dhabi Television last Saturday.

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.

## Bush, Dole top list of favourite in US election

NEW YORK, Jan 24: Texas governor George W. Bush and Elizabeth Dole top the list of favourite candidates among Republicans to become the 2000 presidential nominee, Newsweek poll released Saturday said, reports AP.

Some 78 per cent of Republicans say that morality and moral leadership are very important issues in determining who they will vote for, the poll said.

Sixty-six per cent said it would be good for the country to have a woman president, with 19 per cent saying it would not be, the poll said.

The poll of 501 Republicans was conducted on January 21 and 22. The margin of error is plus or minus five per cent.

Of ten possible presidential contenders, George W. Bush — son of President George Bush, in office from 1988 to 1992 — was the clear favourite: 46 per cent saying they were very likely to vote for him and 36 per cent saying they were somewhat likely to support him.

Former Rep Cross president Elizabeth Dole, wife of 1996 GOP candidate Bob Dole, came second with 37 per cent very likely, and 32 per cent somewhat likely, to vote for her. The Newsweek poll said.



A model for Italian fashion designer Gattinoni cradles a parrot as she presents this evening dress embellished with palm tree branches, flowers and grass during Rome's high fashion show, Saturday. — 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 Yajuan 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 Tsui 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:

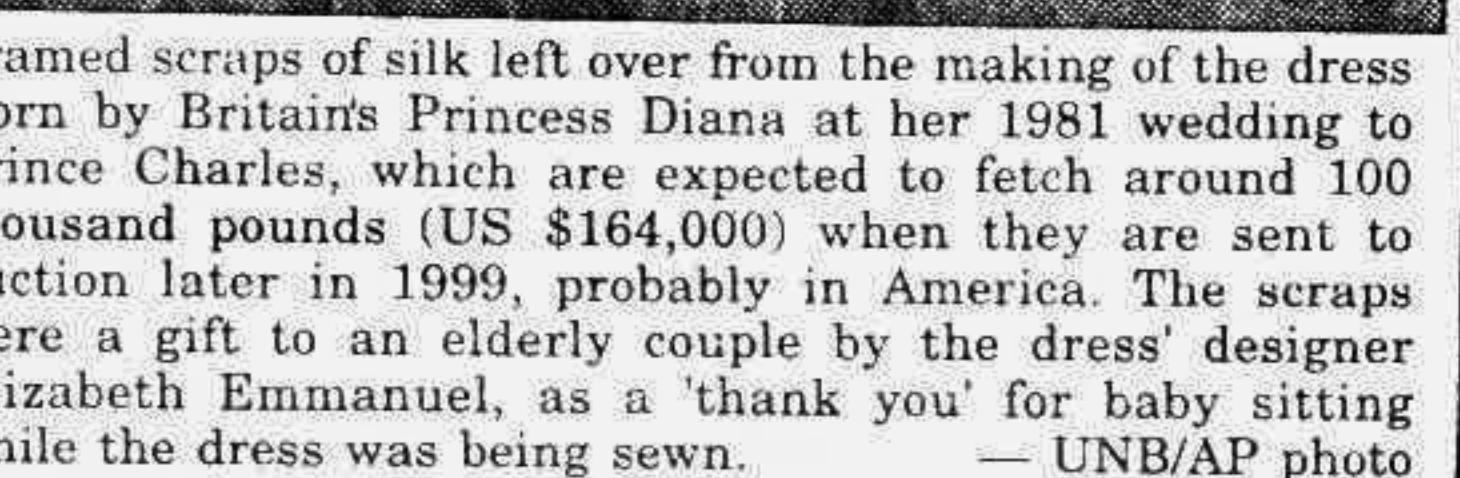
Government troops and Muslim rebels exchanged mortar fire as military jets roared over rebel positions during the latest of a series of clashes in the southern Philippines, the military said, AP says from Zamboanga.

Romero said the rebels belonging to the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front fired mortars on several army outposts in the village in Buldon 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 Donggu Plastic Factory owned by the Taipei-based Zhishen group in Guangdong province the oriental Daily News reported.



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 Emanuel, as a 'thank you' for baby sitting while the dress was being sewn. — UNB/AP photo

## 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 the 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 in decades has also sparked deadly unrest, while conflict between political rivals is expected to escalate ahead of

national elections on June 7.

More than 100 foreigners have taken evacuation flights from the Spice Islands and at least 20,000 residents have fled their homes and taken shelter in army bases and police stations.

Col Karyono, the regional police chief, said 49 people died and 48 were seriously injured in the violence on several islands in eastern Maluku province, about (2,300 kilometres) 1,400 miles northeast of Jakarta, the Indonesian capital.

The Jakarta Post said 52 people died.

On Saturday, villagers pulled a mutilated body from the bay of the city of Ambon, which lies on the island of the same name.

In recent days, thousands of soldiers and police fired warning shots to disperse rival gangs that have wrecked and terrorised the islands of Ambon, Serama and Sanana. A curfew has also been imposed.

Eastern Indonesia's military commander, Maj Gen Amir Sembiring, has warned that tougher action, including orders to shoot rioters, would now be taken to quell the violence.

Most of the dead were Muslim. About 90 per cent of Indonesia's 202 million people

are Muslim, making it the world's most populous Islamic country. The riots hit areas with large Christian populations.

Many victims were stabbed, beaten or trapped in fires. Some were attacked with rocks, machetes, clubs and even bows and arrows.

Seven mosques, nine churches and 189 houses were burned.

The islands, known in Dutch colonial times as the Spice Islands, are the latest site of rioting that has plagued crisis-ridden Indonesia in the past year. Soaring inflation, unemployment and poverty rates have fanned social tensions.

During his long rule, Suharto was able to stifle many communal conflicts and political dissent in the Southeast Asian nation with the help of the politically powerful armed forces.

Resented by many Indonesians, the military is now struggling to shed its image as a violator of human rights and has often become the target of the violence it has tried to quell.

An AFP report adds: The Indonesian air force dropped thousands of leaflets calling for

a halt to Christian-Muslim violence over the riot torn Indonesian islands of Maluku, the State Antara news agency said.

Antara said the leaflets, dropped Saturday, were signed by the province's top catholic, Protestant and Muslim leaders as well as Saleh Laucansina, governor of the Maluku.

Night curfew was slapped on the city Saturday night after troops had religious leaders urge people to stay in their neighbourhoods and attempted to disarm gangs roving the streets armed with machetes and knives.

"It is gradually calming down because security personnel and local leaders are appealing to the people, and people are being disarmed," a reporter with a local newspaper told AFP by phone in the morning.

The reporter said Christians and Catholics had turned out in large numbers for Sunday church services, but that most shops in the city remained closed.

He said he had heard of no fresh incidents since and attack Saturday on a truck carrying civilians, in which a mob beat people to death as the outnumbered soldiers looked on helplessly.

## Story of a cruel mother

STOCKHOLM, Jan 24: A macabre case of a woman, who killed her new-born baby and then preserved the body in a freezer for 12 years, is posing a legal dilemma for Swedish courts, reports IANS.

Twelve years ago — in 1986 — a mother killed her new-born son. Then she hid the body in her freezer, in the kitchen. This grim affair was brought to light early this winter, when a daughter discovered the terrible secret.

The woman, with her two teenaged daughters, lives in a little town in mid-Sweden. The neighbourhood is genteel and well-ordered, with little cottages, a single high street and everyone knows everyone else.

"One cannot believe that this is true," says a neighbour as traumatised as every other villager, "that such a deed could ever happen here, in our midst."

As soon as one of the daughters, a girl of 17, discovered the body, wrapped in a plastic shopping bag, she immediately contacted the police. Shocked out of her wits, she explained that there lay a dead infant in their kitchen freezer. By the time police arrived the mother had realised that the terrible secret had been discovered and reported, and managed to escape with the dead child.

"I took a patrol out there as soon as I heard about the morbid find," says police inspector Krister Borg. "But when we arrived she had disappeared with the body. But we found her soon

after, in a nearby copse where she had tried to hide the body under foliage. We immediately realised that it was the body of a tiny, new-born infant."

Arrested, the mother went to pieces and admitted that she had killed her baby because she could not cope up any more: "I then already had two small daughters and as a single woman could not take care of a third child," she explained. "I had no contact whatsoever with the father, and all these years I have never told my two daughters who their father is. It would be of no use."

The dilemma facing the court is under which category to charge the woman. She can be charged with murder since the period of prescription for murder in Sweden is 25 years, and so she becomes liable to stand trial. However, if her act is considered infant-manslaughter then the crime is already prescribed — 10 years — and the woman can never be brought to trial.

Besides, the Swedish public is seized with another dilemma — in a society such as Sweden's where every birth and death is automatically registered and processed by several official agencies and during the early years an infant has to be constantly, and compulsorily, monitored by these agencies, how could the non-existence of a child recorded born could have failed to be noticed during a period of 12 years?