LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Le soleil fera de larges apparitions tout au long de la journée. Il fera 11.

SG/PRB/D(92)215

INDONESIE-SEISME - Le bilan des victimes du tremblement de terre qui a frappé samedi l’est de l’Indonésie approche les 2 500 morts à la suite de la découverte par les équipes de secours de 900 nouveaux cadavres, indique mardi la presse indonésienne.

SOMALIE - Un convoi militaire de l’opération "Restore hope" (Rendre l’espoir) à destination de Baidoa, le "cœur de la famine somalienne", à 250 km à l’ouest de Mogadiscio, était en cours de préparation lundi soir.

ISRAEL - Plus d’un millier de personnes soupçonnées de sympathie avec le mouvement de résistance islamique HAMAS ont été appréhendées dans les territoires occupés durant la nuit de lundi à mardi par l’armée israélienne.

RUSSIA - CHANGING COURSE?

FINANCIAL TIMES: Viktor Chernomyrdin named new premier

MOSCOW - "The future of Russian reform was thrown into doubt last night after Mr Yegor Gaidar, one of President Boris Yeltsin’s closest allies and the architect of radical economic policies, was thrown out of office. ‘I don’t believe all we did was in vain’, Mr Gaidar said after hearing Mr Yeltsin had failed in his bid to have him elected as his prime minister. Mr Gaidar, who had been acting prime minister, was replaced by Mr Viktor Chernomyrdin, a 54-year old energy minister... Mr Chernomyrdin, in a speech to the Congress, promised to continue reforms ‘but not through the impoverishment of the people’ – a remark which won him applause. In a later interview with the news agency ITAR TASS, he said that he would proceed ‘to reforms, to a market economy but not to a bazaar’. The new prime minister, with a final confirming vote of 721, succeeded in uniting all but the radical democratic part of the Congress behind his candidacy... Mr Gaidar has also thought of taking another post, including that of head of the president’s council of advisers, vacant after the sacking of Mr Gennady Burbulis at the weekend. However, according to his advisers last night, he has decided against it."

HERALD TRIBUNE: Moscow’s jolt: ‘Is Cold War back?’

STOCKHOLM - "For most of an hour here Monday morning, the post-Cold War world appeared to have come to an abrupt and perilous end before the eyes of the world’s foreign ministers and senior diplomats. Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozyrev of Russia took the floor on the opening day of a 51-nation meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which was called to deal with a growing list of civil wars, to announce that Moscow was reversing its international course. Instead of cooperating with United Nations sanctions on Serbia for its actions in the Balkans, he demanded the sanctions be lifted and said Russia would take ‘unilateral measures’ if this were not done. Instead of advancing principles of freedom and democracy in states of the former Soviet Union, he declared that Russia would ‘defend its interests’ with military and economic means to press 14 new nations back into their former Soviet mold... Then Mr. Kozyrev took it all back... Less than an hour after this first speech, Mr. Kozyrev asked for the floor to explain that his declaration had been ‘an oratorical device’ to illustrate ‘the depth of the threat on our path to a post-Communist Europe’ posed by opponents in Moscow."

OECD ECONOMIES

Japan

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Japan Labor Minister reworks remarks

TOKYO - "Diverse work ethics have caused gaps in economic strength among the G7 major industrialized nations, Japanese Labor Minister Masakuni..."
Murakami said, "Compared with people in Japan and Germany, those in other G7 countries do not work. This results in economic gaps among them," Mr. Murakami told a news conference. "The Japanese people have a traditional philosophy of being fond of work," he said, adding that there is a need to attach more importance to the job, rather than spending more time at leisure. Mr. Murakami later retracted the remark that people in G7 countries other than Japan and Germany don’t work hard and said he meant to say they have work ethics different from that of Japan and Germany."

Germany

FINANCIAL TIMES: Telecoms minister quits

BONN - "Mr Christian Schwarz-Schilling, the German minister of posts and telecommunications, resigned from the government yesterday, sharply criticising its failure to act more forcefully in the ethnic conflict in the former Yugoslavia. He also accused his government colleagues of failing to give him wholehearted support in negotiations on reforms to privatise the German postal and telecommunications services."

HERALD TRIBUNE: Asylum agreement hits a bump

BONN - "Germany's compromise accord to stop an influx of foreigners appeared to be unraveling Monday as the main opposition party demanded changes that were ruled out by the government. Leaders of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition led by the Christian Democratic Union, agreed last week with the opposition Social Democrats, after months of bickering, to turn back a flood of economic migrants by tightening conditions for claiming asylum. The Social Democrats' chief, Bjørn Engholm, is under fire from party leftists for allegedly having capitulated to rightist electoral pressures. On Monday he called for improvements to the accord. These would entail companion treaties with Poland and Czechoslovakia to ensure that rejected asylum-seekers who entered Germany via those countries could be cared for there instead of being forced to return to face the possibility of hardship in their homelands."

Italy

THE INDEPENDENT: Northern league gains in poll

ROME - "Italian voters dealt a further humiliating blow to their ruling parties in local elections yesterday and Sunday, northerners turning in large numbers to the Northern League, southerners to other alternative parties. With more than half the votes counted last night, the federalist League had virtually doubled its vote to average more than 19% in the towns big enough to have proportional representation. It had clearly made big gains in the important northern cities of Varese, the home town of its leader, Umberto Bossi, and Monza... All the 4 parties in the national government, and particularly the Christian Democrats and Socialists, who lost votes dramatically in last June's elections, again paid the price of continued scandals and their inability to reform fast and convincingly enough. The heaviest price was paid by the Socialists."

United States

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Clinton pickup signs mustn’t cause complacency

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas - "President-elect Bill Clinton convened an economic brainstorming conference with a warning that the US must not be lulled into complacency by signs of faster growth in the economy. Referring to a third-quarter pickup in the output of goods and services and a recent decline in unemployment, Mr. Clinton said it is 'far too early to assume that... we are out of the woods, even in this prolonged business cycle recession'. His comments, at the start of a 2-day meeting with some 300 business, labor and academic leaders, were another signal that the incoming administration will give top priority to pocketbook issues... Mr. Clinton called the $300bn deficit an 'economic ball and chain' that was keeping long-term interest rates high... His round-table discussion, which focused initially on the state of the domestic economy, was broadcast gavel-to-gavel on radio and cable television... There was an opportunity for the public to call in comments... Mr. Clinton and his advisers said it would generate ideas and demonstrate the kind of direct public outreach effort that will characterize his presidency."

France

LES ECHOS: Inflation zéro en novembre
"Une fois n’est pas coutume, l’inflation sera cette année inférieure aux prévisions gouvernementales: les 2,8% de hausse en glissement annoncés lors de la préparation du budget de 1992 se limiteront sans doute à 2,1%. Un résultat identique à celui de 1986, l’année du contre choc pétrolier. En novembre, en effet, les prix sont restés stables, l’indice provisoire de l’INSEE indiquant 0%. Un fait rare: il faut remonter à 1973 pour trouver pareil résultat... Actuellement, la tendance longue de diminution de l’inflation se poursuit. Si les prix du pétrole ont un peu augmenté, en raison de la reprise du dollar, les prix des services progressent un peu moins rapidement, et ceux des produits manufacturés sont stables. En outre, depuis maintenant 4 mois, les prix des produits alimentaires baissent."

Canada

AFP: Forte hausse de la population en 1991

OTTAWA - "Le Canada est le pays industrialisé qui a enregistré la plus forte hausse de sa population en 1991, grâce à des niveaux d’immigration jamais atteints depuis 35 ans, a annoncé lundi à Ottawa Statistique Canada. Le Canada comptait 27 243 000 habitants au 1er janvier 1992, soit une augmentation de 1,5% par rapport à la même date de l’année précédente. Cette hausse est due surtout à l’arrivée d’immigrants en nombres jamais vus depuis 1957... Un total de 38 300 Canadiens ont par ailleurs quitté le Canada en 1991 pour s’installer dans un autre pays, soit le plus bas niveau d’émigration depuis 30 ans. Dans le passé, l’immigration au Canada était surtout le fait d’Européens, dont plusieurs, pour toutes sortes de raisons, décidèrent de retourner dans leur pays d’origine après quelques années passées au Canada. Aujourd’hui, les personnes qui cherchent à s’installer au pays proviennent surtout d’Asie et d’Afrique, ‘et peu nombreux sont ceux qui sont déçus du Canada’."