# **Officers pledge firm support for Philippine president**

#### **INTERNATIONAL**

MANILA, Philippines — With combat troops on alert, military officers pledged firm support today for Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as thousands of protesters called for the release of her jailed predecessor, Joseph Estrada. It was the third straight day of demonstrations.

Authorities feared a pro-Estrada rally could swell after nightfall, and courts gave the police power to transfer the ousted leader to a jail outside the capital. The size of the crowd protesting near the police headquarters where Estrada was held reached a peak of some 85,000 late Thursday but thinned to a few thousand today, officials said.

Estrada's backers called for a snap

election to determine the legitimacy of Arroyo's administration. Arroyo was Estrada's vice president and took over impeachment trial on corruption allegations.

Police Chief Leandro Mendoza told the anti-graft court trying Estrada he fears the former president's supporters could converge on Manila over the weekend.

Estrada was jailed Wednesday and charged with the capital offense of plunder.

#### NATIONAL

DAVENPORT, Iowa — National Guard soldiers watched for leaks along

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when he was forced out of office by flowed against the other side, its waves Davenport. street protests in January following an hitting a few inches lower than the day before.

> The river is expected to remain out of its banks for weeks, and recent rain in Minnesota is creating a second crest there.

> But for officials in many river towns, the question now is how much federal aid the government is willing to send. Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Joe Allbaugh didn't have an immediate answer during his short tour of the region Thursday.

"We'll be reviewing that maybe in a downtown's clay-and-sandbag levee few days, maybe in a few weeks, but early today as the Mississippi River we'll be on top of it," Allbaugh said in

The river was at 22 feet in Davenport early today after cresting Tuesday at 22.32 feet, just below its 1993 record of 22.6 feet.

Farther north, a flood warning remained in effect for the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix rivers, where weekend rain was pushing the rivers toward a second crest. The highest crest in 36 years was expected today along the St. Croix, on the border of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

In St. Paul, the Mississippi River wasn't expected to fall below flood stage until late May. Officials there estimate flooding has cost local agen-

cies about \$1.2 million and businesses Thursday. Pierce has been in prison for about \$7.6 million.

Oklahoma criminal convictions, including 13 death row cases, have been thrown into question by an FBI report cases from 1982 to 1991. that a police chemist wrongly linked defendants to crime scenes.

and fibers in at least six criminal cases and gave testimony that went beyond what her science showed, the report said.

victed of sexual assault based on was moved to a manager position. Here Gilchrist's faulty lab work or testimony, Oklahoma County Assistant agrees with the FBI findings and be-District Attorney John Jacobsen said lieves she will be vindicated.

15 years.

Responding to a police request, the OKLAHOMA CITY — A series of FBI reviewed Gilchrist's laboratory notes, her trial testimony and microscopic slides of hair or fibers in eight

The FBI's findings led officials to start a criminal investigation and Joyce Gilchrist misidentified hair look at other cases on which she worked.

Gilchrist, who is on paid administrative leave, has not been charged with a crime. She has not worked in the At least one man, Jeffrey Todd Oklahoma City Police Department's Pierce, may have been wrongly con- forensic lab since 1993, when she attorney, Melvin Hall, said she dis-

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