

International

Ghali recommends UNIKOM's extension

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 7: Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali recommended on Wednesday a further six-month renewal of the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) which monitors a demilitarised zone set up between the two countries after the Gulf War, reports Reuter.

Teresa not well

CALCUTTA, Oct 7: Mother Teresa, who had undergone balloon angioplasty last month, was indisposed with cold and fever, the missionaries of charity sources here today said, reports PTI.

Yeltsin tells Muscovites to learn from bloodshed Russia observes mourning day

MOSCOW, Oct 7: Russian tricolour flags with black ribbons fluttered from buildings in central Moscow today as Russia observed an official day of mourning for those who died in Sunday and Monday's violence, reports Reuter.

At the centre of the day's ceremonies were the funerals of 12 policemen and five Interior Ministry troops killed in gunbattles between government forces and supporters of the rebel parliament, stormed by the army on Monday.

Moscow's medical centre said the total casualty toll from the clashes, which ended a 12-day stand-off between President Boris Yeltsin and the parliament he dissolved last month, had risen to 122 after four people died overnight. But more bodies may lie in the devastated parliament building.

open coffins into Moscow's police headquarters, a sprawling five-storey green building in a northern suburb.

The coffin lids were brought in separately up a flight of steps lined with pine branches, with a policeman's grey and red hat on each lid.

The coffins were laid out in a hall of the building, and columns of riot police in green camouflage trousers and black leather jackets filed past.

A separate ceremony was being held for the Interior Ministry troops at their Moscow headquarters. Most of the civilians who died in the violence were also expected to be buried today.

Memorial services for the dead were due to be held today in Moscow's Epiphany cathedral and other Russian orthodox churches.

ITAR-Tass news agency said that all the funeral would be paid for by the state, from a special fund, irrespective of which side of the barricades they had been on during the crisis.

In a speech on Wednesday, Yeltsin made an attempt at reconciliation by saying it did not matter whose side the dead had been on.

"However their opinions differed, they are all children of Russia," he said. "This is our common tragedy, our common grief."

AFP adds: President Yeltsin presented his condolences today to the families of victims of the armed parliament rebellion and said the tragedy should never be repeated.

lessen from the bloodshed and do everything in their power not to allow the tragedy to repeat itself," Yeltsin said in a statement released by the presidential press office.

"I will spare no effort in protecting the country from strife," he vowed.

"Faced with tragedy, faced with the memory of the dead, we all try to understand the reasons and the causes of these events."

Yeltsin stated that among the victims of the two days of violence were those who "had defended Russian democracy" as well as those who were killed accidentally.

There were also "those who, through the criminal will of the instigators of the armed mutiny, were involved in the bloody events."

"Today, when the relatives and Muscovites are burying their dead, I grieve with them for these untimely deaths," he stated.

Off the Record

Dirty tricks campaign

BANGKOK, Oct 7: Opposition members of Thailand's parliament have been warned that their mobile phones are being tapped as part of a government-ordered dirty tricks campaign, local newspapers reported Wednesday, says AFP.

More concerned about life than limb

IDAHO SPRINGS: A physician's assistant who was pinned down by a boulder freed himself by cutting off his leg with a fishing knife, then crawled out of the wilderness and drove off in a truck to find help, reports AP.

William S. Jeracki, 38, 03 Conifer was in serious but stable condition Wednesday.

Jeracki was hiking earlier in the day on St. Mary's Glacier in the Rockies, searching for a good fishing spot, when a rock the size of a truck tire crashed down on his lower left leg.

When no one responded to his calls for help, and with bad weather looming, he cut through the knee joint.

"He got to the point where he was more concerned about his life than about his limb," Dr David Cionni said.

Jeracki told rescuers he folded his pant leg back over the stump to protect it, then crawled half a mile (1 km) to his truck. He drove another half-mile (1 km) to the Alice-St. Mary's settlement about 30 miles (50 km) west of Denver.

Gurhan spends her days watching CNN

TORONTO: The wife of Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aided collects welfare and spends her days in a sparsely furnished townhouse, often watching Cable News Network, a Canadian newspaper said Thursday, reports AP.

Khadija Gurhan, 35, the second wife of Aided, has lived in a middle-class townhouse in London, Ontario with her four young children for two months, the Toronto Sun said. She entered Canada as a refugee four years ago.

Her husband is on the run from UN forces in Somalia. On Wednesday, Gurhan, dressed in Somali garb, was sprawled on the couch of her home watching the latest developments about her husband on CNN. A Somali flag was draped across a wall, decorated with pictures of her family and husband. A couch and television were the only furniture in the rugless room.

She married Aided in 1984 and for the next four years they lived in India, where her husband was posted as his country's ambassador. She left Somalia for Canada because she feared for her and her family's safety.

Gurhan collects welfare, officials said. "I don't like to live on welfare. It's shameful," Gurhan said. "But my husband has no money. He's a rebel."

BRIEFLY

Matthey dies of cancer: Jeannette Matthey, a correspondent who covered the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Falklands War and the crisis in Somalia for Canadian Broadcasting Corp. Radio, has died of breast cancer. She was 37, AP reports from Toronto.

Matthey died Wednesday in London after a yearlong battle with the disease. The Toronto native joined CBC Radio as an editor in 1979 after graduating from Carleton University in Ottawa.

She was named CBC Radio's national reporter in Quebec in 1984. Her international reports included coverage of the Falklands War, Irish Republican Army bombings and the 1986 explosion of the space shuttle Challenger.

HK reporter detained in China: China's state security apparatus Thursday officially arrested a Hong Kong reporter who was detained on September 27 on charges of espionage, state radio said, Reuter reports from Beijing.

The radio said Xi Yang of Hong Kong's Ming Pao newspaper and Tian Ye, a clerk at the People's Bank of China, were arrested for leaking financial secrets.

Mild quake hits Indonesia: An earthquake measuring 4.0 on the Richter scale hit the easternmost Indonesian province of Irian Jaya, but there were no reports of casualties, an official report said Thursday, AP reports from Jakarta.

The quake jolted Paniai regency, about 3,300 kilometres (1,980 miles) northeast of Jakarta, at about 8 pm (1100 GMT) Wednesday, the official news agency Antara reported.

Lilih Pribadi, an official at the government's meteorology office in Jakarta, said the epicentre of the quake was still unknown.

20 children drown in China: Twenty school children, the youngest just six, drowned when a ferry taking them home in China's Jiangsu province capsized, a newspaper reported Thursday, AFP says from Beijing.

The accident happened Monday in Jiangsu's Sheyang County when a sail boat passed by the ferry, snared its mooring line and dragged it into the centre of the river, where the ferry flipped over, China Education News said.

Of the 30 passengers, 26 were children from a nearby elementary school ranging in age from six to 13. Twenty of them drowned in the river's six-metre (20 foot) deep weed-filled waters, the paper said.

6 Palestinians shot in Gaza: Israeli troops shot and wounded six PLO supporters in the occupied Gaza Strip on Wednesday, Palestinian sources said, Reuter reports from Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat were meeting in Cairo at the time. Troops shot and wounded six supporters of the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation Fatah faction.

19 die in Vietnam floods: The army has been called out to provide aid after flooding killed 19 people in south-central Vietnam, the People's Army Daily reported Wednesday, AFP says from Hanoi.

The coastal province of Phu Yen was the worst hit in the flooding that began Saturday, with 16 dead, three injured, rice crops ruined, the road network inundated and at least one major bridge washed out.

Binh Dinh, Daria and Khanh Hoa provinces were also affected by the floods, caused by torrential rains from a tropical storm.

8 held with uranium in Turkey: Police intercepted 2.5 kilograms (5 pounds) of uranium bound for Iran and arrested three Iranian secret service agents and five Turks in Istanbul, a senior police official said Wednesday, AP report from Ankara.

But a nuclear scientist said the seized uranium was only "slightly enriched" and not suitable for manufacturing nuclear weapons.

Milhyet, a leading national newspaper, reported Wednesday that the seized uranium was "highly enriched U-238."

Flo moves away from Philippines: Tropical storm Flo finally moved away from the Philippines Thursday, leaving 52 people dead or missing and about 300,000 more forced into evacuation centres, relief agencies said, AFP reports from Manila.

Flo which hit the northern half of the main island of Luzon on Tuesday then turned around and struck the country again, was located before dawn some 700 kilometres (434 miles) from Manila, moving towards Japan.

Relief agencies said at least 52 people were either dead or presumed dead after floods and mudslides hit northern provinces, covering whole villages.



The relatives of a woman killed by a Serb mortar grenade weep at the Kosevo Hospital in Sarajevo Wednesday. The shell targeted people near a school, killing a mother and daughter and wounded five persons, including two children. — AFP photo

US owes \$ 472m to UN

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 7: The United States has paid the United Nations more than half a billion dollars in budget arrears and peacekeeping costs but still owes another 472 million dollar, a UN spokesman said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The cash-starved world body, which has 184 members is still owed a total of more than 1.7 billion, including 536 million in regular dues and 1.2 billion for its expanded peacekeeping operations.

Washington meets 25 per cent of the annual UN budget of more than 1 billion but — as one of the five permanent members of the Security Council — is assessed just over 30 per cent of peacekeeping costs.

President Bill Clinton, in a speech last week to the UN General Assembly, pledged to work with Congress to ensure prompt payment of peacekeeping bills.

But he said he was also committed to get the US share reduced "to reflect the rise of other nations that now can bear more of the financial burden".

UN peacekeeping has expanded in the past weeks to include more than 1,500 troops, police and civilians to retrain Haiti's army and police, 500 military observers to monitor a ceasefire in Liberia, and a force that could eventually include 2,500 troops, observers and civilians to monitor an accord in the central African nation of Rwanda.

This is in addition to major operations of more than 25,000 each in Somalia and the former Yugoslavia, although a similar-size force in Cambodia is now being withdrawn after competing its mission.

China resumes N-test

BEIJING, Oct 7: China today rejected criticism of its decision to ignore a global moratorium and resume nuclear testing, saying its atomic programme should not be put "under the magnifying glass" in a world of much larger nuclear powers, reports Reuter.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin said Beijing took no stand on the possibility that other countries might follow and re-start their own nuclear testing programmes.

"That is their own business," Wu told a weekly news conference.

He said China planned to continue to move ahead with its nuclear test programme "as always, with utmost restraint."

China on Tuesday exploded its first nuclear test in a year at a testing site underneath a far western desert.

Fresh fighting in Kabul

KABUL, Oct 7: Rival Afghan factions in the Islamic government fired hundreds of rockets at each other in the capital Kabul overnight, killing seven people and injuring more than 90, officials said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The fighting between the Hezb-i-Islami forces of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Kabul garrison forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his military commander Ahmad Shah Masood was the heaviest since May, hospitals said.

In the east of the city, hospitals reported one person dead and 35 injured in the overnight rocket battles.

In the western suburbs, six people were killed and more than 60 injured in heavy exchanges between the Iran-backed Shiite Hezb-i-Wahdat Party and the Sunni Muslim Ittehad-i-Islami group.

At least 20 of those in the Karte Seh hospital in a Wahdat-controlled zone were seriously hurt, doctors said.

In the hospital, 12-year-old Adila lay unconscious with sharpnel wounds to her abdomen and chest. Her mother said she was injured when a mortar round exploded as she was walking to her aunt's house.

Two rockets hit a clinic in the Dhashtie Barchi suburb run by the International Committee of the Red Cross but no casualties were reported.

It was the first outbreak of serious clashes between Hezb-i-Islami and the Kabul garrison for many weeks, although sporadic skirmishes have been reported.

Saddam's four fatal mistakes

LONDON, Oct 7: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein made four fatal mistakes in the 1991 Gulf War, Saudi Prince Khaled Bin Sultan, head of Arab and Islamic forces in the conflict said here Wednesday, reports AFP.

"We counted on the supreme commander of the Iraqi armed forces to help us and he didn't let us down," he told the Royal United Services Institute in an address on the Gulf War.

He said Saddam, whose forces were forced out of Kuwait after a seven-month occupation, had built his entire campaign on four assumptions, and all four were proven false.

The first was failure to "catch and kill" the emir of Kuwait and his family immediately after his surprise invasion

emir fled, to return safe and well when Kuwait was finally liberated.

Secondly, the Iraqi dictator "badly underestimated the patriotism of the Kuwaitis," said Khaled. That patriotism meant that Kuwaitis were not prepared to be subject to his rule, whatever their historical ties.

The third fatal mistake was to believe that Moscow, formerly a supporter of his regime, would veto the use of force against Iraq in the UN Security Council.

"Obviously non-one had told him that the end of the Cold War meant the end of Soviet support," said Khaled.

But Saddam's fourth and crucial mistake was his belief that Saudi Arabia would not help in the international operation to oust him from Kuwait.



of their emirate in August 1990. "With no legitimate political leader left alive, he might successfully have annexed the country," said Khaled. But the

UNITA accepts Angolan poll results

ABIDJAN, Oct 7: Angola's rebel UNITA movement Wednesday decided to recognise the outcome of last year's general elections and the "validity" of the May 1991 Bicesse peace accords, an official UNITA statement said.

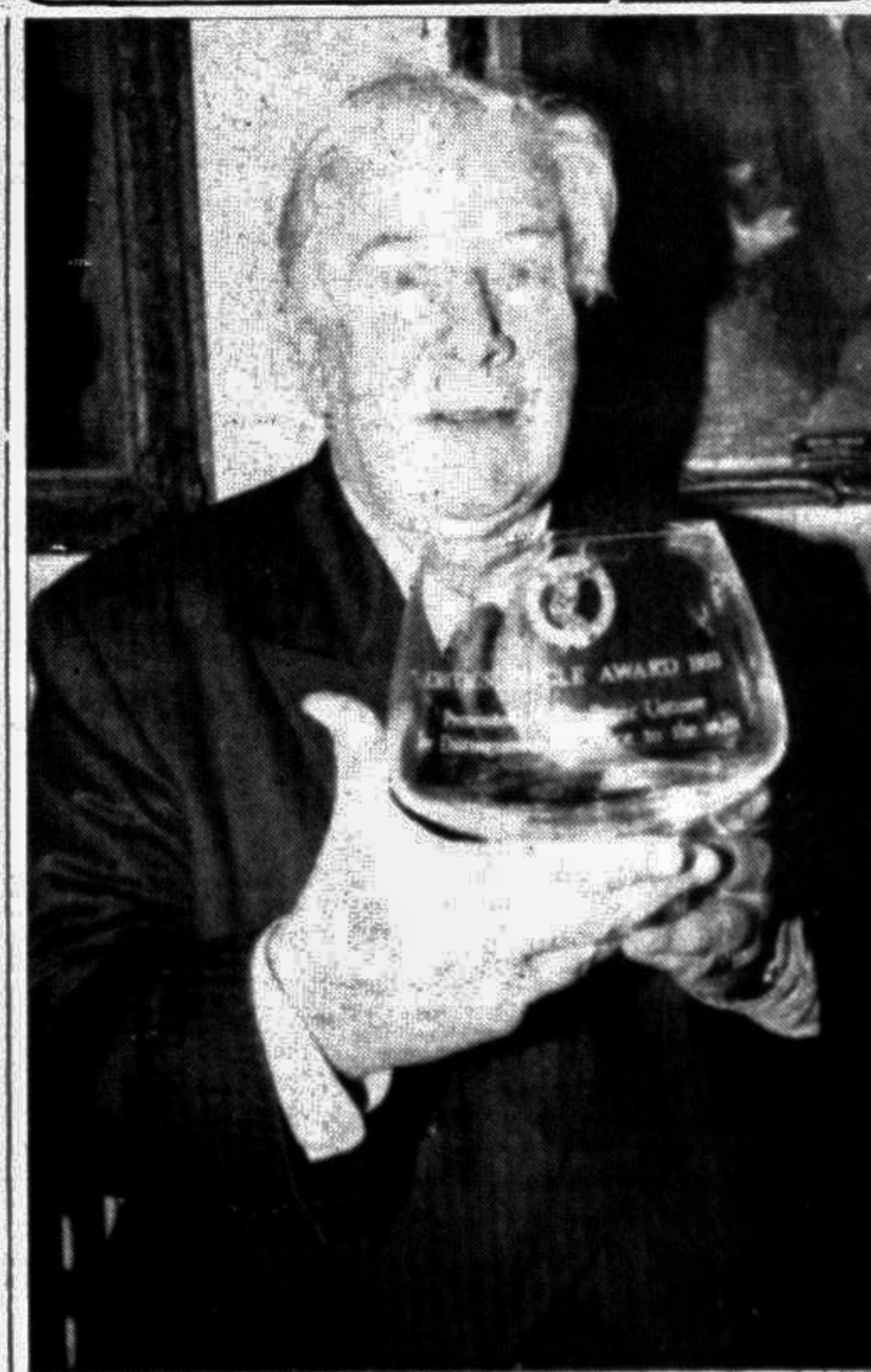
In a communique sent to AFP in Abidjan, UNITA said the decisions were taken at an "extraordinary meeting" of the political commission of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) held between September 28 and October 6.

Angola plunged back into civil war when the rebel movement last October refused to accept that it had lost UN-supervised general elections held the month before.

The political commission of Jonas Savimbi's movement, meeting in the Angolan central highlands town of Huambo, decided also to "reaffirm the validity of the Bicesse accords as the basis of the peace process in Angola," the statement said.

However, the accords would have to be "brought up to date," UNITA added.

UNITA said it accepted the "validity of the results of the elections of September 29 and 30, though they were fraudulent," but added that the "institutions resulting from these elections should reflect the current position of UNITA and other opposition forces."



British writer and director Sir Peter Ustinov cradles the '93 Critics Circle Award presented to him at a luncheon in London Wednesday for distinguished service to arts. — AFP photo

Mubarak pardons Gen Shazli

CAIRO, Oct 7: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Wednesday pardoned a general who was imprisoned for disclosing military secrets about the 1973 Arab-Israeli war fought exactly 20 years ago, reports AFP.

General Saad Eddine El-Shazli, 71, was freed after serving 18 months in prison.

Shazli was the Chief of Staff who helped Egypt score an early success over Israeli troops when the war began on October 6, 1973 but the late president Anwar Sadat replaced him 10 days later in a dispute over conduct of the war.

Mubarak re-elected on Monday to a third term as president, yielded to opposition calls for the general's release.

Clinton plans to end Somalia operation by next April

WASHINGTON, Oct 07: Vowing to conclude the mission in Somalia with "steadiness of purpose", President Clinton will bolster American forces there and set a date for US withdrawal, administration officials say, reports AP.

The Washington Post, quoting senior administration officials in Thursday editions, reported that Clinton will pledge to end the operation by next April.

Clinton is facing increasing pressure to withdraw the 4,700-troop US contingent of the UN peacekeeping force in Somalia since the killing Sunday of 12 Americans and the capture of at least one US pilot.

"We are anxious to conclude our role there honorably," Clinton said Wednesday, "but we do not want to see a reversion to the absolute chaos and the terrible misery which existed before."

The mission in Somalia, begun in December to secure aid shipments to starving Somalis, has been losing support as peacekeepers concentrate on hunting down warlord Mohamed Farrah Aided. Aided is accused of ordering attacks on UN forces.

The Washington Post reported that officials of Aided's militia said they would hold on to the captured US pilot until the United Nations frees more

than two dozen Aided gunmen being held in UN custody in Mogadishu.

One administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Withdrawal date had not been fixed by late Wednesday, although the most likely time is late this year or early next year.

Under one scenario, Clinton would order between 1,500 and 2,000 more combat troops and more heavy weaponry to protect forces in Somalia as they await a final pullout, officials said.

The president was expected to announce his decisions on Thursday after meeting with congressional leaders.

"It is essential that we con-

clude our mission in Somalia but that we do it with firmness and steadiness of purpose," Clinton said at an East Room ceremony.

American troops in Somalia include a Rapid reaction Force. An additional 650 troops and armored vehicles are being flown to Somalia this week.

In a stinging rebuff to the Clinton administration, House Minority Leader Bob Michel and 64 Republican colleagues sent Clinton a letter branding his Somalia policy a failure.

Moreover, the letter asked Clinton how he intended to secure the freedom of any Americans held in Somalia and requested that he state "Your

intention to expeditiously withdraw our forces in a safe and orderly manner."

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, a Democrat, rejected calls for an immediate troop withdrawal, arguing that such a step would create problems for American troops elsewhere.

At the State Department, spokesman Michael McCurry said Aided's strength appeared to be growing, in part because of arms shipments from abroad.

A senior US official said weapons were crossing the border from Sudan and also probably from Kenya. Sudan, in turn, gets weapons from Iran,

Escobar's close aide shot dead

BOGOTA, Oct 7: A drug trafficker who broke out of jail with Pablo Escobar last year was shot to death Wednesday by elite security forces hunting the fugitive cocaine lord, police said, reports AP.

Alfonso Puerta Munoz was the last of the nine inmates who staged the July 1992 Jail-break. Escobar to remain at large. The rest have surrendered or been killed by police, but Escobar has not been caught.

Puerta and his brother, Jaime Alberto, were killed in a gun battle with elite police and army troops in northeastern Medellin, national police chief Gen Octavio Vargas said in a television interview.