AIDS campaign.

thorities said yesterday, reports AFP.

International Airport (KLIA).

haps in the world, report's AP.

Malaysia airports.

Off the Record

A woman views an artist's work entitled "Please be

careful" made from 54 condoms at the Art Manila '93

exhibition on Friday which takes up the issue of AIDS.

Organised by the National Commission for the Culture and

Arts by the Independent Galleries, the exhibition by 50

artists, mostly Filipinos is the artist's response to the anti-

Most puzzling security foul-up

a flight to Manila from here, after walking through x-ray ma-

chines, metal detectors and closed circuit television, airport au-

matic to Malaysia airlines ground employees shortly after his arrival in Manila Tuesday, sparking off one of the most puzzling

and embarrassing security foul-ups at the Kuala Lumpur

tectors did not detect anything," said Razali Hassan, manager of

not declare the weapon to KLIA security for it to be turned over

Manila. The gun was seized and sent back to us," Razali said,

His-and-hers curses

of his-and-hers curses, the oldest ever found in Egypt and per-

Curse," said Mansour Baurlak, the antiquities inspector who

headed more than three years of excavations in a Pharaonic

cemetery where the curses were found. The graveyard, in dis-

tant view of the Giza pyramids, contains tombs and artifacts

Only one among 23 large tombs and 600 smaller burials con-

The main curses, written in hieroglyphs, are just outside the

His curse summons crocodiles, lions and hippopotamuses to

or Her curse summons the same but adds scorpions and sinkes to the win income or deregulation.

Pet-et-ty, who served the pyramid-building Pharaohs of Giza,

The warnings were meant to protect the afterlife of an official,

For 4,600 years nobody entered their tomb. Until last

Since then, Bauriak said, things have been far from smooth

-An antiquities inspector working at the tomb had to aban-

-An elderly photographer who has spent decades pho-

-Zahi A Hawass, the chief antiquities official in charge of

Colleagues quickly blamed his heart attack on the newly dis-

covered curses, but Hawass is skeptical. "I think it was over-

don his home after a major earthquake struck south of the

tographing tombs was injured when his ladder collapsed into a

-A small train carrying debris from the tomb derailed.

the excavation, suffered a near fatal heart attack.

belonging to ancient overseers, artisans and workers.

tained a curse. It in fact contains several.

eat anyone who dares violate the tomb.

and his wife Nesey-seker.

at the excavation site.

pyramids October 12, 1992.

chamber of Pet-et-ty's tomb.

October.

GIZA PLATEAU, Egypt: Archaeologists have discovered a pair

When anything bad happens, we just blame it on The

to the flight captain until his arrival in the Philippines.

adding that he did not know the reason for Loh's actions.

"Our x-ray machines, walk through scanners and metal de-

Razali said Loh, who flew first class on Malaysia airlines, did

"Instead, he surrendered it to Malaysia airlines staff in

KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian businessman carried a gun on

Loh Mui Fah handed over the .38 Smith and Wesson auto-

-AFP photo

Reports on Russian high tech sell to China worry US

WASHINGTON, Oct 15: The United States is concerned by reports that Russia is transferring high technology to China that could have military applications, a State Department spokesman said on Thursday. reports Reuter.

Secretary of State Warren ... Christopher will discuss these concerns in meetings in Moscow next week, spokesman David Johnson said.

"We're aware that the Russians are seeking to sell marketable goods and technologies, including those with military applications", Johnson told Reuters.

We are concerned about any reports that these sorts of activities, including activities with China could pose weapons proliferation problems or other risks for regional or international stability," Johnson said.

He said the United States has already asked Russia about the sale of sensitive goods and technology to China and will continue to raise the issue as

more information becomes available.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday that the Clinton administration is worried that China's success in recruiting Russian weapons experts and nuclear and ballistic missile technology could eventually enable Chinese nuclear forces to reach the United States.

Christopher will be in Russia and other former Soviet republics on October 20-27 and plans to encourage Russia and Ukraine to move on a deal that could earn them billions of dollars by selling nuclear warhead material for use in US nuclear power plants.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said on Thursday he will press the four former Soviet nuclear republics to dismantle their atomic weapons when he visits Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan next week.

Withdrawal of US troops from Somalia

Senate approves Clinton's March 31 deadline

WASHINGTON, Oct 15: The Senate on Friday backed President Clinton's timetable for withdrawing US troops from Somalia in a critical test of the administration's foreign policy. reports AP.

By a vote of 76-23 the Senate approved a measure that maintains the president's withdrawal date of March 31. It would enforce that by cutting off funds for the Somalia operation at that time unless Congress authorises additional spending -- a concession by the White House.

The death of 18 Americans and wounding of more than 70 others during an October 3 fire fight in Somalia touched off an outcry in Congress with lawmakers demanding the immediate withdrawal of American

Sen John McCain, a Republican from Arizona who was a prisoner of war during the Vietnam conflict, brought

stlence to the Senate chamber when he asked his colleagues what would happen if Americans die within the next

six months. "On whose hands rest the blood of American troops? Ask yourself this question," the senator said.

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, a Republican who said he had been scolded by some for supporting a Democratic president, reminded senators that he backed former President Bush. unlike Clinton, a Republican, in the call for US forces in the Gulf

T supported my president ... and I do the same tonight," Dole

Passage of the amendment came after the Senate turned back a measures by several Republicans that would force an immediate withdrawal by limiting funds only to the expense of pulling out troops and ensuring their protection.

"Our mission in Somalia is over. It's time to come home." argued McCain.

To avert a major defeat for the administration, Clinton and Senate leaders negotiated for two days on a compromise amendment to this year's defence spending bill that limits the mission to a humanitarian

Clinton set the withdrawal deadline after the 18 US soldiers died in a battle with forces loyal to Somalia warlord Mohamed Farrah Aideed. American support for the UN mission has waned since the humanitarian mission in Somalia became a military operation against Aideed.

Another proposal, by Sen Robert Byrd, requires that US forces in Somalia remain under the command and control of US commanders under the ultimate direction of the president.

Senate work on the measure came as Clinton hailed the release of American helicopter pilot Michael Durant in Somalia as a sign "we are moving in the right direction."

Following the release of Durant, Clinton indicated he was open to a compromise that could halt efforts to arrest Aideed for any role he may have played in the earlier killing of 24 Pakistani soldiers - the

stated reason for pursuing him. "We made no deals to secure the release of Chief Warrant Officer Durant," he said.

Clinton said it would be United Nations decision whether to release 32 Aideed aides captured by UN forces. Their release was a condition demanded by Aideed while Durant was being held.

Last December, then President Bush sent more than 25,000 troops to Somalia to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to hundreds of thousands of starving Somalis.

Vietnamese leader in Thailand

BANGKOK, Oct 15: Vietnam's Communist Party chief Do Moui arrived in Thailand today for a four-day visit emphasising trade instead of past cold war antagonisms, reports Reuter.

The 76-year-old Moui accompanied by a delegation of senior officials including Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, inspected an honour guard with Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai before starting talks with him at government house. His visit reflects Vietnam's increasingly close links to members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), to which Thailand belongs.

It follows Moui's trip 10 days ago to Singapore, another ASEAN member, which was his first trip to a non-communist country.

in Japan

TOKYO, Oct 15: The number of crimes in Japan rose to a post-World War II record last year and the number of arrests fell to a record low, the Justice Ministry reported Friday, re-

in an annual report, the ministry said 2.36 million crimes were reported to police tn 1992, up 71,103, or 3.1 per cent, from a year earlier, when

Murder rose by 1 per cent to 1,227 cases and armed robbery rose by 18.5 per cent to 2,189. it said. Japan's population is

Crimes up

the previous record was set.

For Aristide the waiting continues

WASHINGTON, Oct 15: For Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the ousted president of Haiti, the waiting game continues, about 750 days and counting. It's been that long since he was deposed, and many wonder if he'll ever get back, reports AP.

At his modest one-bedroom apartment in the fashionable Georgetown section of Washington, a steady flow of aides and visitors, as well as reading materials, keep him apprised of developments back

For entertainment, he strums his gultar, writes music and poetry and plays soccer with youths at a field in suburban Virginia. But his thoughts never stray very far from what he left behind in Haiti.

Each day that passes means one day less of the term to which he was elected in 1990 and which expires in February 1996. Aristide's electoral majority was the largest of any current leader in the hemisphere he won two-thirds of the vote -but more than a third of his term has been frittered away in

But today the situation is

different and the balance of

deputies in a parliament domi-

nated by centre-right pro-soli-

darity groups. If Pawlak had

managed then to form a gov-

ernment instead of being forced

to step down after just a month,

there is no doubt he would have

change completely

15 opposition papers closed in Russia

MOSCOW, Oct 15: The Russian government has cracked down on opposition newspapers in new moves to tighten President Boris Yeltsin's grip on power following the crushing of an armed rebellion by hardliners in parliament, reports Reuter.

Yeltsin's position was further reinforced on Thursday by Defence Minister Pavel Grachev who, said he should remain as president at least until 1996 and that he was the only man who could steer Russia out of

"I personally see no other candidate (for President)," he told a meeting of Afghan war

The government had earlier on Thursday ordered 15 opposition newspapers to close, sacked the editors of two others and banned the St Petersburg television programme "600 Seconds."

An order issued by the Press and Information Ministry accused them of destablising the situation and helping organise

the uprising, crushed when army tanks pounded the White House parliament building where the rebels were holed up on October 4.

Most of the newspapers had already been suspended under a state of emergency imposed by Yeltsin but they have now been ordered to close permanently.

The crackdown was a further blow for opposition groups struggling to prepare for parliamentary elections on December 12 and it provoked charges that the government had breached Russia's press

"Opposition newspapers have to be allowed to exist and closing them is a violation of the democratic freedoms of Russian citizens," lawyer Henry Reznik was quoted as saying by the

Kommersant Daily. Other moves to strengthen Yeltsin's position have included the launch of a political offensive against regional authorities

to try to stamp out opposition by rebellious local leaders.

BULLITE 6 Sikh rebels killed in Punjab:

Six Sikh militants were killed in the northern Indian state of

Punjab today when police foiled an attempt to free a top Sikh separatist commander police said, AFP reports from New Delhi. Jagtar Singh Jagga a Lieutenant General in the Khalistan Liberation Force who was arrested earlier this week, and five militants died in a gunbattle which erupted after militants am-

bushed a police escort party, police said. Jagga was taking police to an arms cache when the ambush occurred in the village of Gagrewal a police spokesman told the Press Trust of India news agency.

Portuguese president in Seoul: Portuguese President Mario Soares arrived in Seoul Friday for an unofficial four-day visit to South Korea, Reuter reports from

Soares will meet President Kim Young-Sam and tour the Korean truce village of Panmunjom and the World Expo in the central city of Taejon.

20 robbers executed in China: A gang of 20 robbers have been executed in China's Hebei

province for committing a series of bus raids since 1990, the People's Daily reported Thursday, AFP reports from Beijing. The robbers were executed recently in the northeastern province after being caught réd-handed by a bus company pa-

trol team on May 3, the report said. The company set up the team after six gang members armed with knives raided a bus May 3, injuring two passengers and escaping with 3,000 yuan (520 dollars), it said.

Menem undergoes surgery: Arg entine President Carlos Menem underwent successful emergency surgery on Thursday night to unblock a major artery that supplies blood to the head, an official said. Reuter reports from Buenos Aires

Menem, a keen sportsman who had played in a charity soccer match only on Sunday cancelled a trip to Chile where he was due to attend a Latin American summit meeting.

He walked into the clinic and told reporters he was feeling fine, but doctors said he needed surgery because of a severe blockage of his right carotid artery, a key vessel supplying blood to the head.

Jakarta sending troops to Bosnia: Indonesia is sending 25 military observers to join the UN peacekeeping mission in the former Yugoslav republic of

Bosnia-Herzegovina, the official Antara news agency said Friday, Reuter reports from Jakarta. Lieutenant-General HBL Mantiri, chief of the General Staff

was quoted by the agency as saying the officers, including 13 from the army, would leave on Saturday. President Suharto, Chairman of the 108-member Non-Aligned Movement, pledged continued support last month for ef-forts for a just settlement in Bosnia where Muslims, Serbs and

Croats are locked in bloody conflict. One shot dead in Miami: Shots were fired Thursday night at a warehouse near Miami International Airport, killing one man and wounding two others, officials said. A fourth man was injured in a fall, AP reports from Miami.

Police received calls of people being shot at Aircraft Modular Products and set up a perimeter around the warehouse, according to Metro-Dade Fire Rescue spokeswoman Ellen Duran. "We believe there was more than one gunman." said Metro-

Dade police spokesman Don Blocker, who could not confirm if shots were fired from the rooftop. "We don't know if it was a sniper. We don't know if it was a robbery."

One of three men transported to Jackson Memorial Hospital with gunshot wounds died, said hospital administrator Bruce

Road mishap claims 7 in India: Seven persons were killed and fourteen others wounded when a truck collided with a jeep at Nirsha 30 kms from Dhanbad on Thursday, PTI reports from Dhanbad.

Official sources said that five died on the spot and two including a woman on their way to hospital. The injured seven of whom in critical condition were admit-

ted to hospital.

Student stabbed in West Bank: Palestinian stabbed and slightly injured an Israeli seminary student in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron Friday, the

army said. AP reports from Jerusalem. The 25-year-old seminary students was knifed in the neck as he walked by the Cave of the Patriarchs in the Palestinian town. the army said. The cave is traditionally considered to be the burial site of Jewish Matriarchs and Patriarchs.

100 more feared dead in PNG quake

New Guinea, Oct 15: Forty gency Services, Sleith Anderpeople were killed by mudslides unleashed by powerful earthquakes in northern Papua New Guinea, officials said Friday. As many as 100 people were missing and feared dead. reports AP.

Whole mountainsides were sheared off and cascaded into villages below, officials said. Police continued to search for missing villagers after the quake and two powerful aftershocks shook the northern

provinces Wednesday. The director-general of the

PORT MORESBY, Papua National Disaster and Emerson, visited the area Thursday with Prime Minister Palas

Anderson said several dozen villages - some consisting of just a handful of pole andbrush huts — were damaged by the quake. Landslides destroyed homes and gardens.

At least 40 villagers were killed in the landslides, Col Eric Ani, the deputy director of Emergency Services, said Friday. Another 100 were missing and feared dead, he

Pawlak, the ambitious young leader of the Peasant Party (PSL), will form Poland's next government with a comfortable parliamentary majority, but there are already signs that relations with President Lech

Walesa may be stormy, reports Walesa said Thursday he would name the 34 year-old leader of Poland's second biggest party to form a government as soon as Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka and her gov-

ernment have resigned. But in a speech a few hours earlier to the new parliament, largely dominated by the former communists, Walesa cast doubt

on Pawlak's ability to resolve the complex problems facing

Alluding clearly to promises made by the Left during the election campaign Walesa emphasised how "easy it is to deregulate the economic mechanism' of the country and "plunge it into chaos"

Speaking to journalists. Walesa said that though he regarded Pawlak as a "friend", he believed the PSL leader "would not be up to the job" of prime

But Walesa, who strongly backed Suchocka's reform and privatisation programme pledged not to hinder Pawlak out of respect for democracy.

In legislative elections on September 19, the Union of the Democratic Left (SLD) -- the former Communist Party -- won 17 seats and the PSL, the Communist Party's erstwhile satellite, 132 seats.

Walesa doubts Pawlak's ability to run Polish govt

The two parties who criticised the social cost of economic reform, will have a combined majority of 303 seats out of

Analysts said Walesa's remarks were difficult to interpret but appeared to indicate a desire to distance himself from Pawlak. Pawlak, who was given a

widely regarded as Walesa's

been in Walesa's pocket. The September victory of the SLD and PSL leaves Pawlak with a big majority. The SLD knowing it would get nowhere without the PSL, backed Pawlak brief chance to form a government in 1992 but failed, is still for premier in preference to its With its command of parlia-

ment the Left poses a significant potential threat to Walesa, power between the two men has who is seeking to expand his In 1992, the PSL had only 48 own powers.

The first test will come with the appointment of the foreign, defence and interior ministers domains that Walesa regards as within his own realm.

In the tonger term, the rivalry could affect the drafting of the new constitution that will define the powers of the president, parliament and govern-

The left-right partnership which is about to decide the destiny of Poland, promises to be a rocky marriage. own leader Aleksander

Syrian troops to stay in Lebanon: Hariri

PARIS, Oct 15: Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al-Hariri said today that Syrian troops would not be asked to withdraw from his country until Lebanon's own army was strengthened and Israeli sofdiers pulled out, repots Reuter.

"I can tell you the Syrians play a positive role now" Hariri, told Europe-1 Radio on the second of a five-day visit to France. "Security must be assured in South Lebanon and the Israelis must pull out of South Lebanon. Then we will see with the Syrians what to do."



Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary Do Moui (R) and Thai Premier Chuan - AFP phote Leekpai review troops during an arrival ceremony in Bangkok on Friday.

Anti-racist rally in London today

LONDON. Oct 15: In the biggest anti-racist demonstration in Britain for 15 years, up to 50,000 people will march through the East End of London on Saturday to demand the closure of a bookshop run by an extreme right-wing group, re-

ports Reuter. Police concerned about possible violence between demonstrators and supporters of the British National Party (BNP) this week ordered the organisers to cancel plans to march past the bookshop, which serves as the

China admits

unrest by

Muslims

day admitted serious unrest by

Muslims in its western province

of Qinghai and said measures

had been taken to deal with

those responsible, reports

agency gave the first official ac-

count by the central govern-

ment media of the disturbances

in the provincial capital Xining

sparked by Muslim anger over a

book which they said insulted

The book originally from

Taiwan was illegally reprinted in

Sichuan. In it Muslims were

pictured praying next to a pig.

Eating pork is considered sacri-

"Recently a handful of people

in the Xining area formed illegal

organisations occupied mos-

ques by force organised illegal

gatherings and demonstrations

and disrupted production peo-

ple's life and work order under

the pretext of a Taiwan-

published book entitled 'a swift

turn in thinking," the agency

WARSAW, Oct 15: Waldemar

legious in Islam.

The official Xinhua news

BELJING, Oct 15: China to-

In May, 19 people were hurt

when protesters tried to storm the BNP shop in the Welling area. Mounted police charged demonstrators and neighbouring houses and shops were at-

March organisers blamed Trotskyist extremists for the violence. Police say up to 5,000 members of extremist anarchist groups plan to try to destroy the BNP building on Saturday.

"What I fear, and to some extent anticipate, is that a small number of extremists will seek to hijack the march," London police chief Paul Condon told

not prepared to allow mob rule." Community leaders have repeatedly warned police and the Conservative government that young Asians and blacks are ready to take the law into their own hands if they are not pro-

tected. Before the BNP election success last month, an attack on a young Bangladeshi in the Brick Lane area of east London left him critically ill in hospital and caused a riot as young Asians attacked police outside the hospital where he lay.

Organisers are keen to pre-

reporters on Thursday. "I am vent trouble

An unidentified family member stands over the body of Haitian Justice Minister Guy Malary on Friday after the minister and his bodyguards were gunned down. Malary was appointed by ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide. - AFP photo