

International

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.

silence to the Senate chamber when he asked his colleagues what would happen if Americans die within the next six months.

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

Following the release of Durant, Clinton indicated he was open to a compromise that could halt efforts to arrest Aided for any role he may have played in the earlier killing of 24 Pakistani soldiers — the stated reason for pursuing him.

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.

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.

BRIEFLY

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.

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

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.

Menem undergoes surgery: Argentine 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.

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.

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.

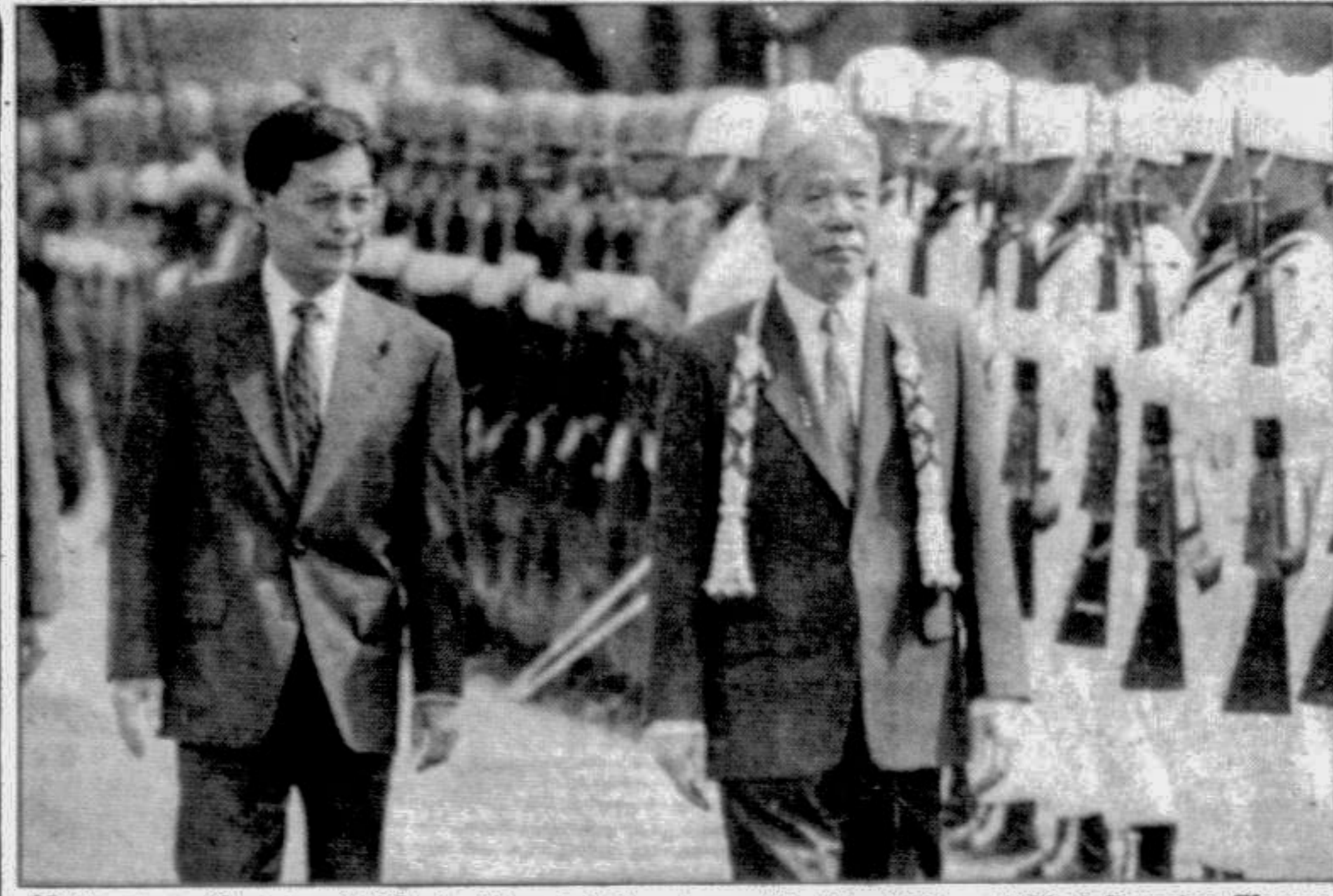
Road mishap claims 7 in India: Seven persons were killed and fourteen others wounded when a truck collided with a jeep at Niraha 30 kms from Dhanbad on Thursday, PTI reports from Dhanbad.

Student stabbed in West Bank: A Palestinian stabbed and slightly injured an Israeli secondary student in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron Friday, the army said, AP reports from Jerusalem.

100 more feared dead in PNG quake: National Disaster and Emergency Services, Sleith Anderson, visited the area Thursday with Prime Minister Paise Wingu.

100 more feared dead in PNG quake

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea, Oct 15: Forty people 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.



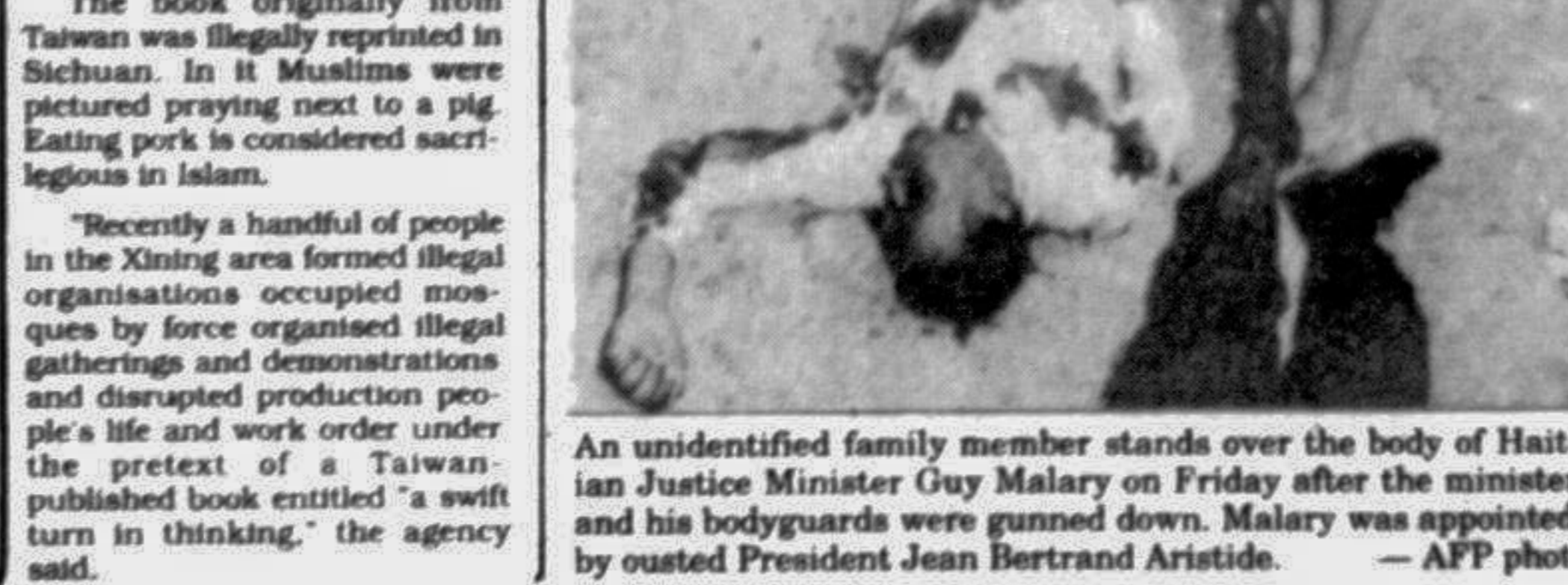
Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary Do Moui (R) and Thai Premier Chuan Leekpai review troops during an arrival ceremony in Bangkok on Friday.

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, reports Reuter.

China admits unrest by Muslims

BELING, Oct 15: China today admitted serious unrest by Muslims in its western province of Qinghai and said measures had been taken to deal with those responsible, reports Reuter.



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.

Walesa doubts Pawlak's ability to run Polish govt

WARSAW, Oct 15: Waldemar 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 AP.

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.

Crimes up 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, reports AP.

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.

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.

Most puzzling security foul-up

KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian businessman carried a gun on a flight to Manila from here, after walking through x-ray machines, metal detectors and closed circuit television, airport authorities said yesterday, reports AFP.

His-and-hers curses

GIZA PLATEAU, Egypt: Archaeologists have discovered a pair of his-and-hers curses, the oldest ever found in Egypt and perhaps in the world, reports AP.

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.

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 soldiers pulled out, reports Reuter.