

Malaysian DPM resigns

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16: Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Baba, trailing badly in party polls, has resigned. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad confirmed late Friday, reports AFP.



US President Bill Clinton tells reporters on Friday in Washington that he has ordered six US warships to patrol off Haiti to enforce UN sanctions that take effect tomorrow.

Six US warships go to enforce UN sanctions against Haiti

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 16: After dispatching six warships to enforce sanctions against Haiti, the Clinton administration wants the Security Council's blessing to stop and search ships bound for the Caribbean nation, reports AP.

although it was not known which countries would join in enforcing the sanctions. The Council reimposed an oil and arms embargo against Haiti on Wednesday, a day after a US warship carrying UN forces withdrew from the country.

peace accord they signed in July. The accord calls for army chief Lt Gen Raoul Cedras to step down and for President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to return on October 30. Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected leader, was ousted in a

WASHINGTON: President Bill Clinton said he ordered an infantry company to standby at Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba in case they are needed to secure the safety of Americans still in Haiti, reports AFP.

prevented the ship, which carried 600 noncombat troops, from landing. The embargo will take effect Monday unless Haiti's military authorities have a change of heart.

coup in September 1991. In addition to the oil and arms embargo, the sanctions call for freezing the assets of the military authorities and their agents.

Another quake hits Papua New Guinea

CANBERRA, Oct 16: Major earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale hit northern Papua New Guinea today just three days after a quake hit the same area killing over 80 people. The Australian seismological centre reported, reports Reuter.

BRIEFLY

Joseph Kennedy weds Oct 23: US Republican Senator, Joseph Kennedy said Friday he and fiancée Beth Kelly will wed October 23 in a small civil ceremony at his home. AP reports from Boston.

The 41-year-old Boston Democrat is the eldest son of the late US Sen Robert Kennedy. Kelly is an aide in his Washington office.

Ivory Coast president ill: Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouët-Boigny remained hospitalised in Paris on Friday after being admitted last week, the country's ambassador said, AP reports from Paris.

Houphouët-Boigny, who turns 88 on Monday according to official records, has been in the urology section of Cochin Hospital since Saturday, said Ambassador Eugene Aidara.

Jackson performs in Sao Paulo: Michael Jackson sang and danced Friday before a screaming, near-hysterical crowd of at least 70,000 fans, who packed a soccer stadium to watch his first show in South America's largest city. AP reports from Sao Paulo.

When Jackson, dressed in a black and gold outfit appeared on the custom-built stage built in Sao Paulo's huge Morumbi Stadium, a loud cheer, accompanied by shouts of "Michael, Michael," erupted from the crowd.

Menem recovering: After undergoing surgery on a key artery to his brain, President Carlos Menem said he was recovering well Friday and vowed to continue his effort to get re-elected, AP reports from Buenos Aires.

Surgeons at a Buenos Aires cardiology clinic on Thursday removed an arteriosclerotic plaque that obstructed the right carotid artery. The carotids are the two principal arteries of the neck that carry blood to the head.

Mubarak to go USA, France: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will visit Washington and Paris next week, Foreign Minister Amr Mussa has said, GNA-Pool reports from Cairo.

He said the Egyptian President in his capacity as current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity would focus on African issues like Liberia and Angola situation, during his talks in the two capitals.

Indo-Lankan talks begin: Sri Lanka and India began talks Friday about alleged Sri Lankan navy attacks on Indian fishing boats last week in which four fishermen died, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said, Reuter reports from Colombo.

He said Foreign Secretary Bernard Tillekeratne Sri Lanka's top diplomat and two navy officials left for the Indian capital of New Delhi on Thursday for talks with Indian External Affairs Ministry and navy officials, he said.

Zimbabwe greets Mandela, Klerk: Zimbabwe, long a fierce critic of white rule in South Africa, has congratulated President Frederik de Klerk for winning the Nobel Peace prize along with African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, AFP reports from Harare.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement late Friday the two men had "confronted and defeated" the racists in South African society.

Bandits kill 14 in Kenya: More than 200 armed bandits raided a remote village in north eastern Kenya, killing 14 people before stealing 485 head of cattle, local media reported Saturday, Reuter says from Nairobi.

The reports said the incident took place on Wednesday in the village of Wajir and quoted government officials as saying police had been sent to the violence-prone area to step up security.

CIS states dump N-waste into rivers

COPENHAGEN, Oct 16: Radioactive contamination is out of control in the former Soviet Union and some nuclear waste is being dumped into rivers, according to two global agencies in a disturbing report just released.

Helmeke said the collapse of the Soviet Union, economic hardship and chaotic attempts to shift to a market economy were aggravating an already-serious situation.

safety measures as collateral for a private loan. — Virtually no liquid atomic waste has in the past 18 months reached the official deposit sites in the Ukraine and the situation is similar in the Baltic states.

may be 10 times as common as in the west. The Ukraine alone is estimated to have more than 100,000 nuclear sources in action. The Soviet Union was a nuclear power. Anybody who wanted a nuclear source could have it, Helmeke said.

Facts about Premadasa's killing

COLOMBO, Oct 16: Nine more Tamil rebel suicide-bombers were ready to carry out a mission to kill Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa had he survived the May 1 assassination, press reports said today, according to AFP.

"On May 1, there were nine LTTE suicide-bombers in the vicinity... ready to jump into the May Day procession if Babu, who was assigned the task of assassinating the president, failed," the island quoted police as saying.

by a LTTE rebel in their custody. Babu himself was killed in the May Day explosion together with 21 others, including Premadasa's valet and elite police commandos assigned to protect the slain leader.

Troops kill 9 LTTE rebels

COLOMBO, Oct 16: Government troops killed at least nine Tamil rebels and wounded 20 others during a three-day operation that ended earlier in the week in eastern Sri Lanka, a military spokesman here said today, reports AFP.



The Princess of Wales arrives at St George's Hospital Tooting on Friday in London where she gave an address to "Headway" the National Head Injuries Association. The Princess is a patron of the association.

Reasons for US presence in Asia unclear

HONG KONG Oct 16: Reasons behind US military involvement are nebulous and Asia needs to clarify regional efforts towards its own security, experts and officials said Friday, reports AFP.

Washington remained committed to the Asia Pacific, and had no intention of reducing its military presence in the region.

The reason I am less confident in the United States than I used to be is that the rationale behind its military commitment to this region has disappeared. President of South Korea's Institute of Social Sciences Kim Kyung-Won said Friday.

For sure we would like the United States to be here, but in the longer term, we are not sure US public opinion will sustain that involvement. Jusuf Wanandi, supervisory board chairman of the Jakarta-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies. In preparation, we have to complement US involvement with regional efforts.

72 more Myanmar detenus freed

YANGON, Oct 16: Altogether 72 political prisoners have been released in Myanmar from October 8 to 15 this year, reports Xinhua.

Brief campaign gives Yeltsin's forces a fair chance to win

MOSCOW, Oct 16: The lights on his 15-line telephone were flashing and Alexander Tikhonov, a millionaire new to both riches and politics, was clearly enjoying himself, reports AP.

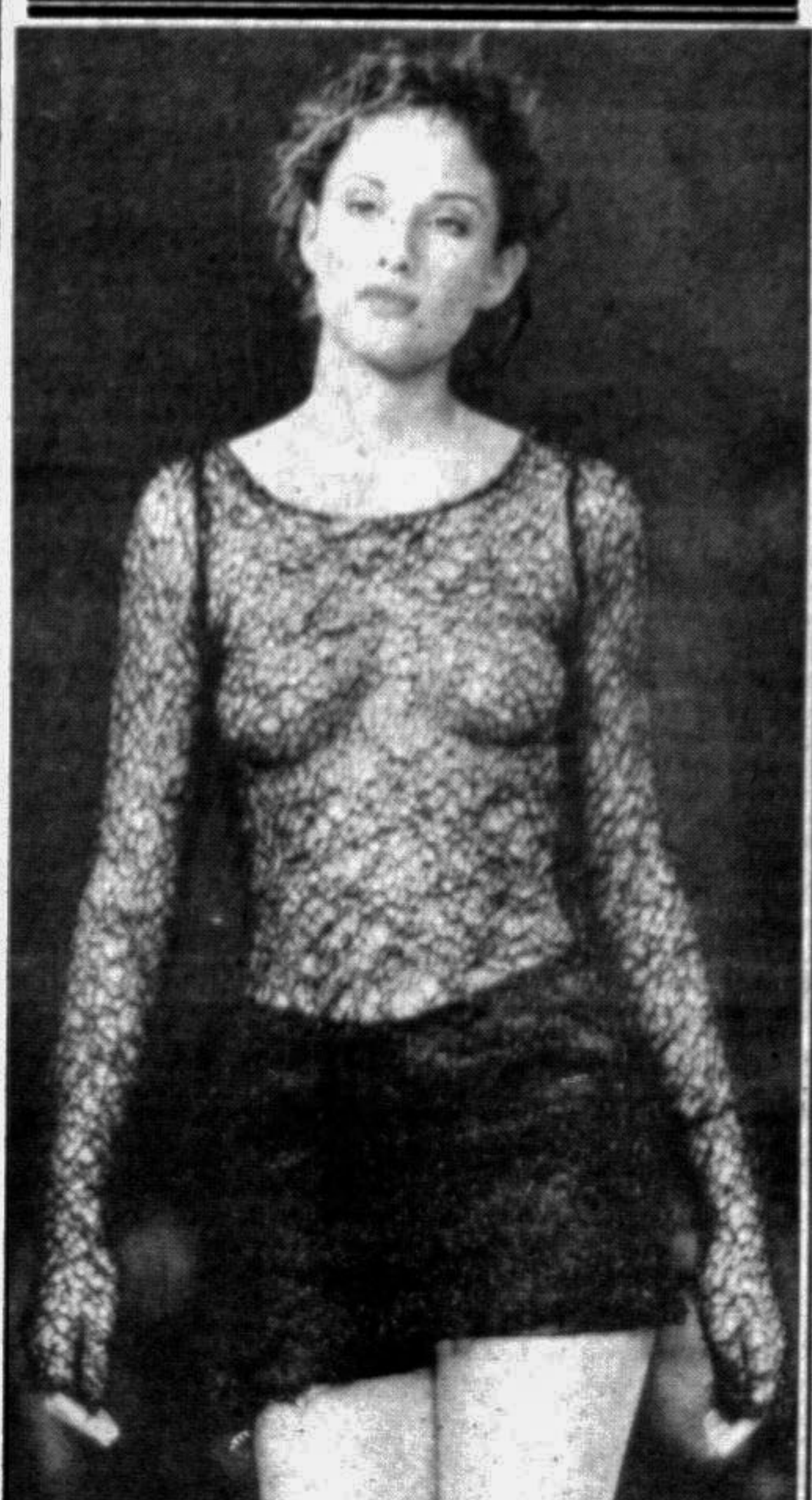
and platforms are in flux, but the will to power is strong. "Twenty-four hours," Tikhonov told one caller. "We need to hold within 24 hours".

same day. He had wavered between a referendum on the charter, which will replace the current Soviet-era document, and having the new parliament approve it.

Much depends on how the more than 100 new parties, trade unions and other organizations coalesce into an expected six to 10 major alliances. Tikhonov, 43, is somewhere in the middle of the middle: a member of the "loyal center" that generally supports Yeltsin, but occasionally opposes him.

"humiliated" by the caliber of people who govern Russia. He said Yeltsin is "like an actor on stage who can't remember what play he's in, let alone his lines".

Off the Record



Korean designer Jin Teok's model wears a very loosely-knitted, very long-sleeved sweater over a pair of navy-blue shorts for Spring-Summer '94 as the French ready-to-wear shows wound up on Friday in Paris.

To relax during labour

LONDON: British doctors have asked the government to probe the safety of giving birth in water following the death of a baby in Sweden and two incidents involving "water babies" in England, reports Reuter.

Students tote guns to class

NEW YORK: Twenty-one per cent of New York secondary school students have toted weapons to class, and 40 per cent were threatened physically in the past school year, a study released Friday showed, reports AFP.

Two killed as police fire on farmers in India

NEW DELHI, Oct 16: Police opened fire on farmers protesting increased electricity tariffs in the western Indian state of Gujarat, killing two men, newspapers reported today, says AFP.