

UN commits 'genocide' in Somalia: Aideed

PARIS, Oct 30: Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aideed accused the United Nations of committing 'genocide' against Somalis but appeared less hostile towards Washington in an interview published on Friday, reports Reuter.

Aideed told the conservative daily Le Figaro the UN operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) had "lost all credibility."

"Admiral Howe did not come here to restore democracy but to commit a genocide against Somalis," he said.

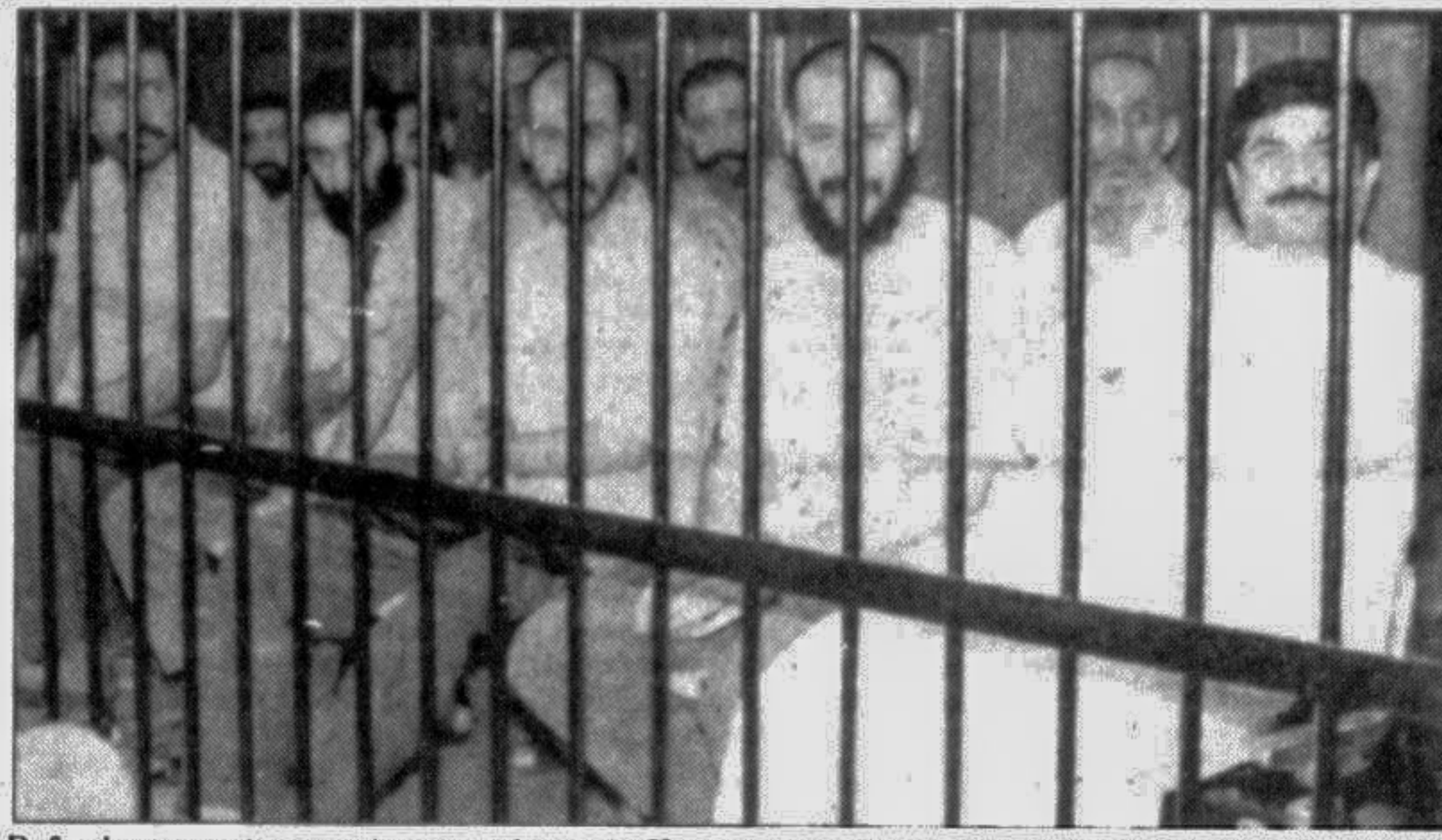
But he said he would be willing to meet President Bill Clinton's special envoy Robert Oakley, when he returns to Somalia in Mogadishu, at a place we both agree upon, he said.

UN officials said on Friday Aideed was due to return to the Somali capital but gave no dates. He is spearheading Washington's political initiative in Mogadishu, three weeks after Somali militiamen pinned down and killed 18 US army rangers.

Washington has called off a manhunt for Aideed in what UN officials said was an effort to give peaceful political reconciliation a chance.

"The American government has adopted a totally new and positive policy on Somalia," Aideed said.

"Our rights are now recognised by all world leaders with the only notable exception of UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali," he added.



Defendants are in court in a metal cage in Kuwait yesterday as Kuwaiti court decided to postpone its verdict until December 25 in an alleged Iraqi-backed plot to assassinate former US President George Bush.

Plot to kill Bush: Kuwaiti court puts off verdict until Dec 25

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: A Kuwaiti court decided today to postpone its verdict in an alleged plot to assassinate former US President George Bush until December 25, reports AFP.

Judge Salah al-Fahd, chairman of the state security court, announced the decision shortly after a new session was opened in which the verdict was expected against the 11 Iraqi and three Kuwaiti suspects.

"This is an important trial and to guarantee a fair trial and that the accused are treated fairly, it has been decided to postpone the verdict until December 25," he said.

Ex-Russian CP submits list of candidates for parliamentary polls

MOSCOW, Oct 30: The Russian Communist Party (RCP), temporarily outlawed during the state of emergency declared between October 3 and 18, submitted on Friday a list of candidates for legislative elections to be held on December 12, reports AFP.

The party considers the holding of these elections to be invalid but will participate all the same, Valentin Kuptsov, a Communist Party leader, told AFP as he registered the list with the electoral commission.

Another former communist institution, the newspaper Pravda, which was also banned during the state of emergency, announced on Friday that it would reappear as of next Tuesday.

Once the mouthpiece of communist thought, the new Pravda will be "a newspaper of civilized opposition," according to its Editor-in-Chief, Viktor Linnik, who was elected to the post by the editorial staff.

President Boris Yeltsin ordered Russian broadcast media on Friday to offer equal access to the airwaves for all political blocs and parties vying for seats in the upcoming elections.

Yeltsin's order came after the electoral commission indicated on Thursday that it was concerned about risks of sabotaged elections, because of the persistent influence of the communist movement, according to Itar-Tass.

The RCP electoral list is headed by the party's president, Gennady Zuyganov, and includes 182 names, including such political figures as Anatoly Lukyanov, the ex-President of the Soviet parliament, now on trial for his role in the August 1991 coup d'etat, and former editors in chief of Pravda and Sovetskaya Rossiya.

While the communists say they represent 10 per cent of the population, their liberal adversaries estimate their ranks at less than five per cent of the 104 million registered Russian voters.

Anura returns home, joins UNP

COLOMBO, Oct 30: Controversial politician Anura Bandaranaike returned from London on Friday and joined the ruling United National Party (UNP) after meeting President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, reports Reuter.

He said on arrival that his mother's opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) would be weakened by his defection to the ruling party. The SLFP will undoubtedly be weakened by this, he told reporters after a week-long vacation.

Bandaranaike defected to the United National Party (UNP) on Tuesday in a surprise move sparked by family squabbles.

Bandaranaike, one of the key figures of the SLFP, resigned from the party on October 11 after a leadership struggle with his mother and party leader, Sirima, and elder sister Chandrika.

Sirima, a former Prime Minister is backing Chandrika to succeed her as party leader, a post long eyed by Bandaranaike.

A government spokesman said Bandaranaike later met Wijetunga and joined the ruling party. Bandaranaike's supporters say Wijetunga was considering offering him the finance or foreign affairs portfolio.

His residence was crowded with supporters, whom Bandaranaike said had been advised to remain in the SLFP "for the time being."

US plans no military action against North Korea

TOKYO, Oct 30: The United States plans no military action against North Korea and is willing to start talks on diplomatic ties if progress can be achieved on nuclear issues, Secretary of Defence Les Aspin said today, reports AFP.

The US has been in dispute with Pyongyang for more than a year over its denial of site inspections for what Washington says is a nuclear weapons programme.

Aspin told the Nihon Keizai newspaper it was not "appropriate" to discuss military action against North Korea.

He was reacting to calls by US republican leaders for military action if Pyongyang continued to reject outside inspections of its suspected nuclear plants.

After repeated requests for outside inspections from the International Atomic Energy

Agency (IAEA), North Korea withdrew in March from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In June, after talks in New York with high-ranking US officials, North Korea agreed to freeze the March decision for an unspecified period but refused to accept IAEA inspections of plants in Yongbyon.

The two plants in Yongbyon, some 100 kilometres (112 miles) North of Pyongyang, are suspected by the United States and other western countries of storing Plutonium for making nuclear warheads.

The US had another round of high-level talks with North Korea in July in Geneva but failed to persuade it to accept IAEA checks on the plants and make it return to the NPT. Aspin, who will visit Japan

and South Korea next week, told the Nihon Keizai the United States would discuss diplomatic and economic matters with North Korea if it "responds positively" to problems pointed out by Washington.

AP adds: North Korea has notified the International Atomic Energy Agency that inspectors will be allowed to change film and batteries in surveillance cameras at its nuclear facilities, a newspaper reported Saturday.

The national Saegye Ilbo newspaper said Communist North Korea notified the Vienna-based IAEA of its decision and that the inspectors' activities could be carried out within a week.

The newspaper, which is generally regarded as reliable in matters concerning North Korea, cited an unidentified North

Korean official in Vienna. The report could not immediately be independently confirmed.

Hans Blix, director-general of the United Nations watchdog agency, has said unless the film and batteries are replaced promptly, North Korea will have evaded minimal compliance with international nuclear safeguards.

The film and batteries in the surveillance cameras were expected to run out by the end of October. Experts have said a blackout would allow North Korea to remove some of its nuclear wastes from the sensitive facilities.

Despite its denials, North Korea is suspected of developing a nuclear arsenal. Intelligence reports claimed the North may have enough weapons-grade Plutonium to make at least one nuclear bomb.

BRIEFLY

**Laotian PM to visit Cambodia:** Laotian Premier Khamtay Siphandone will be the first foreign leader to visit the new royal government of Cambodia next week, a government spokesman said Saturday AFP reports from Phnom Penh.

The Laotian Prime Minister will begin a three-day visit November 4 to discuss trade and cooperation with Cambodian Co-Premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen.

Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivuth said the leaders would discuss Cambodia's offer to provide Laos direct access to the country's seaport in the Gulf of Thailand in exchange for direct access to China through Laos.

**Quake shakes Manila:** A moderate earthquake shook Manila and nearby areas Saturday but no casualties or damages were reported, authorities said, AP reports from Manila.

The tremor, which was measured at a magnitude of 5.3 on the Richter scale, shook the capital and nearby provinces on Luzon island at about 4:30 PM (0830 GMT).

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the quake was caused by a movement of the Philippine Fault Zone, just off the coast of Dingalan town in Aurora province, about 96 kilometres (60 miles) northeast of Manila.

**Killers of ex-Punjab CM held:** Two Pakistanis have been arrested for alleged involvement in the murder of a prominent leader of former premier Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML), police said yesterday, AFP reports from Islamabad.

The arrests were made more than a month after the killing of Ghulam Haider Wynn before the October 9 general election. Wynn, a former Chief Minister of Punjab, was gunned down while campaigning in his home constituency of Mian Channu.

**China executes 7 drug traders:** Seven men were executed in China's southern Guangdong Province for peddling heroin, an official newspaper reported, Reuter says from Beijing.

The seven were put to death on Friday in the provincial capital Guangzhou, the city's Yancheng Evening News said. "The Guangzhou people's intermediate court found that the seven, either in collusion or alone, peddled drugs and that this constitutes the crime of narcotics trafficking," it said.

**Koirala leaves for Lhasa:** Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala left for the Tibetan capital Lhasa Saturday on week-long official visit to hold talks with Chinese and Tibetan officials, the Foreign Ministry said, AFP reports from Kathmandu.

Koirala was accompanied by senior Foreign Ministry Joint Secretary Kedar Bhakta Shrestha and Chief of protocol Indra Bahadur Sindh, a Foreign Ministry official said. Koirala is the first Nepalese Prime Minister ever to visit Tibet.

5.75 lakh flee Burundi to escape tribal war

BUJUMBURA, Oct 30: About 5.75 lakh Burundians, a tenth of the entire population, have fled the country in the past week to escape tribal fighting, an official of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Friday, reports Reuter.

"It's a calamity, much worse than the past," UNHCR official Buti Kale told Reuters. Kale said 340,000 refugees had crossed into Rwanda, 215,000 into Tanzania and the rest into Zaire.

They have all left Burundi since last Thursday, when soldiers killed President Melchior Ndadaye and six of his ministers and tried to seize power.

The coup collapsed on Monday when army chiefs disowned the soldiers but widespread fighting had already broken out between the majority Hutu tribe and the minority Tutsis. The government says several thousand people have been killed.

The Hutu dominated

Ndadaye's government while the Tutsi, who ruled in Burundi for centuries, dominated the army.

Earlier this week an official of the Belgian Charpyy Medecins Sans Frontiers in Rwanda estimated the number of refugees there at 500,000.

Tanzanian state radio confirmed on Thursday the 215,000, updating a figure of 170,000 given earlier in the day by Mustapha Nyan Ganyil, a minister in the prime minister's office.

Kale said the clashes had made tens of thousands of other Burundians leave their homes for other parts of the country.

He said it would be a massive operation feeding the refugees, who left home with no possessions and were now camped out in the open.

The UNHCR is holding talks in Geneva to see how it can help and officials of the agency have been sent into countries bordering Burundi to assess the situation, Kale said.

Bosnian Muslims seek protection of UN troops

SARAJEVO, Oct 30: Muslim villagers sought the protection of UN soldiers from Croat forces in central Bosnia on Friday amid reports of rising violence against civilians in Muslim Croat fighting, reports Reuter.

In Sarajevo, Serb and Muslim forces heavily shelled each other for more than an hour on Friday, with Serbs targeting Bosnian government-controlled Zuc Hill districts on the north side of the town and sniping on the city centre.

Muslim-led Bosnian soldiers hit Serb troops ringing the city with heavy artillery attacks.

Angolan peace talks end without accord

LUSAKA, Zambia, Oct 30: UN representatives and Angolan rebel leaders left Lusaka Saturday after five days of talks failed to reach agreement on a timetable for resumed peace negotiations, officials said, reports AP.

A UNITA delegation headed here for consultations with Jonas Savimbi and top aides and UN mediator Alouine Beye returned Luanda for contacts with the Angolan government, the Zambian foreign ministry said.

Beye, the UN special envoy in Angola, gave no details of his talks in Lusaka with UNITA and a team of Angolan govern-

ment observers who refused to meet with the rebel group headed by senior officials Jorge Valentim and Gen. Paulo Gato.

On Monday, at the start of a week of shuttling between hotels occupied by UNITA and the government observers, Beye said he was optimistic a date and venue would be agreed for a new peace summit.

Beye imposed a news blackout on the talks, and neither of the warring sides would say why they were unable to make progress.

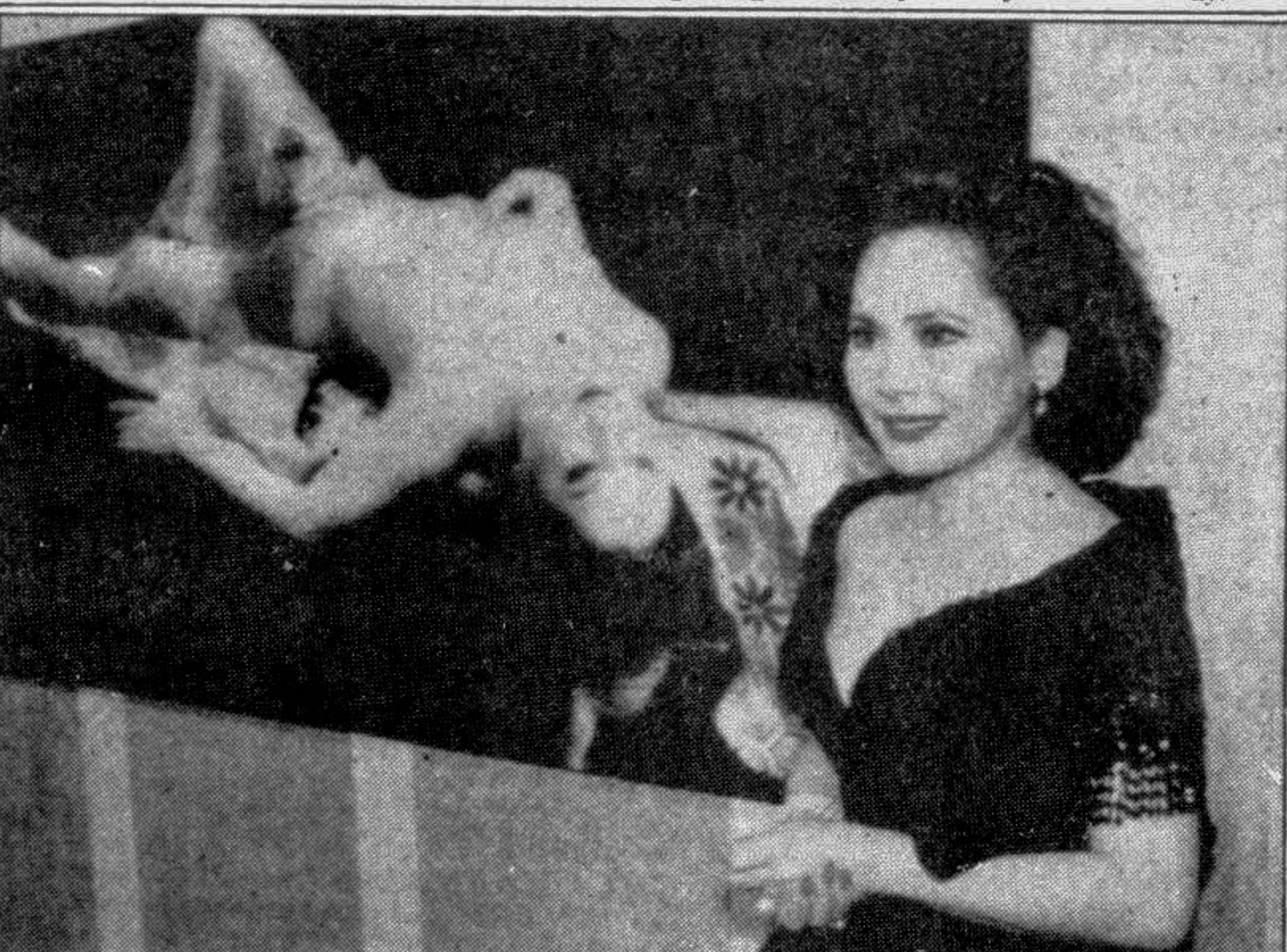
The last face-to-face negotiations broke down in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, last May.

China executes 5 more officials for corruption

BEIJING, Oct 30: Five more officials from the southern province of Guangdong have been executed in a frenzied national anti-graft campaign, reports AP.

A local newspaper commentator compared the execution's gunfire to Beethoven's renowned Ninth Symphony. The Friday edition of Yangcheng Evening News from Canton, seen in Beijing on Saturday, actually reported seven executions, but the two biggest cases had already been reported by the national media.

The other five executed by shooting Friday morning were primarily minor town officials



This October 25 file photo taken in Tokyo shows former Indonesian first lady Dewi Sukarno posing for photographers in front of her nude portrait during a party to celebrate the publication of her book of nude photographs. Some members of the Japanese parliament are angered by the book, which went on sale in Japan on Friday for 4,800 yen.

UNGA elects 5 SC members

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 30: Argentina, The Czech Republic, Nigeria, Oman and Rwanda were elected by the General Assembly Friday to two-year terms on the 15-member Security Council beginning January 1, 1994, reports Reuter.

They will fill vacancies left when Cape Verde, Hungary, Japan, Morocco and Venezuela complete their terms at the end of this year.

Five other non-permanent members which remain on the council until the end of 1994 are Brazil, Djibouti, New Zealand, Pakistan and Spain.

The five permanent members, each with the power of veto, are the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France.

The Security Council is the UN body responsible for international peace and security. Its role has greatly increased since the end of the cold war, when it was severely hampered by the threat of vetoes by the big powers.

Russia withdraws troops from Georgian war zone

TBILISI (Georgia), Oct 30: Russian troops stationed in the Georgian town of Senaki were ordered to withdraw Saturday after coming under fire in the battle between government troops and rebels for control of the town, reports AP.

Maj Gen Yuri Baluevski, chief of Russian headquarters in the capital Tbilisi, said, "we are washing our hands - we do not intend to involve ourselves in local conflicts."

He said Russian soldiers, sent to protect key railroad lines between the Black Sea port of Poti and Tbilisi, came under heavy shelling Friday night and Saturday, and they responded by opening fire on attackers.

Baluevski said it appeared that government troops had abandoned the town after heavy fighting Friday and Saturday. Senaki, a former western Geor-

gian military stronghold of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, had been recaptured by government forces Wednesday.

Baluevski said the Russian troops were ordered to pull out of Senaki, but he did not say if troops were withdrawing from other towns along the railroad.

Government forces recaptured the town of Khobi Friday, driving back rebel forces trying to topple Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

A Georgian military spokesman reported that 10 tanks and other vehicles were captured in the government assault on Khobi that forced rebels out the town which they briefly held following a counter-offensive Thursday.

Both sides sustained casualties in the battle, according to the spokesman.

Ghali pleads for continued US role in UN

WASHINGTON, Oct 30: Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali Friday made a passionate plea for continued US involvement in the United Nations and said finding the right relationship between these two may be crucial for the world, reports Reuter.

Addressing US officials and foreign diplomats, he also warned that the world body's post cold war role of peacemaking - not just peacekeeping - would have to stop "if member states are not ready to stay the course of peace enforcement."

Facing increased criticism of the United Nations after 18 US rangers were killed in Somalia and after a US decision to withdraw its troops from the east African nation by next March 31, Boutros Ghali said.

"As we survey together the task before us, let me say frankly: I need the United States. The United Nations needs the United States,

gave him their leadership award. His audience included Vice President Al Gore and the US Ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright.

While he used his appearance to deliver a sincere appeal for continued US leadership in helping the UN find its way in a complex and changing world, he also made reference to the tensions between himself and the Clinton administration.

"I have many friends in Washington. They always have my best interests at heart, he said at the start of his speech.

"For example, they advised me not to go to Mogadishu (last week). They said it wasn't safe."

"But when my friends learned I was coming to Washington (which has a high crime rate), I did not hear one word of warning so I take that to mean I am safe here," he added.

Boutros Ghali affirmed his commitment to the world body's expanded post-cold war role of peacemaking, not just peacekeeping, even though it has resulted in the death of UN peacekeepers.

"I am firmly committed to the concept of peace enforcement because it is firmly established in the UN charter. It is essential to strengthen international peace and security."

"To some people at present, multilateralism has become a dirty word," Boutros-Ghali said in a not-so-subtle swipe at the administration which initially advocated an assertive multilateral approach to world conflicts, but has pulled back the US-UN peacemaking mission in Somalia into trouble.

"He admitted he did not have all the answers for how the United Nations should handle the new challenges to peace that have strained its resources since the collapse of communism.

Boutros Ghali affirmed his

Off the Record

An unusual mail for Attorney Gen

QUEBEC: A Quebec man chopped off his finger with an axe and mailed it to Quebec Attorney General Gil Remillard to protest slow action on compensation he requested for an old injury, reports Reuter.

The 56-year-old man, who cannot be identified, was charged Friday for sending his finger to Remillard but for uttering threats against the Attorney General, Remillard's spokeswoman said.

When asked if he had hired a lawyer to represent him, the man replied, "I cannot afford a lawyer, it would cost me an arm."

The man was allegedly injured in a house five years ago, and has been trying, unsuccessfully, to get compensation ever since. So he mailed his finger to Remillard.

Coffee acts as an anti-depressant

LONDON: A US research doctor has said that coffee could protect people against suicide and depression, a scientific journal said on Friday, reports Reuter.

A 10-year follow-up study of 128,000 patients in a medical care programme found that the chance of suicide fell as people drank more coffee. Tea had a similar, though weaker effect.

Arthur Klatsky, head of a research team at the Department of Medicine Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Programme in California, suggested in the journal annals of epidemiology that coffee acts as an anti-depressant. But he advised doctors not to prescribe coffee, tea or pure caffeine for depression before trials on patients had been carried out.

A Norwegian study involving 38,564 men and women and published in the British Medical Journal in 1990 found that heavy coffee drinking was significantly related to death from heart disease.

The link between more coffee and lower suicide rates was the strongest of all the links Klatsky's team found in its study of coffee and causes of death.

Coffee drinkers were also found less likely to die of cirrhosis of the liver.

While the study found that the chance of suicide dropped with increased coffee intake, it found no difference between death rates for people who drank coffee and those who did not.

New protein that develops brain, spinal cord

WASHINGTON: US researchers have identified a protein that plays an important role in the development of the brain and spinal cord in a human embryo, reports Xinhua.

The work presented in the science journal published on Thursday helps explain the sophisticated process in which cells in an embryo grows into a nerve system at the molecular level.

Researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, say the protein dictates the creation of a layer of tissue that eventually folds inward to form the brain and spinal cord.

The newly found protein, called 'noggin', raises the hope that treatments can be developed in future to help people with degenerative diseases to grow new nerve cells.

Given high doses of the protein in experiments, the researchers say, frog embryos developed extremely large heads.

Animal dissection in space

SPACE CENTER, Houston: Columbia's veterinarian headed a white rat and performed an animal dissection in space Saturday, preserving body parts to help pinpoint the effects of weightlessness, reports AP.

Veterinarian Martin Fettman, reaching into an enclosed workbench, killed the rat with a miniature guillotine similar to those commonly used in animal dissections on Earth. No anesthesia was used so the study samples remain untainted by chemicals.

After the decapitation, Fettman quickly removed and preserved the rat's inner ears, a procedure that had to be completed within two minutes to keep the gravity-sensing organs from changing.

He then went about removing nearly all the rat's other body parts including bones, muscles, organs, glands, eyes, brains and blood.

In all, five of the 48 male rats aboard - six if there's time - were to be dissected Saturday by Fettman and astronaut-physician M Rhea Seddon.