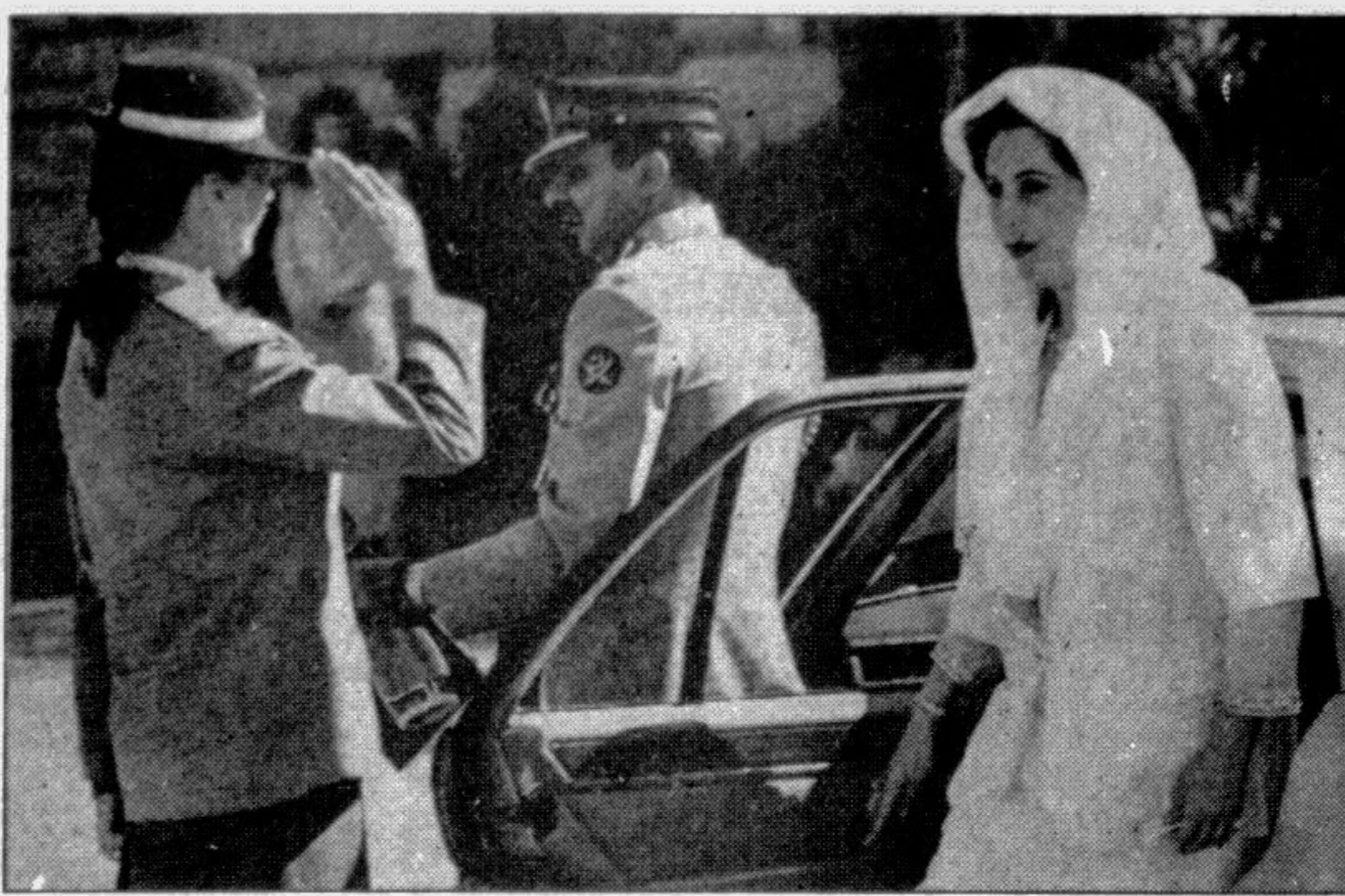


Truce breaks down in Azerbaijan

BAKU, May 11: A new truce in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan broke down after only a few hours on Tuesday...



Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (R) is saluted on her arrival at Nelson Mandela's inauguration Tuesday at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

Malaysian King's power reduced

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11: Legislators have further stripped powers from the United States monarchy by curbing its constitutional authority to reject laws, reports AP.

Communists' return to power doesn't worry US

WASHINGTON, May 11: The United States said Tuesday it was unconcerned about former communists returning to power in Europe so long as they did not revert to totalitarianism, reports Reuters.

BRIEFLY

China to close an airport: Gansu province in northwest China will close its airport in the provincial capital of Lanzhou for 10 days beginning May 16 for repairs...

Mitterrand, Balladur divided over future of N-tests

PARIS, May 11: Socialist French President Francois Mitterrand and Conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur clashed publicly on the future of French nuclear weapons tests on Tuesday...

Pakistan asks US to extradite its two nationals

ISLAMABAD, May 11: Pakistan is asking the United States to extradite two Pakistani nationals and a US citizen on charges of immigration fraud...

Off the Record

Castro doesn't even dream about smoking. NEW YORK: Cuban President Fidel Castro says he hasn't smoked a cigar in nine years. Not even when he's alone.



Vietnamese PM in Myanmar

Vietnam's Premier Vo Van Kiet arrived in Yangon Wednesday for a goodwill visit along with four ministerial-level officials...

India to launch Prithvi after Rao's US visit

NEW DELHI, May 11: India is expected to launch its 13th medium-range surface-to-surface missile Prithvi on May 23 after the prime minister's visit to the US...

Mandela urged to halt arms sale to Lanka

COLOMBO, May 11: Tamil guerrillas have appealed to South Africa's first black President, Nelson Mandela, to halt arms sales to Sri Lanka...

Haiti's SC chief denies taking over power

PORT-AU-PRINCE, May 11: The head of Haiti's Supreme Court Tuesday denied reports he was about to take over as president...

Princess Kiko expecting

TOKYO: The wife of Emperor Akihito's youngest son, Princess Kiko, is expecting her second child, the Imperial Household Agency announced Wednesday...

Six more executed in China

China has executed six people as part of a crackdown on property theft from the state railway, oil, electricity and communications sectors...

HR groups criticise US policy

Human rights groups criticised the Clinton administration Tuesday for failing to follow through on human rights policies...

15 die in Dominican poll violence

President Joaquin Balaguer says campaign violence that has claimed 15 lives and put two opposition candidates under arrest will not hamper Monday's general elections...

Jackson wants nude photos back

SANTA BARBARA, California: Nude photos of Michael Jackson taken to corroborate claims he sexually molested a teen-ager were an invasion of privacy and should be returned...

Chernobyl disaster 15m to die in ex-Soviet Union

BADEN-BADEN, Germany. May 11: Fifteen million people in the former Soviet Union will die over the next 10 years of radioactive contamination from the Chernobyl nuclear accident...

Lesotho police on strike

Lesotho soldiers took control of central Maseru on Tuesday to halt looting by a mob raiding stores after police went on strike in the capital...

Police inspectors chosen for UN peace-keeping duties

Police inspectors chosen for United Nations peace-keeping duties in Mozambique meet at their headquarters in Colombo Tuesday for a last briefing before leaving for the African state...

Indian army chief in Myanmar

BANGKOK, May 11: Myanmar military junta leader General Than Shwe held talks Tuesday in Yangon with visiting Indian army chief Bipin Chandra Joshi...

South Africa is wondering what to do about lack of first lady

JOHANNESBURG, May 11: South Africa has a new president, a new parliament and a new cabinet, but lacks a first lady and the nation is wondering what to do about it...

Plea to cancel Ukraine polls

President Leonid Kravchuk asked lawmakers of Ukraine's newly-elected parliament Tuesday to pass legislation cancelling presidential elections scheduled for June 26...

Chernobyl disaster 15m to die in ex-Soviet Union

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South Africa is wondering what to do about lack of first lady

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Witnesses saw soldiers chasing looters into outlying townships in an effort to recover goods seized from shops owned mainly by Indians and South Africans in the centre of the old town.

The slender, grey-haired Mandela's septi-bachelor status has aroused considerable comment in the country's media and is a frequent subject of conversation among South Africans.

Winnie, 59, has been quoted in several interviews as saying she still loved her husband and hoped they could be reconciled. But Mandela has been quoted as saying they had different ideas of marriage and he would press for a divorce.

One of Chernobyl's four reactors exploded, spreading radiation over a wide area of Europe.

A decision not to run would put in question the nuclear disarmament pact he signed in February with the United States and Russia. Other likely presidential candidates have stated their opposition to the accord.

at his side when he made his victory speech last week. The slender, grey-haired Mandela's septi-bachelor status has aroused considerable comment in the country's media and is a frequent subject of conversation among South Africans.

Winnie herself became a prominent activist and was revered for her hardline opposition to apartheid. She was

banished to remote parts of the country and suffered months of solitary confinement.