

BRIEFLY

China's N-plant resumes work:

The number one reactor at southern China's Daya Bay nuclear power station, shut down since mid-December due to a design fault discovered during refuelling, has resumed operation, Xinhua reported, AFP says from Beijing.

Blast kills 2 Israeli soldiers:

Two Israeli soldiers were killed and two wounded when a bomb exploded while they were on patrol today, pro-Israeli security sources said, Reuter from Marjayoun.

Ex-ROK diplomat seeks refuge in NZ:

A sacked South Korean diplomat yesterday filed an application for refugee status in New Zealand, his lawyer said Reuter reports from Wellington.

Pak kidnappers free a German:

Tribal kidnappers freed a German engineer early Monday, eight days after taking him, two other Germans and a Pakistani driver hostage, AP reports from Peshawar.

Bear kills 2 hikers in Alaska:

A bear startled while feeding on a freshly killed moose fatally mauled two hikers at a state park. A third hiker escaped by climbing up a tree, AP reports from Alaska.

Belgian cops arrest 40:

Belgian police have raided 20 Chinese restaurants and arrested 40 people this weekend as part of an inquiry into possible traffic in illegal workers, a national police spokesman told Belgian television on Sunday, Reuter reports from Brussels.

Floods claim 5 in Tokyo:

Massive rains in Japan over the weekend triggered floods and landslides, claiming five lives, national police said Monday, AP reports from Tokyo.

15 Tuareg rebels killed in Niamey:

Over 15 former Tuareg rebels have been killed in fighting with Arab militiamen in northern Niger, local officials and witnesses said Sunday, AFP reports from Niamey.

Lightning damages ANA plane:

Lightning damaged a cockpit window of an All Nippon Airways (ANA) Airbus A-320 yesterday, forcing the plane bound for Hokkaido Island to make an emergency landing at Nagoya airport, in central Japan, an ANA spokesman said, AFP reports from Tokyo.

Tamil rebels kill 8 soldiers:

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers shot and killed eight soldiers in a clash in eastern Batticaloa Monday, the military said, Reuter reports from Colombo.

Radioactive water may have leaked into Bombay subsoil

BOMBAY, July 3 Radioactive water leaked from an atomic power plant on the outskirts of Bombay for at least 45 days until it was shut down on April 15, the Indian Express reported Monday, reports AFP.

Turkish troops kill 30 Kurds

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey, July 3: Turkish troops killed 30 Kurdish guerrillas Sunday as the government stepped up attacks against the insurgents, the regional governor's office said. Two soldiers were killed, reports AP.

Tudjman threatens to evict UN peacekeepers

ZAGREB, July 3. President Franjo Tudjman on Sunday renewed a threat to evict UN peacekeepers, and said he would not resume international-mediated negotiations with a rebel Serb leader, reports AP.

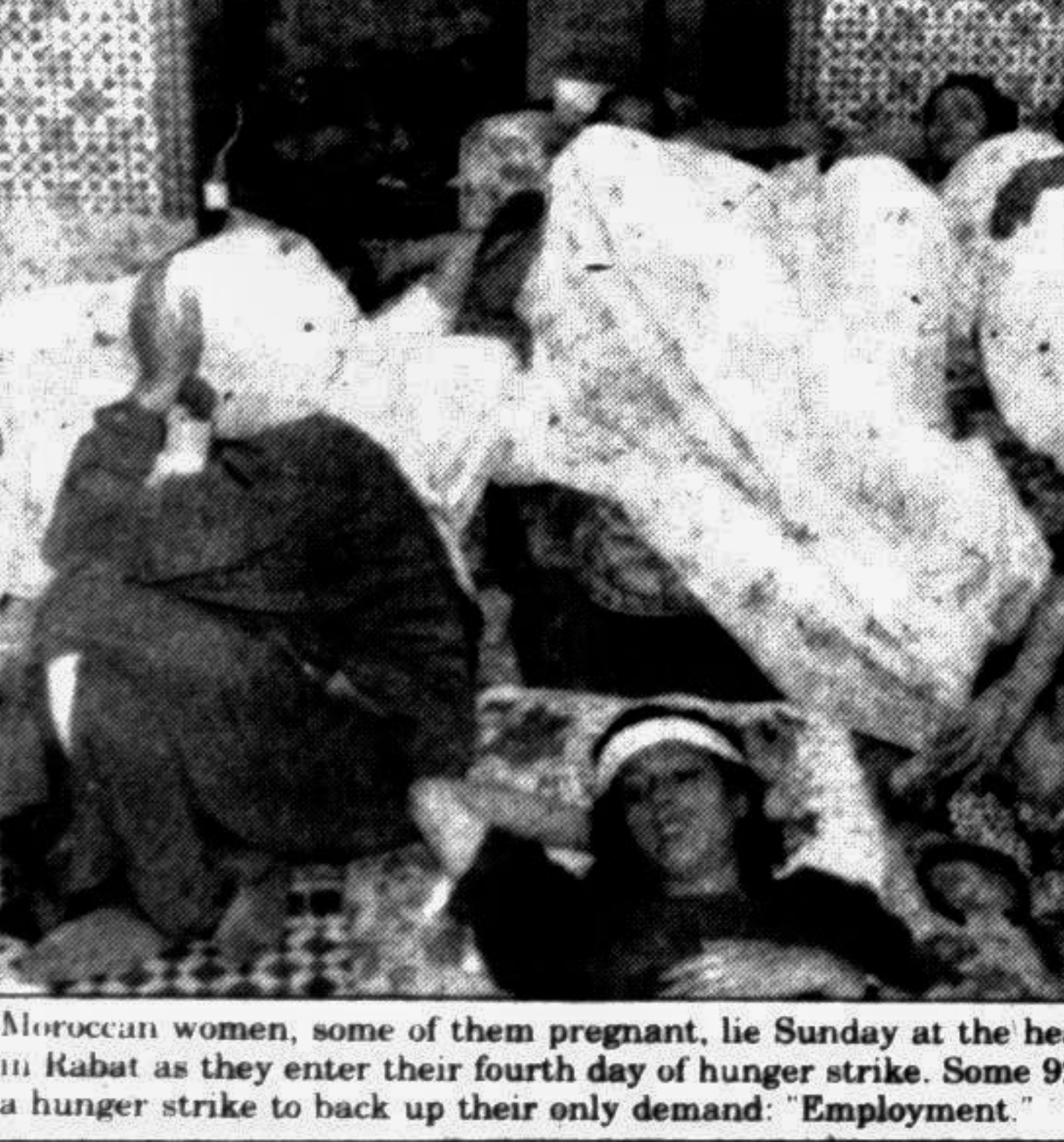
US intelligence officials say

China supplied medium range missiles to Pakistan

WASHINGTON, July 3: US intelligence officials say they have strong evidence that China has given Pakistan complete medium-range ballistic missiles, the Washington Post reported in its Monday editions, reports Reuter.

Govt-MQM talks likely Thursday

KARACHI, July 3: The ethnic Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM) has agreed to hold talks with the Pakistani government on how to restore peace in the violence-torn city of Karachi, an MQM spokesman said today, reports Reuter.



Moroccan women, some of them pregnant, lie Sunday at the headquarters of a union building in Rabat as they enter their fourth day of hunger strike. Some 92 PhD men and women started a hunger strike to back up their only demand: 'Employment.'

US envoy's fresh bid to unblock Israel-Syria talks

BEIRUT, July 3: US envoy Dennis Ross is due to start a new swing through the Middle East on July 9 in a fresh bid to unblock Israeli-Syrian negotiations, Lebanese officials said Sunday, reports AP.

Russian, Chechen teams resume talks in Grozny

MOSCOW, July 3: Russian and Chechen peace negotiators resume talks in the war-torn Grozny today in a bid to reach a settlement to end the bitter six-month conflict, reports AFP.

NATO won't allow Yeltsin to scupper expansion plan

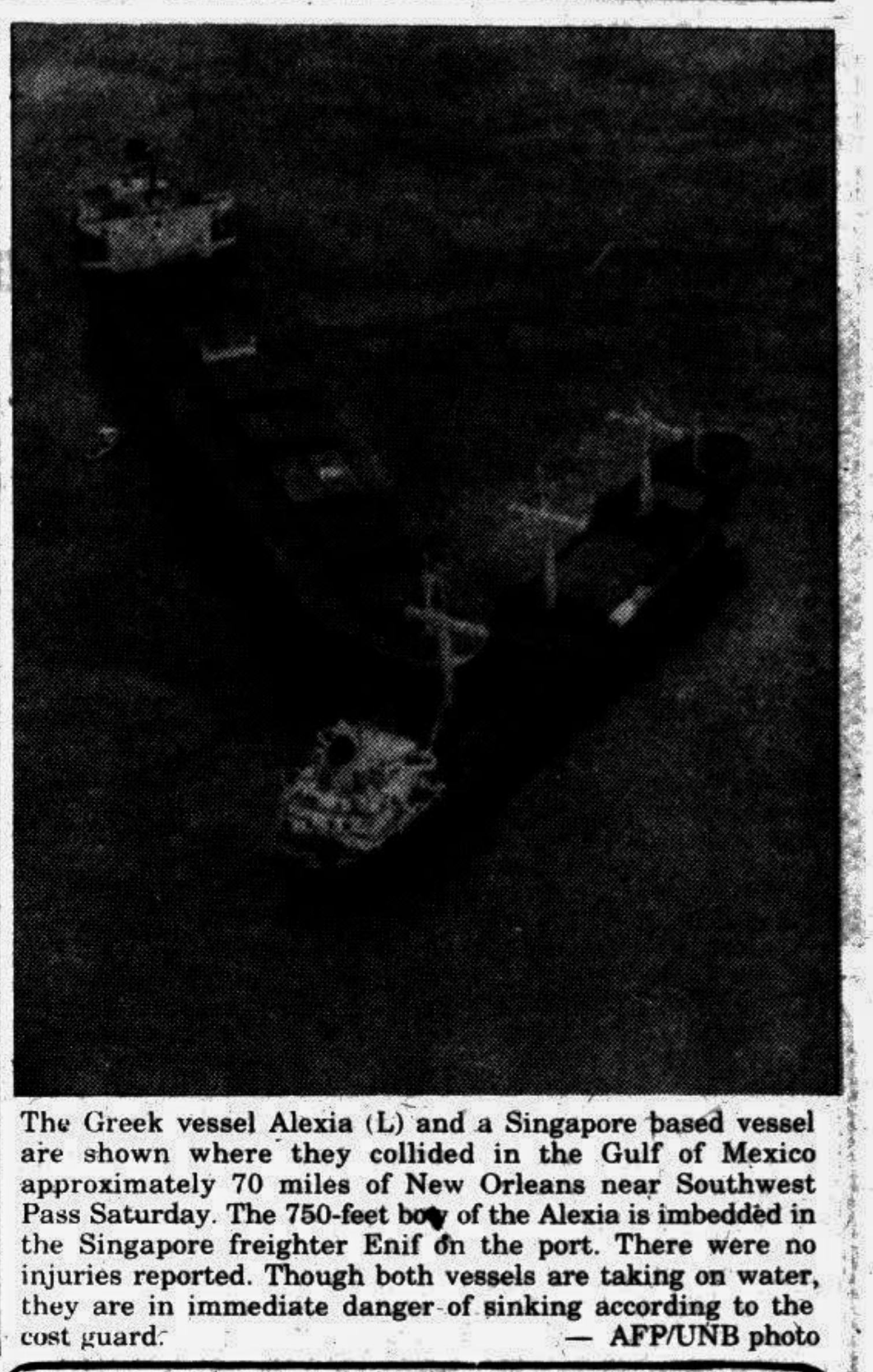
MOSCOW, July 3: NATO Secretary General Willy Claes said in an interview broadcast Sunday that the alliance would not allow Russian President Boris Yeltsin to scupper a plan to enlarge the military organisation, reports AFP.

China's military exercise worries Taiwan

TAIPEI, July 3: A senior Taiwan military official said today arch rival China is conducting a military exercise off its east coast, heightening tension at a time when relations are already strained.

Xu plans global empire of medicine made from snakes

JIESHAN VILLAGE, China July 3: Do you suffer from acne, itchy skin, pimples or rough skin? Xu Zhiwei has just the remedy, snake cream. Impotence? No problem. He sells an aphrodisiac made from serpents penises, reports Reuter.



The Greek vessel Alexia (L) and a Singapore based vessel are shown where they collided in the Gulf of Mexico approximately 70 miles of New Orleans near Southwest Pass Saturday. The 750-foot bow of the Alexia is imbedded in the Singapore freighter Enif on the port. There were no injuries reported. Though both vessels are taking on water, they are in immediate danger of sinking according to the coast guard.

Off the Record

They attend their own funerals

COLOMBO: Two Sri Lankan soldiers walked into their home towns and found themselves attending their own funerals, the Island newspaper said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Seals are big on fidelity too!

WASHINGTON: Fate had driven them apart but seven years later, they found each other again, on the same Windblown Scottish isle where they had met. He could have played the field. But, no. He wanted her, reports AP.

China's military exercise

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-Khmers launch major offensive

BATTAMBANG (Cambodia), July 3: Khmer Rouge guerrillas today launched a large-scale offensive in the northwestern province of Battambang, police and military officials said, reports AFP.