

Vietnam denounces US move to tighten embargo against Cuba

HANOI, Mar 14: Vietnam, one of the world's last remaining communist states, launched a stinging attack on the United States yesterday over its move to tighten the embargo against Cuba, reports Reuters.

"In terms of economic impact in this region, it will be negligible because there is not much significant trade with Cuba," said a regional economist with a Singapore-based think-tank.

leader Fidel Castro with a hero's welcome, there was staunch defence for one of its closest ideological allies and a slap in the face for a former foe.

"It has created a dangerous precedent, which could poison the cooperative atmosphere in the world," the commentary added.

WB may lend Bosnia \$450m in four years

WASHINGTON, Mar 14: The World Bank said on Wednesday it expects to lend war-torn Bosnia 450 million dollars over the next four years after approving a plan to allow Bosnia to join the bank despite debts owed by the former Yugoslavia, reports Reuters.

Cooperation enhanced in efforts towards borderless Asia

MANILA, Mar 14: With a rapid economic growth over the past two decades, Asian countries have enhanced their economic cooperation in efforts towards a borderless Asia and beyond, reports Xinhua.

The Bimp-Eaga includes Brunei-Durassalam, Indonesia's Sulawesi and Irian Java, Malaysia's Sabah and the Philippines Mindanao provinces.

It is likely to be one of the most significant and visible economic development in Asia in the 1990s and beyond.

UN study shows Millions of child labourers in Latin America, Caribbean

SANTIAGO, Mar 14: Millions of children in Latin America and the Caribbean, instead of going to school, are employed as child labourers, a UN report shows, says Xinhua.

Suspension of US grain exports hits world markets

SINGAPORE, Mar 14: World grain markets reacted with stunned disbelief yesterday to news the United States had suspended wheat exports to 21 countries after a rare fungus invaded a tiny part of the country's wheat crop, reports Reuters.

loading... all the large traders would be in the same position," a Chinese grain import official said China would seek an early resolution of the US suspension of wheat exports, but has other options to avoid a serious disruption of supplies.

He denied that China, which has been importing record quantities of grains due to shortfalls in its domestic crop, would be seriously affected by the US move.

ROK broadcasting corp union workers begin strike

SEOUL, Mar 14: Union workers at the nation's second largest broadcasting company began an indefinite strike Thursday to protest the reappointment of its president, whom they accused of pro-government bias, reports AP.

Portrait of Fatih Chakaki with caption: Picture taken March 13 of a stamp put out by the Iranian post office showing the portrait of former Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader Fatih Chakaki, who was shot down in Malta in October 1995 by alleged Israeli secret agent.

Pipeline leak spills 1500 MT of oil in Russia

MOSCOW, Mar 14: A pipeline leak in Russia's main oil-producing region of Tyumen in western Siberia has spilled 1,500 tonnes of crude oil over nearby swamps and a frozen river, Interfax news agency said on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Dollar, stocks higher in Tokyo

TOKYO, Mar 14: The US dollar was narrowly higher against the Japanese yen at mid-afternoon Thursday in Tokyo, while prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange rose for the second day in a row, reports AP.

at 105.32 yen, up 0.01 yen from its late Tokyo level Wednesday and above its late New York level overnight of 105.10 yen.

Opposition New Frontier Party members have been boycotting parliamentary budget committee deliberations for nearly two weeks over a proposed government plan to use taxpayer money to bail out bankrupt housing lenders.

Hyundai official charged with conspiracy

LOS ANGELES, Mar 14: The controller of Hyundai's American subsidiary was charged Wednesday with conspiracy to defraud the United States for his alleged role in an illegal 4,500 dollar contribution to Rep Jay Kim's 1992 campaign, reports AP.

Japan plans to postpone talks with China on new yen loans

TOKYO, Mar 14: The Japanese government plans to postpone talks with China on new yen loans in order to express Tokyo's concern about Chinese military drills near Taiwan, the Sankei Shimbun said today, reports AP.

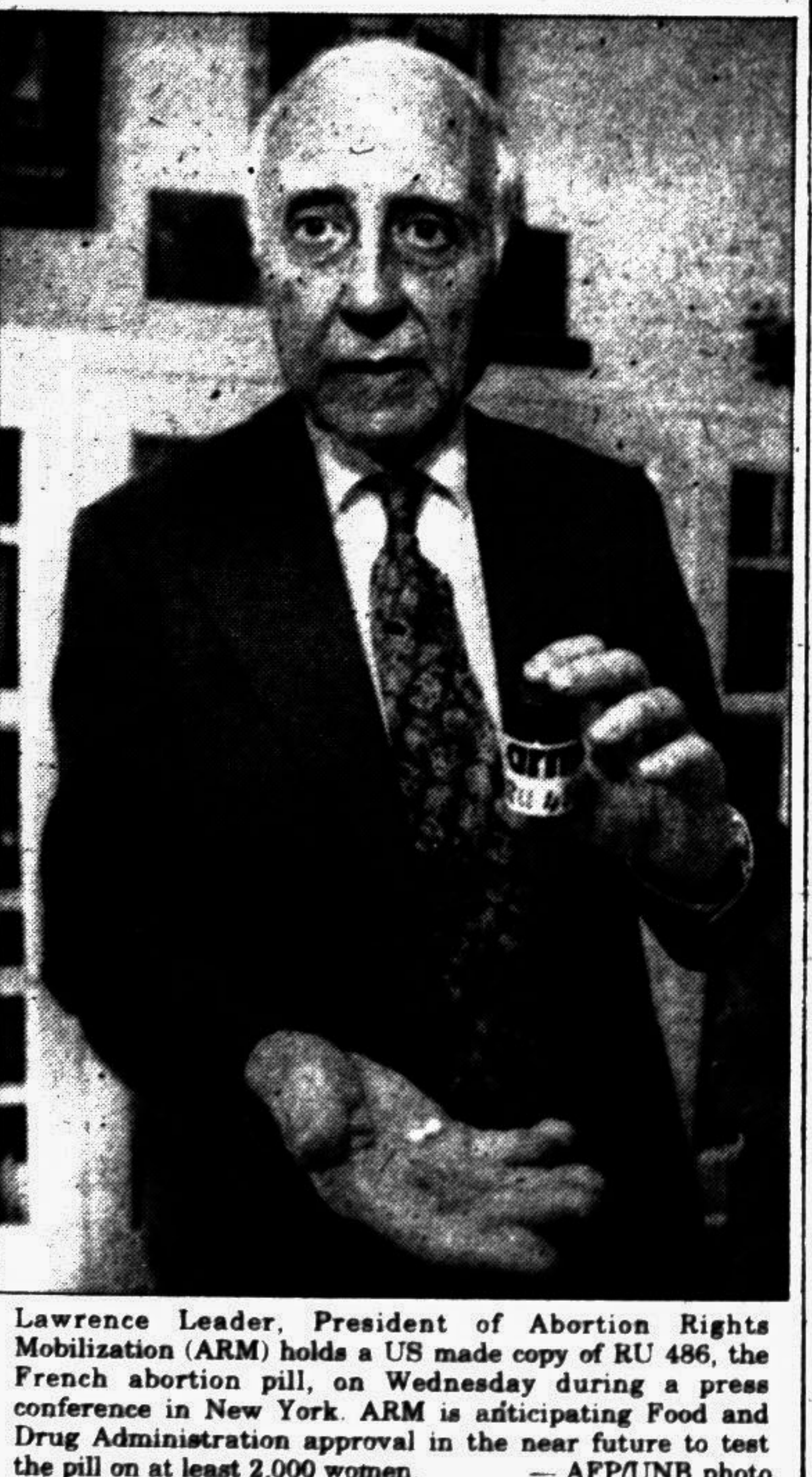
liberal Democratic Party, the biggest group in the ruling coalition, are reportedly calling for a freeze on yen loans to China in protest.

US tobacco co to pay \$4m to settle smoking lawsuits

WASHINGTON, Mar 14: The Liggett group tobacco company has settled a lawsuit filed against it by victims of smoking, the firm's parent corporation Brooke Bond announced yesterday, reports APF.

US posts \$10.9b merchandise trade deficit with China

WASHINGTON, Mar 14: The United States posted a 10.9 billion dollar merchandise trade deficit with China in the third quarter, up from 9.3 billion a year earlier, officials said Wednesday, reports AFP.



Lawrence Leader, President of Abortion Rights Mobilization (ARM) holds a US made copy of RU 486, the French abortion pill, on Wednesday during a press conference in New York. ARM is anticipating Food and Drug Administration approval in the near future to test the pill on at least 2,000 women.

Beijing to develop fast food industry

BEIJING, Mar 14: The development of fast food, a service industry the middle kingdom claims to have invented, will be one of the ministry of internal trade's priorities this year, China Daily reported today, says AFP.

Exchange Rates Sonali Bank table showing various currencies and their exchange rates.

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SIA aborting aircraft sale talks with PIA

SINGAPORE, Mar 14: Singapore Airlines Ltd indicated yesterday that it was aborting negotiations to sell eight Boeing 747-300 aircraft reportedly valued at 500 million dollars to Pakistan International Airlines, reports AFP.