

International

US warns of military action against Iraq

WASHINGTON, Nov 11: Showing impatience with Iraq's continued non-compliance with U.N. arms inspection, the United States has stepped up its military presence in the Gulf region and held out a threat of possible military action against Baghdad, reports IANS.

transit through the region. It would be in the Persian Gulf by November 23. A Marine task force led by the USS Belleau Wood has also been ordered to hasten to the region, he added.

Iraqi situation with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, National Security Advisor Sandy Berger, Defence Secretary Cohen and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Shelton besides senior military intelligence and logistics personnel.



Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, left, and her sister Kathy Silva say the Pledge of Allegiance during a naturalisation ceremony at the State Department in Washington Tuesday.

JKLF leader says Only Kashmiris can have last say on their future

NEW DELHI, Nov 11: Pakistan has no right to negotiate with rival India on the future of Kashmir, the leader of a pro-independence Kashmiri militant group said here today, reports AFP.

separatists in Indian-controlled Kashmir. Islamabad denies the charge but extends diplomatic support to the insurgency, which has claimed more than 20,000 lives since 1987.

NLD alleges Myanmar junta forcing closure of local offices

YANGON, Nov 11: The opposition party led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi has said that Myanmar's military government is harassing members and forcing local offices to close, reports AP.

tors to resign the posts and leave the party. Those detained since May include 184 of the elected NLD legislators — about half, the party said.

Rebels kill 70 in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Nov 11: At least 70 people died when rebels attacked the northern Sierra Leone town of Pendembu on Monday, aid workers and soldiers from the Ecomog intervention force said on Tuesday.

Judge rules out theory of conspiracy against Anwar Ibrahim

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 11: The judge at the trial of Anwar Ibrahim on Wednesday rejected defence attempts to show the former Malaysian deputy prime minister is the victim of a political conspiracy and trumped-up charges, reports AP.

Undeterred, defence attorney Fernando shot back: "There was a conspiracy. We will endeavor to show that the crucial witnesses of the prosecution would be lying in court."

courts just favour the government." The 72-year-old prime minister said in a television interview. "They are very fair to everyone and I am quite sure they will be fair to Anwar also."



Wan Azizah, left, wife of banished deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim, and daughter Nural Issah, centre and Hajjah Che Yan, right, mother of Anwar, walk together into the federal courthouse in Kuala Lumpur Wednesday.

BRIEFLY



Iraqi tugs standby as the Jebel Ali 1 pulls into the harbour at Umm-Kasr in southern Iraq on Monday. The ferry, which can carry passengers and cargo, is operating from Dubai.

Opposition wins Bermuda polls: The opposition progressive labour party won Bermuda's general election, ousting the ruling conservatives after 30 years in power, officials said Tuesday, Reuters says from Hamilton.

Gunmen kill 17 in Colombia: An ultra-rightwing death squad has killed at least 17 peasants in Colombia's eastern plains region, a local official said Tuesday, Reuters reports from Bogota.

Former Reuters executive dies: Gerald Long, who led Britain's Reuters news agency from 1963 to 1981 and later became managing director of The Times of London, has died at 75, Reuters said Tuesday, AP reports from London.

Russian cargo plane crashes: A Russian cargo plane crashed near the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk on yesterday but there was no immediate word on the fate of the crew, an official said, AP reports from Moscow.

China executes 6 for robbery, murder: Authorities in Beijing have executed six men convicted of murder and robbery, the official newspaper Beijing Daily reported yesterday, AP says from Beijing.

Violence in Angola: over 40 killed in two days

LUANDA, Nov 11: Twenty people were killed when armed men ambushed two lorries near Kaluteva about 50 km from Benguela in southern Angola, the governor of Benuela province said late Tuesday, reports AFP.

Albright marks 50 years of US citizenship

WASHINGTON, Nov 11: The Czech refugee who grew up to be the first female US Secretary of State celebrated 50 years in the country Tuesday by renewing her citizenship oath and warning against a trend toward excluding immigrants, reports Reuters.

Albright, the highest ranking woman in the US government, first took that oath in March 1957, nine years after she and her family — on Nov 11, 1948 — "steamed into New York harbour, past the Statue of Liberty, with tears in our eyes and hope in our hearts."

My parents loved liberty and because of my father's job with the United Nations we had the opportunity to come here to America... this nation was generous enough to welcome us, make us feel at home and allow me to grow up in freedom.

There are those who resent all this (diversity) and think that the day their own family got off the boat or out of the plane is the day the door to America should have swung shut," she said.

Victims of Hurricane Mitch try to patch up their lives

CHOLUTECA, Honduras, Nov 11: Once the tide ebbed, rescuers could venture out in the delta that flows into the Gulf of Fonseca, plunging hip-deep into a river of mud in search of a man's body, reports AP.

Israeli warplanes attack Hezbollah sites in Lebanon

NABATIYEH, Lebanon, Nov 11: Israeli warplanes attacked suspected guerrilla positions in southern Lebanon Wednesday for the second day in a row, Lebanese security officials said, reports AP.

Nicaragua AP adds: Men, women and children lined up under the midday sun, waiting hours for the food they heard was on its way.

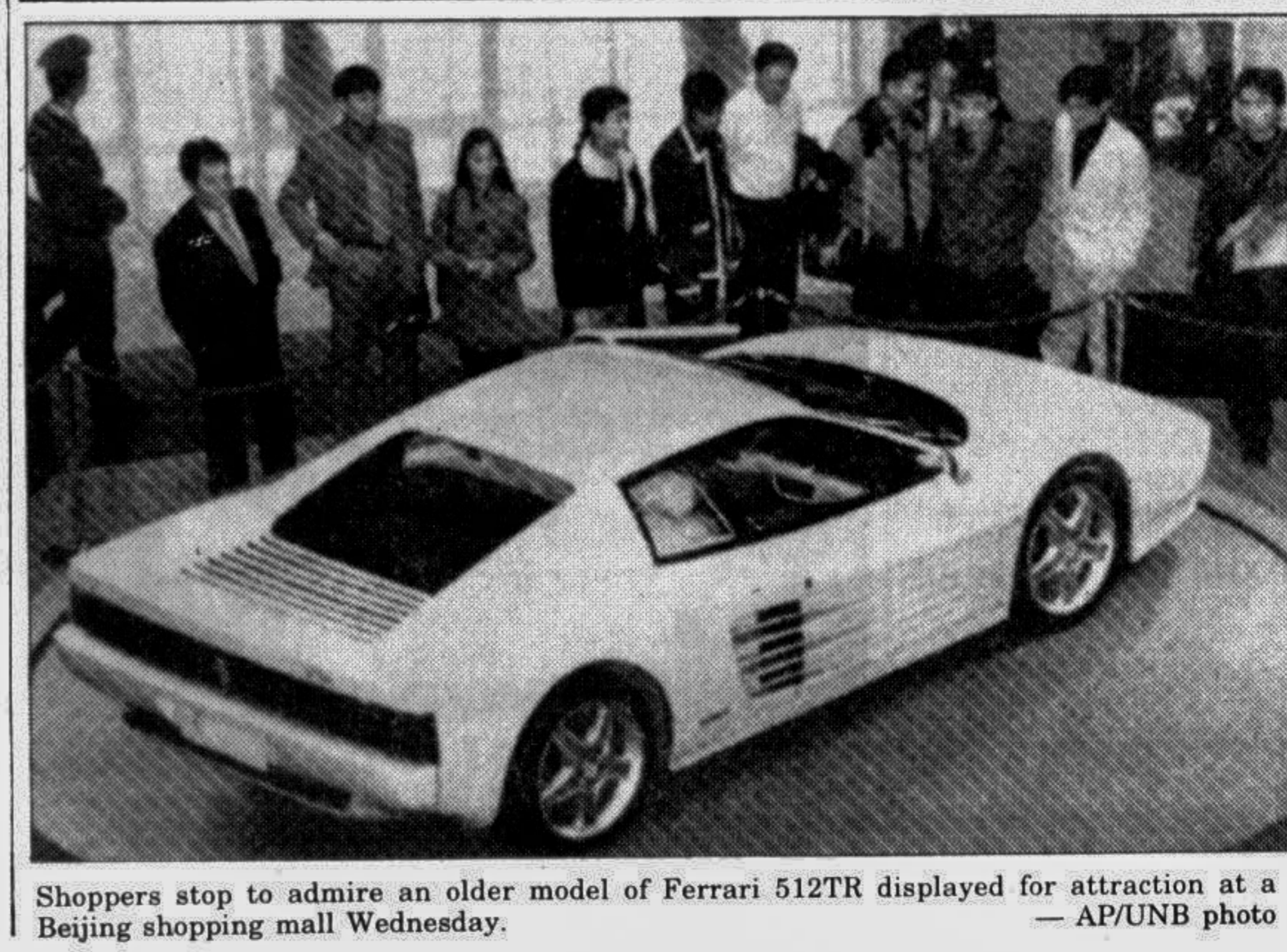
Turkish coalition urged to resign

ANKARA, Nov 11: A crucial backer of Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz called on Tuesday for the minority coalition government to resign over corruption accusations.

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Tajik troops search for remaining rebel fighters

MOSCOW, Nov 11: Government troops in Tajikistan searched northern mountainous region Tuesday for scattered groups of rebel fighters who were driven off after several days of fighting in the central Asian nation, reports AP.



Shoppers stop to admire an older model of Ferrari 512TR displayed for attraction at a Beijing shopping mall Wednesday.

N Ireland's Maze prison may be shut down by the year 2000

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, Nov 11: The anti-terrorist Maze prison home to some of Britain's most notorious killers and bombers and the site of some of its worst breaches in security — could close if the peace process in Northern Ireland works, reports AP.

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embarrassing and deadly breaches last year. Irish Republican Army members recently succeeded in digging an elaborate tunnel out of one block, while another IRA inmate walked out of the prison dressed as a woman and still hasn't been recaptured.

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