

International

NATO spells conditions for halting attack on Y'slavia

US sends 2000 more troops to Albania



British Prime Minister Tony Blair (L) shakes hands with NATO Secretary General Javier Solano (R) while US President Bill Clinton (center R rear) and French President Jacques Chirac (center L rear) give an applause, at the commemorative ceremony of the NATO Summit Friday in Washington, DC. The summit marks the 50th anniversary of the NATO alliance. — AFP photo

War fatigue dampens NATO's birthday party

WASHINGTON, Apr 24: NATO leaders, having declared their determination to bomb Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic into submission, were moving Saturday to the key questions of the alliance's future — and the possibility of more conflicts like Kosovo, reports AP.

The crisis in the southern province of Serbia, where Yugoslav army and special police forces are attempting to empty the province of its ethnic Albanian majority, dominated the first day of the three-day NATO summit and put a damper on what was to have been a celebratory anniversary of the alliance's 50 years of maintaining the peace in Europe.

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The programme includes a new Defence Capability Initiative, an attempt to head off a growing technology gap between US military forces and the rest of the allies. The strategic concept outlines the threats of the future against which NATO will have to defend, among them regional and ethnic conflicts like Kosovo, terrorism, proliferation and weapons of mass destruction.

BELGRADE, Apr 24: NATO launched new airstrikes Saturday against targets in northern and southern Serbia after the United States announced it was sending more troops to Albania to step up the campaign against Yugoslav forces in Kosovo, reports AP.

Koreas open new phase of peace talks

GENEVA, Apr 24: North and South Korea opened a new phase in their peace talks Saturday, beginning what is supposed to be their first substantive negotiations with China and the United States after more than a year of meeting to lay the groundwork, reports AP.

Myanmar junta blasts UN resolution on HR abuse. BANGKOK, Apr 24: Myanmar's junta today accused the United Nations of being a dupe of political activists by passing a resolution condemning the regime for widespread human rights abuses, reports AP.

10 Tamil rebels killed in Lanka

COLOMBO, Apr 24: Ten Tamil guerrillas were killed by government troops in fresh skirmishes in northern Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Defence said Saturday, reports AP.

Blast in Karachi mosque

KARACHI, Apr 24: Unidentified men hurled a hand grenade at a Sunni Muslim mosque in the southern port city of Karachi Saturday, wounding at least 14 devotees, police said, reports AP.

NATO fired missiles early Saturday at "the populated part" of Novi Sad in northern Serbia, and also struck the city's oil refinery, Tanjug said. Explosions were heard in the direction of Mt Fruska Gora where a TV relay tower is located south of the city.

CEC awaits Benazir's appeal

ISLAMABAD, Apr 24: Former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's disqualification from Pakistani politics was put of Saturday until May 17 to give her an opportunity to appeal her conviction on corruption charges to the Supreme Court, reports AP.

Indonesia, Portugal reach agreement on East Timor

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 24: The foreign ministers of Indonesia and Portugal completed an agreement on Friday that paves the way for 800,000 people in East Timor to vote on their future, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced, reports Reuters.

US censure motion against China on HR abuse failed

BEIJING, Apr 24: Beijing thumbed its nose at Washington today after the UN Commission on Human Rights shelved a US resolution criticising China's human rights record, reports Reuters.

Truck plunges into ravine in Mexico: 46 killed

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico, Apr 24: A flatbed truck carrying 55 people, many of them children, plunged into a ravine in southernmost Mexico on Friday, killing at least 46 people, state officials said, reports AP.

refugees and displaced persons." Several Western diplomats at the United Nations indicated that the resolution would not be put before the Security Council until there are signs Milosevic might accept it and that Russia would not veto it.

Indonesian elections Military chief likely to be President or VP

SINGAPORE, Apr 24: Indonesia's military chief General Wiranto is likely to become the strife-torn country's next president or vice-president following June elections, a senior ruling party official said Saturday, reports AP.

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This file photo dated February 6 shows Indonesian Military Chief Wiranto gesturing during a press conference at the Defence Ministry in Jakarta. Indonesian Golkar Party Deputy Chairman Marzuki Darusman named Wiranto Saturday as a possible candidate for Indonesia's next President or Vice President. — AFP photo

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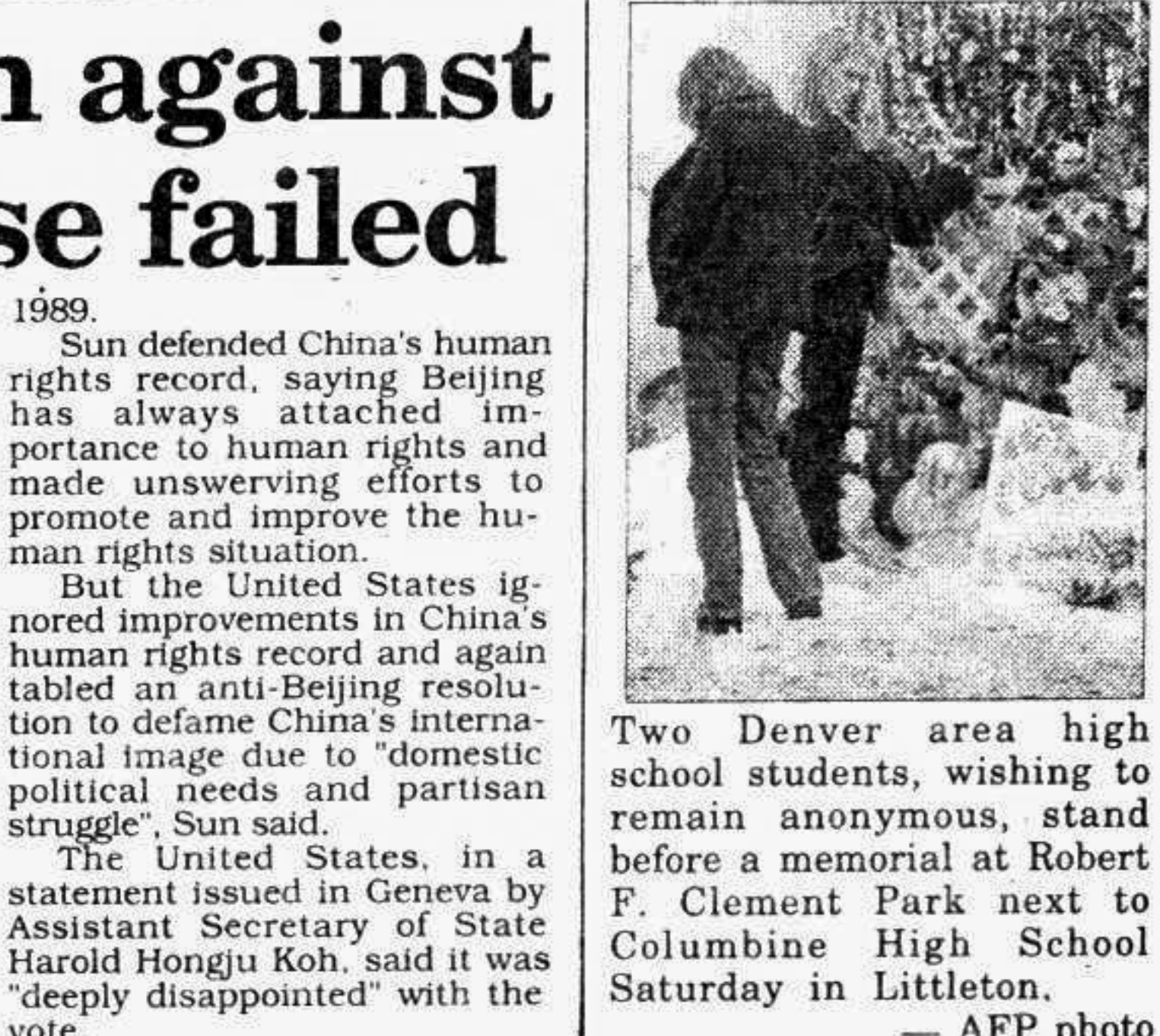
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Students wave Malaysian flags as Royal Guards on horses parade in the city centre during a farewell ceremony for King Tuanku Ja'afar Saturday in Kuala Lumpur. The ceremony, which marked the end of Ja'afar's five-year term as Malaysia's King, ended with Tuanku Ja'afar boarding the train back to his southern home state of Negri Sembilan. — AFP photo



Two Denver area high school students, wishing to remain anonymous, stand before a memorial at Robert F. Clement Park next to Columbine High School Saturday in Littleton. — AFP photo