

Thai PM mulls resignation amid pressure to end crisis

Thailand's prime minister indicated yesterday that he may resign in the wake of crippling political violence and pressure from military to end crisis.

Thailand's prime minister insisted he would not quit, but in the past few days, senior military leaders have put pressure on the premier to take a decision on his future and solve the crisis.



Israeli crowds shout and gesture toward riot police during clashes with Israeli security forces in Acre on Friday. Police clashed with Jewish protesters in Acre as Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni travelled to the northern Israeli city to appeal for calm after two days of clashes between Arabs and Jews.

Pirates threaten to blow up arms-laden ship

With US warships lurking nearby, the pirates who hijacked an arms-laden Ukrainian tanker off Somalia threatened to destroy the vessel unless a ransom is paid, a spokesman for the bandits said.

Exiled Aceh rebel leader returns to Indonesia

The founder of Aceh's separatist rebel movement voiced his commitment to the troubled peace process Saturday as he made an emotional homecoming after nearly 30 years in exile.



This undated picture, released from the Korean Central News Agency yesterday shows the North Korean leader Kim Jong Il inspecting a women's battery of Korean People's Army unit 821 at an undisclosed place in North Korea.

Turkey's military attacks rebels in northern Iraq

Turkish warplanes and artillery bombed dozens of Kurdish rebel targets in northern Iraq following an escalation in rebel attacks, the military said Saturday.

Mugabe unilaterally 'gives his own party key posts'

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has allocated key ministries to his own party - in defiance of a power-sharing deal, reports say.

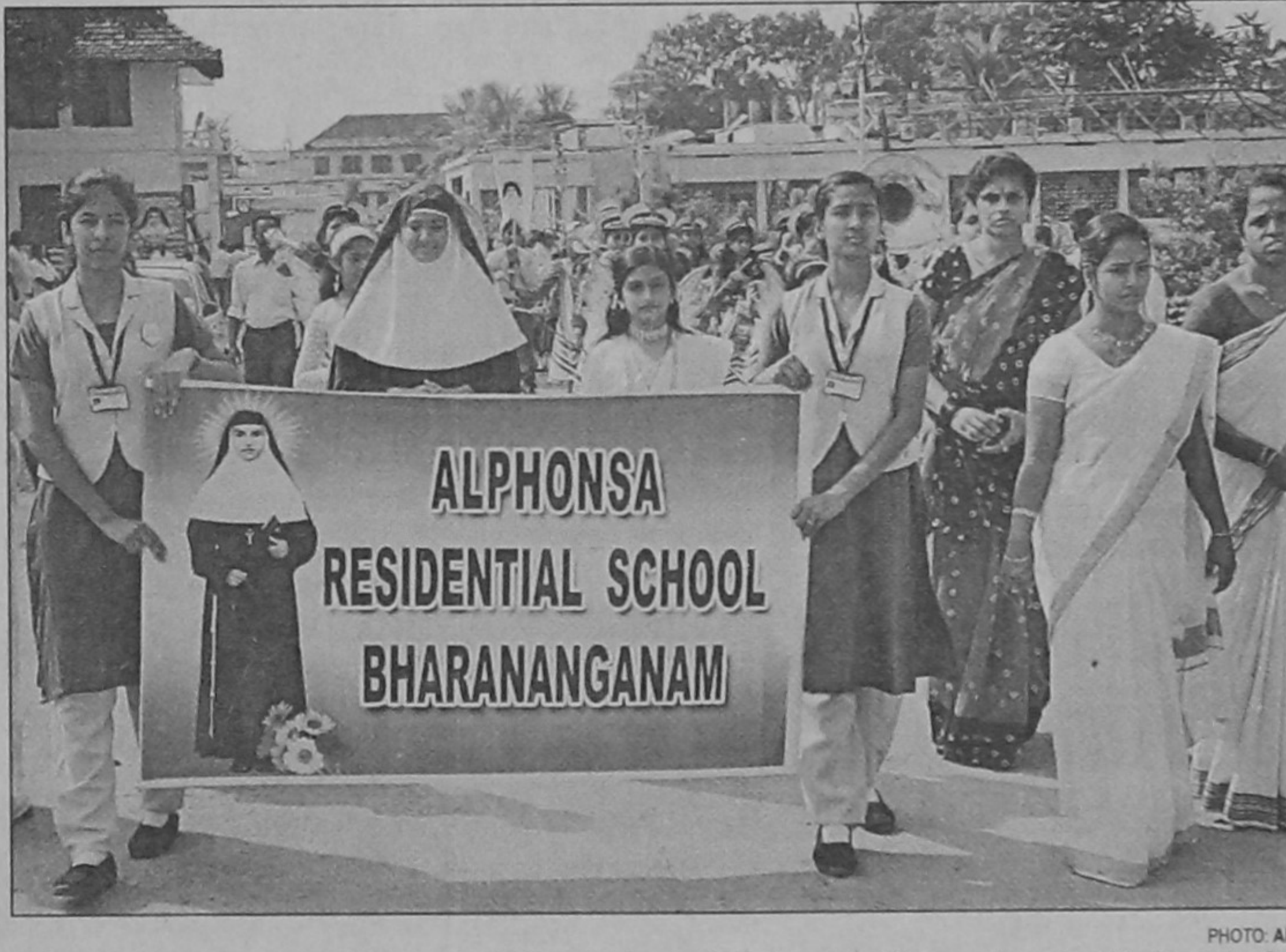
Pakistanis take shelter in Afghanistan as battles rage

Things are bad back home, says school director Said Nabi Said, one of thousands of Pakistanis who have fled into Afghanistan to escape an offensive against al-Qaeda-linked militants.

The exodus marks a reversal of history: about eight million Afghans fled mostly to Pakistan over the 30 years of conflict that destroyed their country, from Soviet invasion to civil war.

14 killed in Peru in worst Shining Path attack in 10 years

Shining Path guerrillas ambushed a military convoy in southern Peru, killing at least 12 soldiers and two civilians in the bloodiest attack in a decade in a country still haunted by the Maoist group's brutal insurgency, the military said Friday.



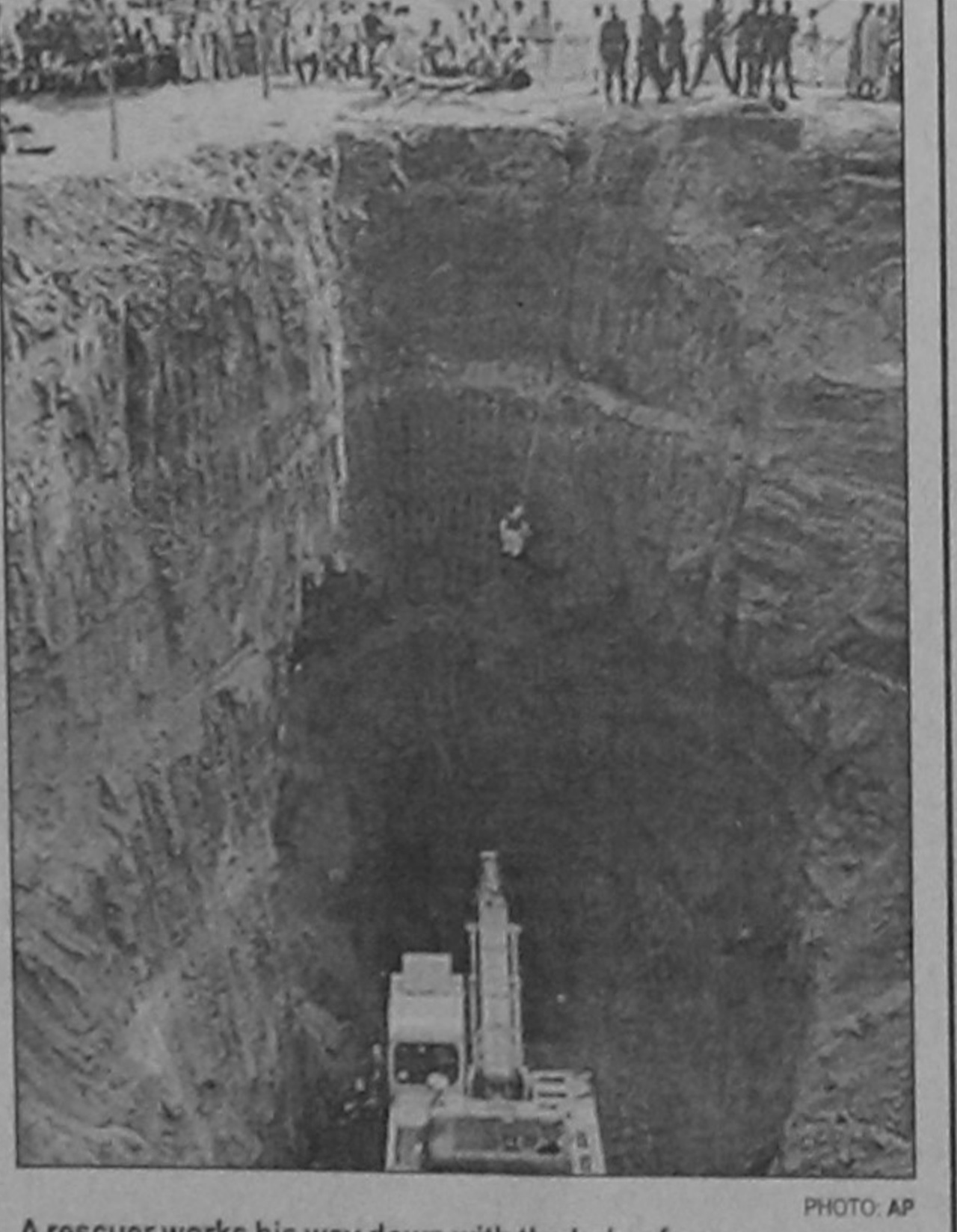
Indian schoolchildren walk to the tomb of Sister Alphonsa in Pala, some 70km south-east of Kochi yesterday. Christians are gearing up to celebrate the naming of the young Roman Catholic nun from the southern Indian state of Kerala as India's first woman saint.

India-born nun to be canonised today

India will soon have its first Catholic saint. Sister Alphonsa from Kerala will become the first nun from India to be canonised by the Vatican ahead of Mother Teresa.

Indian army keeps working to rescue boy trapped in well

Soldiers worked Saturday to rescue a 2-year-old boy trapped for more than 36 hours in a 150-foot-deep abandoned well in northern India.



A rescuer works his way down with the help of a rope as a crane digs into the soil during an operation to rescue a 2-year-old boy trapped for more than 36 hours in a 150-foot (45-meter)-deep abandoned well in Leharapurva village near Agra, about 400km southwest of Lucknow, India on Saturday.

Violence-hit Andhra town remains under curfew

Curfew continued in violence-hit Bhainsa town of Andhra Pradesh for the second consecutive day today with no fresh reports of any untoward incidents.

Top Shia cleric won't block US pact, says Iraqi PM

Iraq's prime minister said Friday that the country's most influential Shia cleric will leave the decision on the future of US troops to the government and parliament a step that could remove a major obstacle to a deal.



Austrian rightist Haider dead at 58

Austrian politician Joerg Haider, whose far-right rhetoric at times cast a negative light on the Alpine republic, has died in a car accident at age 58.