

Azeris, Armenians ignore truce

MOSCOW, Sept 26: Armenian and Azerbaijani forces on Saturday ignored the latest cease-fire in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region...

The cease-fire was scheduled to go into effect at midnight Friday (2000 GMT), but was never observed...

Fighting between the two Caucasus Mountains neighbours over Nagorno-Karabakh has intensified since the Soviet Union's collapse last December...

Unless observers appear in the region, along the front line, we'll be accusing each other of violating the cease-

India urges United Nations to suspend nuclear test

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 26: India called Friday for an immediate suspension of nuclear tests and a freeze on production of weapons-grade fissionable material...

Addressing the 47th annual UN General Assembly, the Indian Minister of State of External Affairs, Eduardo Faleiro, said the United Nations should, as one of a series of 'immediate steps'...

India is generally considered to have nuclear weapons capability. Its long-time rival and neighbour, Pakistan, has developed a nuclear programme...

Russian sub on way to Iran

WASHINGTON, Sept 26: A Pentagon official said Friday that a Russian-made submarine sold by Moscow to Tehran was on its way to the Gulf...

The sale of two submarines to Iran is not on our agenda because of difficulties in reaching a settlement between Russia and Iran...

Earlier Friday in Moscow, a senior Russian official said in a statement quoted by Itar-Tass news agency that two Russian submarines scheduled for purchase by Iran would not be sold immediately for technical reasons...

Sihanouk seeks UN Council guidance to end deadlock

PHNOM PENH, Sept 26: The UN Security Council should step in to end the Khmer Rouge boycott of the Cambodian peace process...

Sihanouk said the UN peacekeeping chief in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, his staff and Cambodia's three other factions cannot break the deadlock caused by the Khmer Rouge's refusal to disarm...

Parliament polls in Romania today BUCHAREST, Sept 26: Foreign observers monitoring Romanian elections which could return East Europe's only surviving communist head of state said they were satisfied with the arrangements provided by the authorities...

Pak medical team to serve in Lanka: The Pakistan government will shortly send five doctors and five anaesthetists to serve in Sri Lanka for one year on a grant basis...

Typhoon kills 53 in China: Chinese rescue workers were searching for 51 missing people after typhoon ted brought downpours and mudslides to Zhejiang province...

Togo goes to polls today LOME, Sept 26: Voters in Togo will finally be able on Sunday to show whether they want a new constitution ending 24 years of military rule...

US launches probe mission to Mars for cold, red planets

FLORIDA, Sept 26: The first US mission to Mars in 17 years blasted off on Friday to chart a course for eventual human exploration of the cold, red planet...

The Mars observer will take the pulse of the planet every day to understand the processes of change, said Dr Wesley Huntress, chief of NASA's solar system exploration division...

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and were describing the temple to visitors as a Hindu shrine. They are describing the five images of Lord Buddha there as the five Pandavas and calling it a Shiva temple...

The Buddhist march will pass through New Delhi on October 14, when a mass rally will be held near parliament to seek public support against unlawful Hindu control of the sacred place, Sumedha said...

He alleged that private armies controlled by Hindus had recently attacked Buddhists on the temple premises.

Move to reinvigorating Taif Accord

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 26: Talks at the sidelines of the UN General Assembly here are aimed at reinvigorating the Taif Accord...

A tripartite committee made up of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria, which prepared the 1989 Taif agreement normalizing Lebanon after prolonged factional fighting, has resumed efforts to further the peace process...

Off the Record



A model parades down the catwalk wearing a spectacular black gauze evening dress designed by Sevillle designer Vittorio and Lucchino, during 'Pesarela Cibeles' spring and summer '93 collections in Madrid on Thursday.

Principal to spend night on the roof

AUGUSTA: An elementary school principal who bet his students that they couldn't read 4,000 books over the summer lost the bet and has to spend a night on the school's roof next month, reports AFP.

'Quran has prohibited high heels for women' CAIRO: A Muslim cleric from the influential Al-Azhar University, the highest authority on Sunni Islam, says high heels for women are prohibited by holy Quran because the shoes' clicking sound can lead to male temptation, reports AFP.

'Now you're the son of Mr and Mrs Russ' ORLANDO: A 12-year-old boy was granted a 'divorce' from his birth mother Friday on the grounds that she mistreated and abandoned him, and now can be adopted by his foster parents, reports AFP.

New commission meets to study UN reforms GENEVA, Sept 26: A new independent commission met on Friday to study how to reform the United Nations, including its capacity to prevent bloody ethnic conflicts such as that in Yugoslavia, reports Reuter.

Hurd, Qian hold talks on HK airport NEW YORK, Sept 26: British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said talks with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen over the thorny issue of the Hong Kong airport and the city's changeover to Chinese rule in 1997 went well on Friday, but that there was still a long way to go, reports Reuter.

Hurd told reporters after the three-hour meeting between the two officials that 'there is still a long way to go on some very tough issues.'

The issue of whether China will allow Britain to build a 22 billion US dollar (HK 175 billion dollar) international airport in Hong Kong before the 1997 changeover was expected to be high on the meeting's agenda.

BRIEFLY

Japanese MP on hunger strike: A member of Parliament went on a hunger strike Saturday to protest what he called the lax morals of Japan's most powerful politician...

Opposition lawmaker Yukio Aoshima also called on Shin Kanemaru, widely regarded as Japan's behind-the-scenes kingmaker, to resign from his seat in Parliament.

The donation far exceeded legal limits. But Kanemaru, who heads the ruling party's largest faction, is expected face only a token fine. He can keep the contribution.

Pretoria frees 124 detenus: The South African government released 124 political prisoners Friday, dropping its long held claim that they could only be freed as part of an effective general amnesty which would also cover offenders from the security forces...

President F W de Klerk said in Durban Friday that release of political prisoners was one of the subjects to be discussed at the summit Saturday, the South African Press Association reported.

Irish president to visit Somalia: Ireland Friday highlighted the 'profoundly disturbing situation in Somalia where hundreds die of hunger and disease every day, reports AFP from United Nations.

Irish Foreign Minister David Andrews said President Mary Robinson would shortly accompany him on a return visit to Somalia to show solidarity with the people and 'underline the compelling need for more effective international action.'

It was, he told the 47th annual UN general assembly, 'a scandal for Somalia's leaders who continue to squabble a fight while their people starve, a scandal for outsiders, for the developed world, for the membership of the United Nations, who have failed to respond swiftly and effectively.'

Pak medical team to serve in Lanka: The Pakistan government will shortly send five doctors and five anaesthetists to serve in Sri Lanka for one year on a grant basis, reports Xinhua from Colombo.

Typhoon kills 53 in China: Chinese rescue workers were searching for 51 missing people after typhoon ted brought downpours and mudslides to Zhejiang province, killing at least 53 people, the official China Daily said Saturday, says Reuter from Beijing.

Togo goes to polls today LOME, Sept 26: Voters in Togo will finally be able on Sunday to show whether they want a new constitution ending 24 years of military rule, in a referendum several times postponed by bloodshed, reports AFP.

US launches probe mission to Mars for cold, red planets FLORIDA, Sept 26: The first US mission to Mars in 17 years blasted off on Friday to chart a course for eventual human exploration of the cold, red planet, reports Reuter.

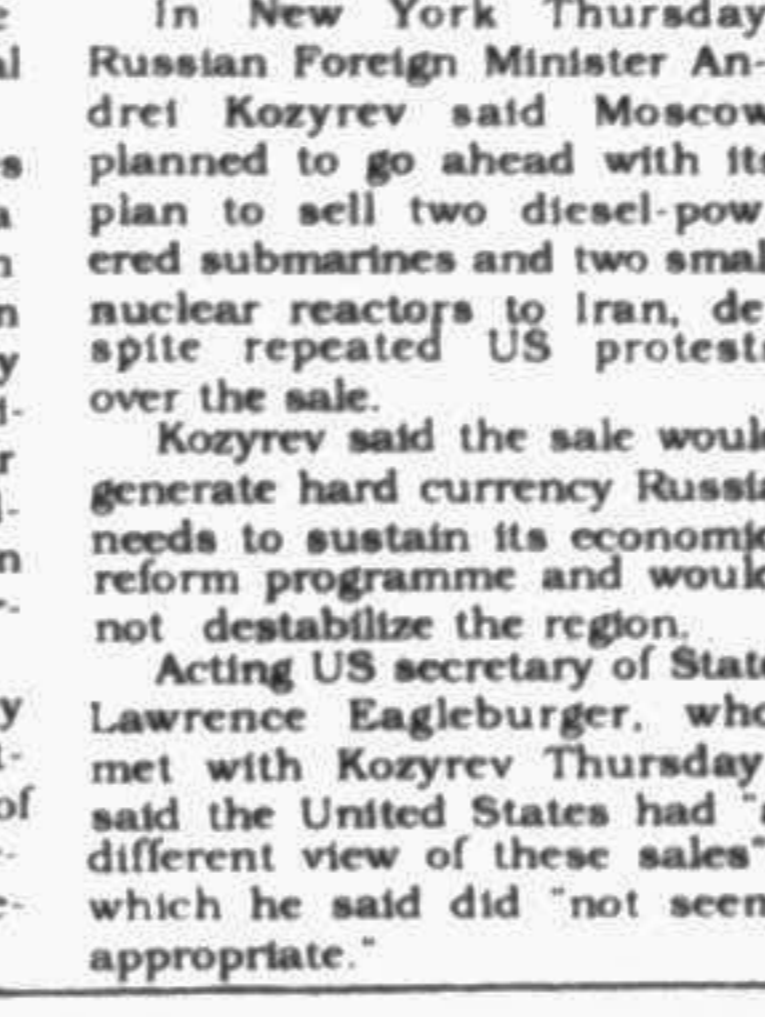
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KATHMANDU: Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa (L) is welcomed by King Birendra (R) upon his arrival on September 24 from Islamabad.

At center is Nepalese Prime Minister GP Loirala.