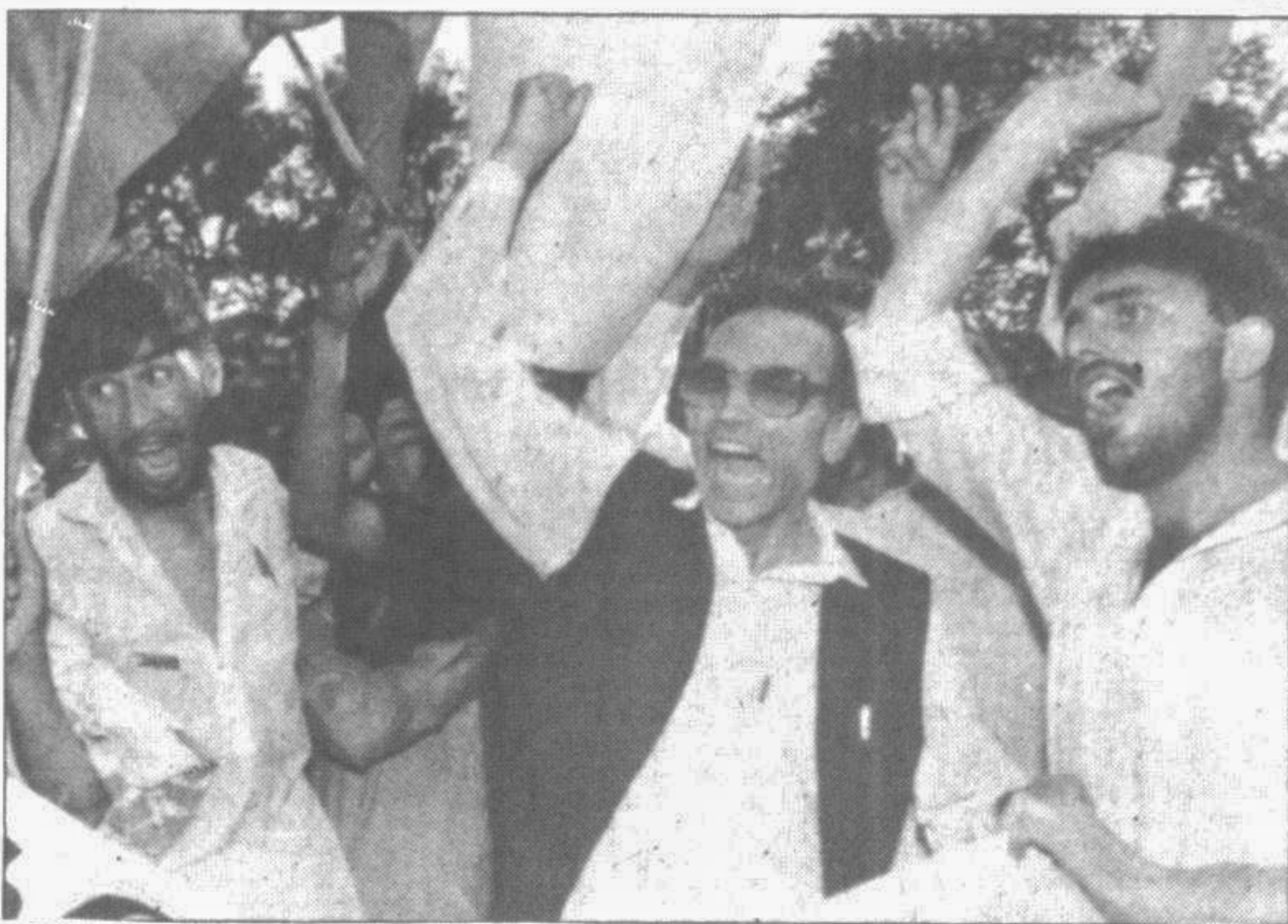


15 hurt as Indian troops use batons, teargas

Kashmiris rally for independence

SRINAGAR (India), Aug 5: At least 15 people were injured here today as Indian troops used batons and tear-gas to break up protests by thousands of Kashmiri Muslims demanding independence, police said, reports AFP.

the killing of a 10-year-old Muslim boy and his parents by Indian border guards. A sub-inspector in the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) has been arrested in connection with their deaths and faces murder charges, according to a BSF spokesman.



PAKISTAN: Amanullah Khan (C), Chief of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chants anti-India slogans with his supporters in front of the United Nations office on Wednesday. The JKLF organised the protest rally to condemn the Indian atrocities in India-held Kashmir. — AFP photo

Extremists for death of Mubarak

CAIRO, Aug 5: An underground Islamic militant group in Egypt on Wednesday called for the death of President Hosni Mubarak to avenge the hangings of militants this year, reports AFP.

The group urged the Egyptian Muslim people to get rid of the tyrant Mubarak, responsible for the pools of blood, poverty and dependence on the West.

Israeli minister meets PLO official to end deadlock

JERUSALEM, Aug 5: An Israeli Cabinet minister met secretly with a top adviser of PLO chief Yasser Arafat in an attempt to break the deadlock in the Middle East peace talks, radio reports said, according to AP.

Legislators urge Babangida not to hand over power

LAGOS, Aug 5: Legislators in Northern Kaduna state have urged General Ibrahim Babangida not to hand over power to civilians on August 27 as scheduled, an official statement said Wednesday, reports AP.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (L) jokes with a group of World War II veterans as he joins in the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the battle of Kursk on Wednesday. The President took time during his trip to meet local officials and also visited several farming communities. — AFP photo

Birds use light to find ways

LONDON, Aug 5: Birds use natural light to adjust their internal navigation systems when they migrate, two studies published today find, reports Reuter.

Iranian subs threat to US interest in Gulf

WASHINGTON, Aug 5: The submarines Iran recently acquired from Moscow pose a potential threat to US interests in the Gulf, the Commander of the US Submarine Force in the Atlantic said Wednesday, reports AP.

Off the Record

I want some peace and quiet

LONDON: Princess Diana expressed exasperation Wednesday at always being followed by the popular press, saying she wanted "some peace and quiet," reports AP.

Benefits for homosexual lovers

PARIS: France has extended medical benefits to non-working partners in homosexual couples, reports AP.

2 arrested for criticising rule of Myanmar junta

BANGKOK, Aug 5: Myanmar's military junta Hasa arrested two opposition members for criticising its rule, state television reported, says Reuter.

100 tonnes to follow her

JERUSALEM: US rock star Madonna will give a one-off concert in a Tel Aviv park on October 5, the promoter said Thursday, reports AP.

Iran denies Iraqi charges

Iran denied Iraqi allegations on Wednesday that it was involved in a car bombing outside a hospital in central Baghdad, AFP reports from Tehran.

Sanchez new Bolivian president

Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada was officially selected president of Bolivia Wednesday as the Congress confirmed results from popular elections June 6, AFP reports from La Paz.

Rebel ambush kills 5 in Manila

A police chief, two of his aides and two communist guerrillas were killed as a result of a rebel ambush in the northern Philippine province of Cagayan, police spokesmen said yesterday, AFP reports from Manila.

TV journalist shot dead

An Algerian television journalist has been shot dead in predominantly Muslim fundamentalist district near the capital, the television reported on Wednesday, AFP says from Algiers.

6 die in Santiago gas leak

An attempt to rescue workers suffocating in a gas leak down a manhole ended with six people including their rescuers dead, state television reported on Wednesday, Reuter says from Santiago.

Newsman jailed in S Africa

A South African journalist was sentenced to one year in jail Wednesday for refusing to give police information about controversial ANC youth league leader Peter Mokaba, AFP reports from Johannesburg.

Abiola to visit US

Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of Nigeria's annulled presidential elections, told the BBC in London that he was going to the United States to discuss his country's political crisis, AFP reports from London.

US cancels '95 N-test plan

WASHINGTON, Aug 5: The United States has cancelled a nuclear test planned for 1995, the last test for which a date had been set, the pentagon said Wednesday, reports AP.

It will not be easy for Hosokawa to lead coalition

TOKYO, Aug 5: Parliament prepared to convene Thursday to choose as prime minister a political outsider who has vowed to clean up a government grown corrupt after 38 years of one-party rule, reports AP.

Changes in Cuban cabinet

HAVANA, Aug 5: Cuba has made four cabinet changes, replacing its ministers of Finance, Communication, Agriculture, and the Sugar Industry, the official newspaper Granma reported Wednesday, says AP.

Lower House

But Hosokawa learned quickly that it will not be easy to lead a multiparty coalition that controls only a slim majority of seats in Parliament. The Liberal Democrats served notice Thursday that they plan to be an aggressive opposition force by delaying the Parliament session for hours with wrangling over the selection of a house speaker.

73-year-old Miyazawa

whose 40-year career in politics has spanned Japan's rise to economic superpower status — departed for the last time to warm applause from staff members, making way for a successor 18 years his junior.