

Japan protests Russia's N-waste dumping

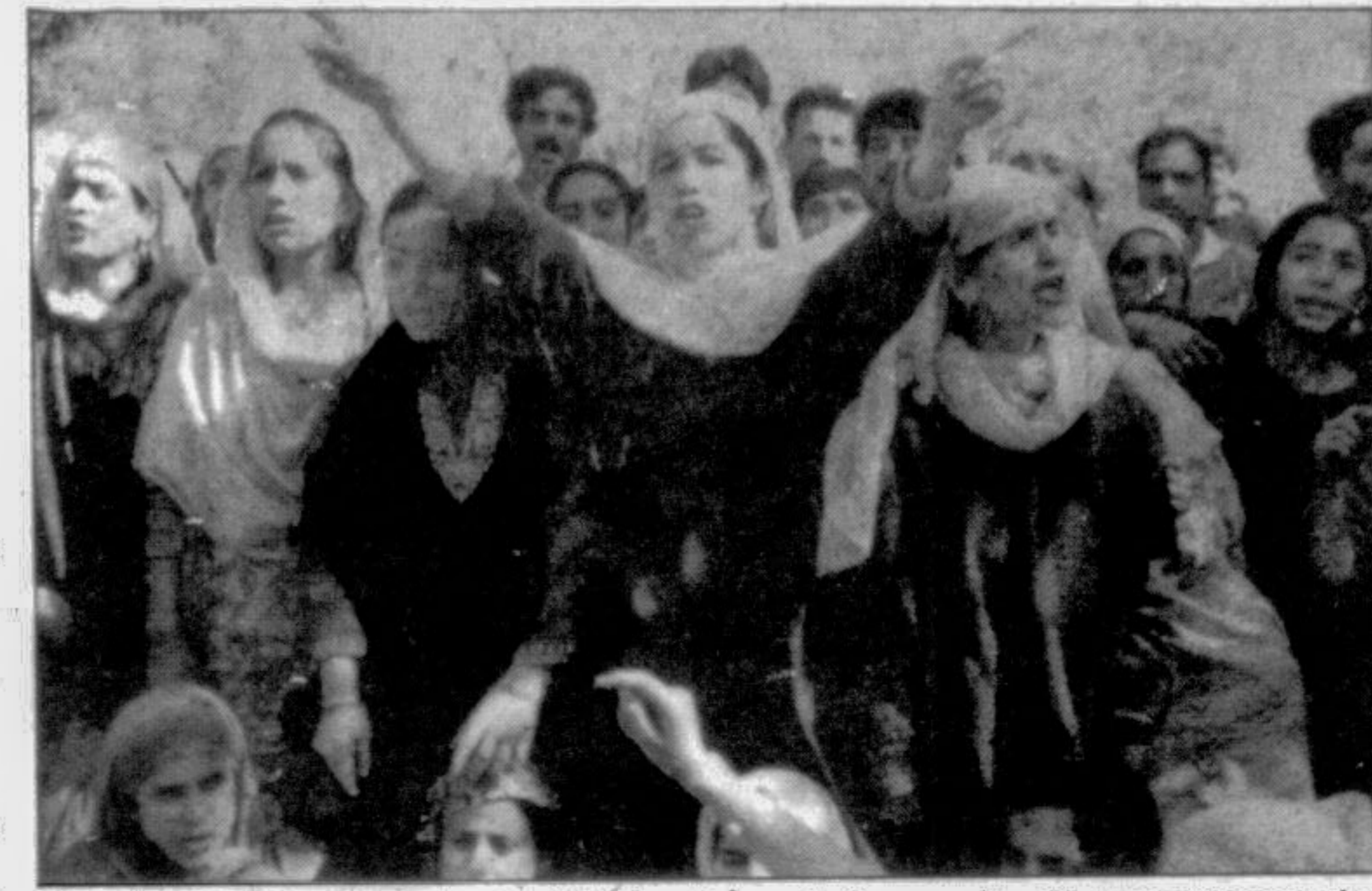
TOKYO, Oct 19: Japan protested to Russia again Tuesday over its dumping of nearly a thousand tons of radioactive waste in the Japan Sea and its plans to dump a second shipload by November 15, reports AP.

Delhi asked to protect Hazratbal Mosque

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: Indian newspapers and the opposition today asked the government to do its utmost to protect Kashmir's holiest mosque whose dramatic takeover by Muslim rebels has triggered an army siege of the shrine, reports AFP.

The Indian army and paramilitary forces late Friday laid siege to the holy shrine after it was taken over by dozens of Muslim militants fighting to secede Kashmir the country's only Muslim majority state.

The troops have ringed the entire mosque complex with barbed wire and cut off electricity and water to the shrine in a bid to tire out the gunmen as well as a group of civilians holed up inside.



Kashmiri Muslim women chant anti-Indian slogans during an evacuation operation near the besieged Hazratbal Mosque on Sunday in northern Kashmir. — AFP photo

Iran to send all Afghan refugees home by Mar'96

TEHRAN, Oct 19: Iran has planned to send home all Afghan refugees in its territory by March 1996, Tehran Radio reported Monday, says Xinhua.

BRRIEFLY

Mother Teresa off to China: Mother Teresa left Calcutta for China Tuesday morning to set up the first ever home of the Missionaries of charity there, PTI reports from Calcutta.

Menem leaves hospital: President Carlos Menem returned home from the hospital Monday, three days after undergoing surgery on a key artery to his brain, AP reports from Buenos Aires.

Fellini still in coma: More neurological tests were planned Tuesday for film director Federico Fellini, whose doctor anticipated the Oscar winner would suffer some brain damage even if he emerged from his coma, AP reports from Rome.

Venezuela orders deportation of British writer: CARACAS, Oct 19: Venezuela Monday ordered the deportation of British writer David Yallop for "disrespect," as a result of charges he made against police and officials in defending a suspect in the 'Yuppie' bombing case, reports Reuters.



This file picture dated May 18, '87 shows Italian filmmaker Federico Fellini at the Cannes film festival in the South of France. — AFP photo

Lightning claims 10 in India: Ten boys were killed and two sustained serious burns when lightning struck Satyapur village in Burdwan district on Monday, official sources said Tuesday, reports from Calcutta.

Chinese CP meets next month: The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party is to hold a meeting next month to discuss major economic reform policies, a Beijing-run newspaper reported Tuesday, AFP says from Hong Kong.

Rebels kill 7 in Peru: Suspected leftist rebels ambushed a pickup truck in a rural area of Peru, killing all seven people aboard, including an eight-month-old baby, police said Monday, AFP reports from Lima.

ROK rejects US request to send troops to Somalia: SEOUL, Oct 19: South Korea on Tuesday rejected a U.S. request to send combat troops for UN peacekeeping operations in Somalia, a presidential spokesman said, reports AP.

Saddam forces drive Marsh Arabs out of their swampland: NICOSIA, Oct 19: Saddam Hussein's army is inexorably driving Iraq's Marsh Arabs out of their once impenetrable southern swampland, where they have lived off the land since the dawn of civilisation, reports AP.

UK cancels short-range N-missile plan

LONDON, Oct 19: The government cancelled a short-range nuclear missile programme Monday, signalling a major rethink in Britain's atomic arsenal following the end of the Cold War, reports AP.

China, Taiwan agree to resume talks: BEIJING, Oct 19: China and Taiwan have agreed to resume unofficial talks after a break of nearly two months, but are still wangling over the date and location of the negotiations, it was reported today, says AFP.

Cyanide leak kills 6 in China: BEIJING, Oct 19: A leak of lethal cyanide from an oil well in northeast China killed six oil workers and injured hundreds, an official report said Tuesday, reports AP.



Queen Elizabeth II is greeted by Cyprus President Glafkos Clerides (C) upon her arrival at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus on Monday. The Queen starts a six-day visit to the Commonwealth conference. — AFP photo

Israel to free 6000 Palestinians

AMMAN, Oct 19: Israel has agreed to free up to 6,000 Palestinians held in Israeli jails, a move that would fulfill a condition of the Israel-PLO peace agreement, Palestinian officials said Monday, reports AP.

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Queen Elizabeth II is greeted by Cyprus President Glafkos Clerides (C) upon her arrival at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus on Monday. The Queen starts a six-day visit to the Commonwealth conference. — AFP photo

Off the Record

Infidelity is rare! WASHINGTON: About 85 per cent of American husbands and wives are faithful to each other, says a researcher out to dispel myths about adultery, reports AP.

Nude flight

LEESBURG: There's no law against flying naked so three nude passengers were allowed to go free, but their partially undressed pilot faces drunken-flying charges, reports AP.

Spanish air force officer shot dead

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Saddam forces drive Marsh Arabs out of their swampland

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above 122 degrees Fahrenheit (50 degrees Celsius). Iraqi forces have been shelling Shiite areas between the cities of al-Amara and al-Nasariyah since August, according to rebels and recent visitors to the region.

including the Madan, have fled there since mid-1991. Dissident sources said 20,000 more are preparing to run the gantlet of Iraqi patrols, artillery bombardment and fires in dried-up reed beds to get to Iran.