

International

CPI blames Gowda for not consulting UF partners

NEW DELHI, Sept 16: The Communist partner in India's three-month-old coalition government has warned that Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda had not yet mastered the art of heading a loose knit alliance, reports AFP.

Perry tries to win support for military showdown with Iraq

Iraq to keep its promise not to fire at planes policing 'no fly' zone

WASHINGTON, Sept 16: A senior Iraqi official on Sunday said Iraq would keep its promise not to fire at US and allied warplanes policing 'no fly' zones over northern and southern Iraq, but warned that continued US military buildup in the region could cause problems, reports Reuters.

Second leg of polls in Kashmir

Polling begins amid low turn-out of voters

SRINAGAR, India, Sept 16: Polling began on a subdued note today in the strife-torn Indian state of Kashmir at the start of the second leg of provincial elections, the first in nearly 10 years, reports AFP.

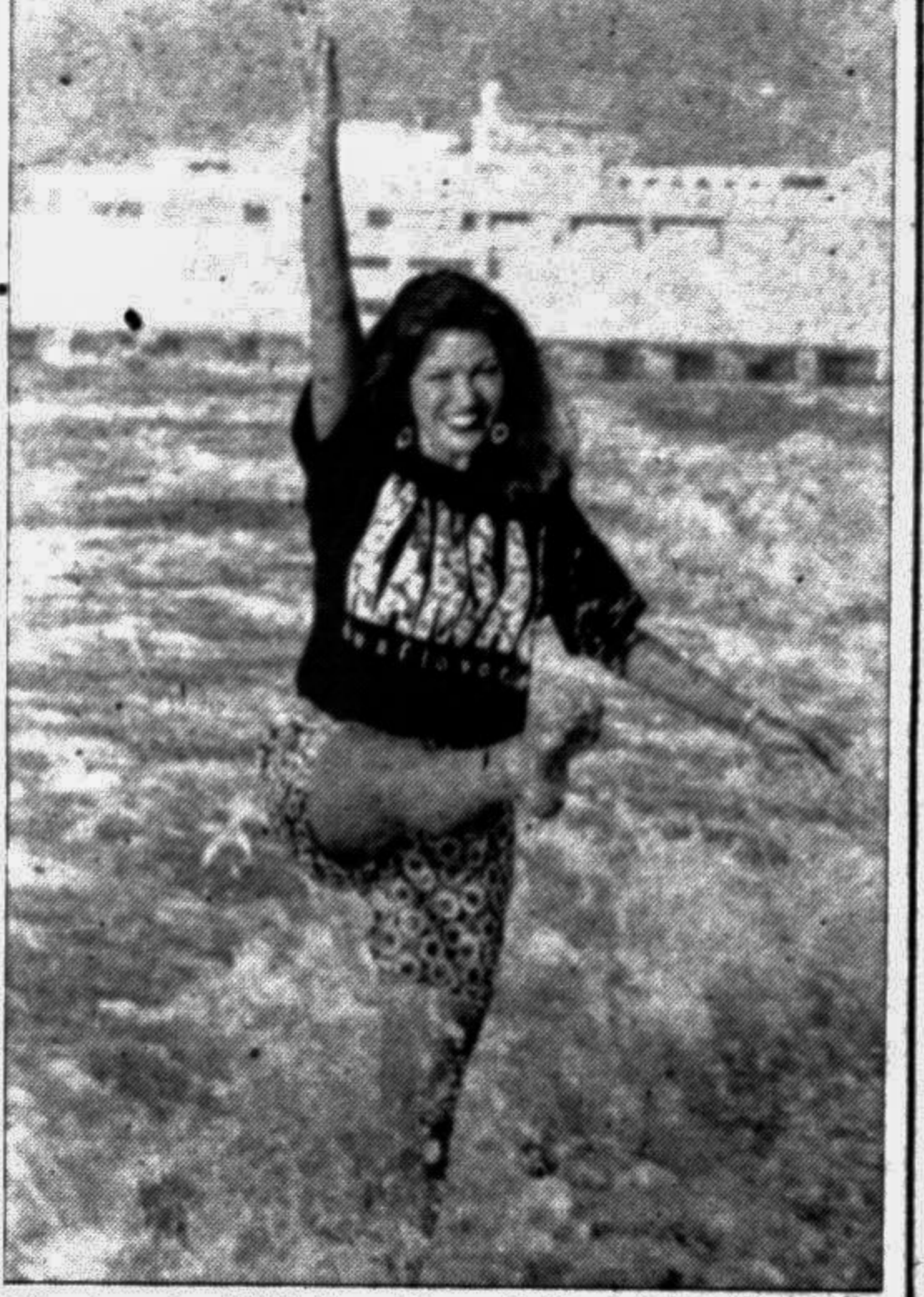
Sukh Ram alleges plot to discredit Rao

NEW DELHI, Sept 8: A former Indian minister has claimed huge sums of unaccounted funds seized from his homes were part of a plot to smear Congress Party chief P V Narasimha Rao, reports AFP.



Some Kurd refugees, fleeing northern Iraq for fear of reprisals from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his Kurdish allies, arrive late on Sunday at the Diyarbakir airport, southeastern Turkey.

Off the Record



Miss America 1997, Tara Dawn Holland, takes the traditional splash in the Atlantic Ocean off the beach in Atlantic City, New Jersey, early on Sunday.

Serious battle erupted in Grozny

Maskhadov terms peace fragile, ready to resume fighting

MOSCOW, Sept 16: Chechen separatists are ready to resume fighting when necessary as the peace process comes under increasing strain, the rebels' military commander said in remarks televised on Sunday, reports AP.



Chechen Muslims bend down while praying for those killed in the war as a small boy plays in front of them in the village of Pervomayskaya, on Friday. Russian peace envoy Alexander Lebed said on Sunday that Chechnya was far from forming a temporary coalition post-war government and that rebel proposals were not sufficiently representative.

Paris won't welcome homosexual couples

PARIS: France has turned down a Swedish request to let Swedish homosexual couples take romantic trips to Paris to be wed in the Swedish consulate there, the Swedish embassy said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

BRIEFLY

17 killed in Vietnam storm: Violent tropical storms last week left at least 17 people dead and thousands homeless in central provinces of Vietnam, official media reported Monday, AP reports from Hanoi.

Clinton congratulates Yeltsin: President Bill Clinton talked to Russian President Boris Yeltsin Sunday and wished him well ahead of his heart surgery later this month, the White House said, AFP reports from Indianapolis.

Australian PM in Jakarta: Australian Prime Minister John Howard arrived in Jakarta today for his first official visit to Indonesia since taking office six months ago, Reuters report from Jakarta.

Indian Maoists kill 5: Indian Maoists shot dead five members of Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda's party to avenge the slaying of three relatives of a leftist leader two days ago, the Press Trust of India said yesterday, AFP reports from New Delhi.

Pak Air Force fighter crashes: A fighter aircraft of the Pakistan Air Force crashed near Samugli base in southwestern Baluchistan province yesterday causing no casualties, defence ministry sources said, AFP reports from Islamabad.

One found dead in China hotel: A Hong Kong executive of the French Bank Credit Lyonnais has been robbed and murdered in his hotel room in southeastern China, the bank said Monday, AFP reports from Beijing.

Non-infectious diseases to become leading cause of death within 25 years

WASHINGTON, Sept 16: Non-infectious diseases like stroke, heart attacks and cancer will become the leading cause of death worldwide within 25 years and poorer countries are not prepared for the shift, according to two international reports released here on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Observers, international agencies slam Bosnian polls as defective

SARAJEVO, Sept 16: Bosnia's general election, billed as an almost flawless success by its international organisers, was in fact marred by irregularities and imperfections, Western observers said on Sunday, reports AFP.

Bid to foil drafting new constitution will prolong military rule in Myanmar

YANGON, Sept 16: The leader of Myanmar's military regime has warned that any attempt to interfere with the pro-government panel drafting a new constitution will only prolong military rule, reports AP.

Women are badly under-represented in parliaments

BEIJING, Sept 16: Women are still badly under-represented in the world's parliaments, with less than 11 per cent of legislators female, an international parliamentary organisation said on Sunday, reports Reuters.