

International

Yeltsin calls for regional summit
US makes first contact with Taliban

ISLAMABAD, Oct 3: US diplomats have made their first contact with Taliban representatives in Islamabad since the hardline Islamic militia captured the Afghan capital Kabul six days ago...

Also, the US is raising concern about respect for human rights women's rights international terrorism and narcotics...

The president met with Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov to discuss the crisis. Yeltsin spokesman Pyotr Tarasov gave no details of their meeting...

Ex chief minister Mayawati says BSP to win local polls in Uttar Pradesh

LUCKNOW (India), Oct 3: A party representing the lowest Hindu castes predicted on Thursday it would win local polls in India's most populous state...

Tens of thousands of paramilitary troops have been deployed to guard the elections that began on Monday in the state. Police last week clamped an around-the-clock curfew on the Muslim-majority old quarter of Lucknow...



Palestinian Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat (L), and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) shake hands as they leave the White House as US President Bill Clinton (C) watches following their Wednesday meetings for peace at the White House.

Emergency White House summit

Israel claims victory but Palestinians call it failure

JERUSALEM, Oct 3: Israel claimed victory at an emergency White House summit aimed at quelling the explosion of violence in the Middle East. But Palestinians called it a failure...

He said the two sides had agreed to resume immediate peace talks focusing on an Israeli pullback from Hebron, but this was far less than the immediate Israeli redeployment of the flashpoint city which Arafat had demanded...

Right-wing Israelis and Jewish settlers in Palestinian areas welcomed Netanyahu's tough stance. Israel has ringed Palestinian-ruled towns with Tanis and put the army on alert since unprecedented gunbattles with Arafat's lightly-armed police...



Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (L) meets with United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the United Nations in New York on Wednesday. Benazir was scheduled to address the UN General Assembly on Thursday.

Yandarbiyev in Moscow for talks Yeltsin, Lebed discuss Chechnya peace process

MOSCOW, Oct 3: President Boris Yeltsin today discusses the faltering Chechnya peace process face-to-face with his ambitious security chief Alexander Lebed for the first time...

deputies heckled and jeered him for the agreement he signed with Chechnya's rebels in August to end 21 months of fighting which killed tens of thousands. A ceasefire had held but the withdrawal of Russian troops from the region envisaged by the deal is proceeding slowly...

BRIEFLY

Belarus to host centre for refugees: Belarus offered on Wednesday to host a permanent centre under UN auspices to deal with the problems of refugees and migrants in Eastern Europe...
Landslide claims 16 in Indonesia: The death toll in a landslide on Batam Island near Singapore has risen to at least 16, and seven villagers are missing...
China charges people for trash: Chinese cities are beginning to charge people for trash, with some paying between 1.5 yuan (18 US cents) and 25 yuan (dls 3) a month...

Benazir terms polls in Kashmir a sham

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 3: Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Wednesday the just-concluded elections in the Kashmir region were a sham because India's heavy concentration of troops and repressive laws had not permitted a genuine expression of popular will...

346 Tamil refugees arrive in southern India Tigers blast telecom facility, power station in northwest

COLOMBO, Oct 3: Tamil Tiger rebels blasted a telecommunications facility and a small power station in northwest Sri Lanka, killing four security personnel, official sources said today...

The Tiger guerillas are leading a protracted campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions. Another report from New Delhi says more than 300 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees arrived in southern India late Tuesday...

'Supercluster' of galaxies found

ORONO, Maine, Oct 3: University of Maine astronomers have discovered a 'supercluster' of galaxies that is among the largest yet found, reports AP. The supercluster consists of a string of 22 clusters of galaxies spread out over a distance between 1 billion and 2 billion light years from Earth...

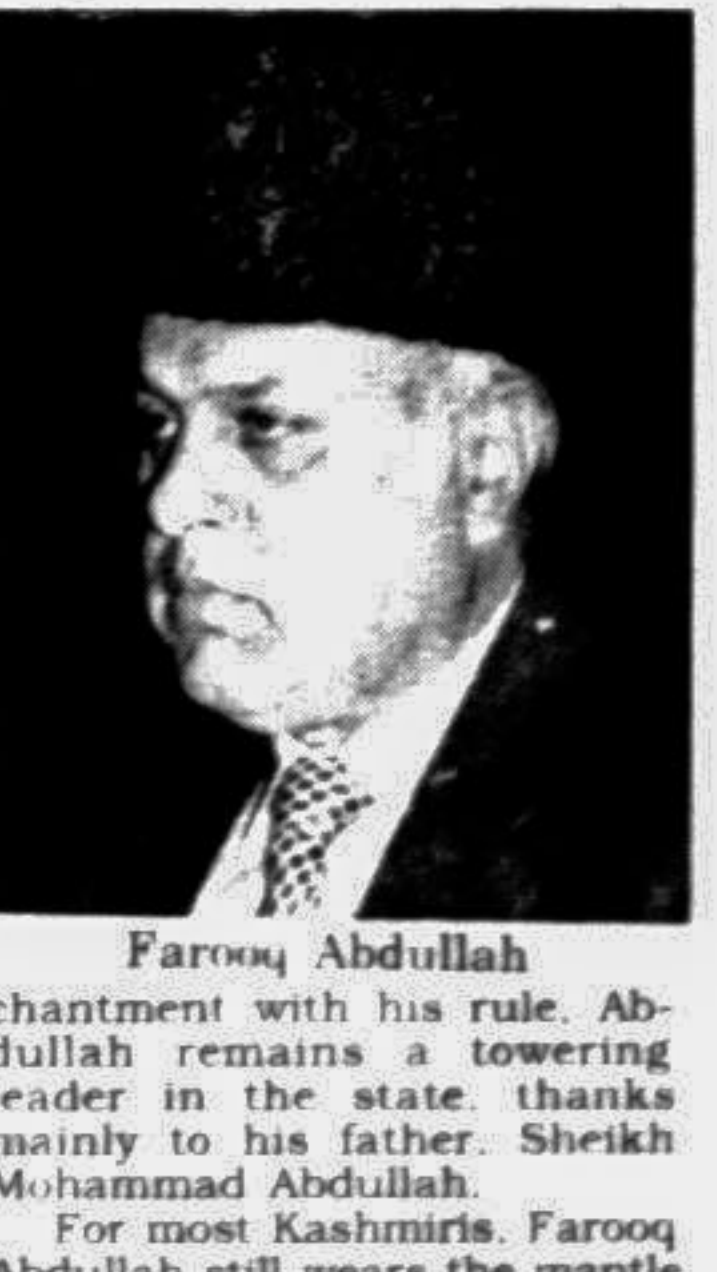


Dolly Parton stands with the award she won during the Country Music Awards on Wednesday at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, TN. Parton won for Vocal Event of the Year with 'I Will Always Love You' with special Guest Vince Gill.

'Farooq Abdullah failed as chief minister'

SRINAGAR, Oct 3: Farooq Abdullah, set to become chief minister of India's strife-torn Jammu and Kashmir state, is returning from the political wilderness to walk a tightrope between separatists and federal politicians in New Delhi...

1987 in a controversial poll alliance with India's Congress Party, which many Kashmiris say sowed the seeds of a rebellion in 1990. Abdullah was accused by rivals of rigging the elections, which critics say forced rivals to support separatism...



Farooq Abdullah

and carries the credibility of his father, the 'Lion of Kashmir' who dominated regional politics for half a century, much of it from jail, before dying in 1982. There is a major responsibility on me and my party to deliver the goods...

of all areas but communications, defence and foreign relations. The constitution also gave the state the right to select its own Sadar-e-Riyasat, or president, who could not be dismissed by New Delhi without the state government's consent...

Moscow police raid mosque

MOSCOW, Oct 3: Police commandos have raided Moscow's main mosque, ousting Muslim leaders who say a number of worshippers were beaten and jailed, reports AP. City officials say they have opened an internal investigation into the incident, which took place at night before prayer time on Tuesday evening...

'Di vowed to destroy Charles'

LONDON, Oct 3: A new book that began serialisation Thursday says Princess Diana vowed to do her best to make sure Prince Charles never becomes king and that the queen is a political leftist, reports AFP. 'The Queen: A Biography of Elizabeth II' by Professor Ben Pimlott quotes an unidentified friend of Charles as saying Diana told the prince: 'You will never be king I shall destroy you...'

view: 'Because I know the character, I would think that the top job, as I call it, would bring enormous limitations to him, and I don't know whether he could adapt to that.' Some newspapers have suggested Charles should step aside when his 70-year-old mother the queen dies and lets 14-year-old Prince William, the elder of his two sons, become king. But Charles is reported determined to succeed his mother, who came to the throne in 1952...