

# Violence continues in S Africa : 100 killed

**JOHANNESBURG, Sept 11:** Attackers using handgrenades and guns killed at least 11 people early today (Wednesday) in the black township of Tokoza, sending the death toll from three days of violence in black areas around Johannesburg near 100, the South African news agency reports, says AFP.

The South African Press Association (SAPA) said a white woman was killed, a second injured and a policeman was wounded when gunmen opened fire on their car which passes the Phola Park Squatter camp adjoining Tokoza.

Six people were slain and one wounded when gunmen sprayed bullets at commuters waiting on the platform of the local railway station about 6:00 am (0400 GMT), SAPA said.

Four more people were killed and many injured when a grenade was hurled into a bus in the same area, it said.

And according to reports on state-run radio, the violence which has swept through black townships east and west of Johannesburg since Sunday has spread to several other areas, including Elrod in nearby Alberton and Sobokeng some 60 kilometers (38 miles) away.

Tuesday night Alexandra township which fringes the

city's lush northern suburbs was also drawn into the blood-letting when a sniper armed with an automatic weapon killed one person and wounded three others in four separate attacks.

Initial reports said eight people were killed in handgrenade attacks in Elrod but police could only immediately confirm that two people had died there and that six were injured.

The latest round of violence began in Tokoza Sunday when

## Arab League meet begins on Jewish settlements

**CAIRO, Sept 11:** The Arab League's 96th ministerial meeting opened here late Tuesday for discussions of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, the Israeli presence in south Lebanon and other regional issues, reports AFP.

The foreign ministers and delegates from 21 countries, including the PLO, will also discuss two projects drafted by Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdel Meguid: one calling for establishment of an Arab court of justice and another to change voting procedures.

gunmen fired automatic weapons into a crowd of Inkatha Freedom Party supporters loyal to Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthe.

Independent radio said groups in both Tokoza and Elrod were this morning poised for battle and police said reinforcements were being deployed in the areas.

Meanwhile, in Dobsonville, in Johannesburg's largest township Soweto, two men and a woman were shot dead.

President Frederik de Klerk and African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela held talks late Tuesday in Pretoria on the outbreak of violence and other issues, while Inkatha Chairman Frank Mdlalose strongly hinted at a media conference that rival ANC members were behind the surge in unrest.

In the past year alone, more than 2,000 people have been killed in the violence, which ostensibly pits Inkatha against the ANC, but there have been claims by the ANC that a third force has been fomenting the violence.

The two groups have been feuding for years but their rivalry has grown in intensity over the past year with the dismantling of the apartheid system which supported white minority rule.



**MOSCOW:** A mother holds a picture of her dead son during a protest outside the CSCE human rights meeting in Moscow September 10. The woman, along with others, is demanding an investigation into the many deaths of young Red Army conscripts under suspicious circumstances. — AFP/UNB photo

# LTTE to be booked under National Security Act'

**NEW DELHI, Sept 11:** The government in the Indian state where former Premier Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated has threatened supporters of Sri Lankan Tamil militants with arrest under a tough anti-terrorist law, reports AFP.

Newspapers here today quoted Tamil Nadu chief Minister Jayaram Jayalalitha as saying Indians glorifying the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) would be booked under the National Security Act (NSA), which permits detention without trial for up to one year.

Jayalalitha's warning on Tuesday followed attempts by Indian Tamils in the last fortnight to hold meetings in the southern state to show support for the LTTE in its campaign for a homeland in Sri Lanka.

The organisers, drawn from fringe political groups, also sought to condemn the crackdown on the LTTE in Tamil Nadu following Gandhi's May 21 assassination, widely blamed on the powerful guerrilla group.

News reports have said Tamil Nadu police foiled two planned meetings and arrested some 130 people, although a small group of Tamils managed to hold a meeting in Madurai city Saturday.

The government is very

clear about handling the issue," the Hindu newspaper quoted Jayalalitha as saying in the state assembly. "The Tamil Nadu government will take all possible steps to prevent the recurrence of such events."

The charismatic actress-turned-politician said police would take action against a previously unknown group that put up "anti-national" posters in Madurai ahead of the Saturday meeting, the Times

of India added.

A Tamil Nadu lawmaker said the posters read: "What is wrong in killing Rajiv Gandhi so what if Sonia has become a widow?"

The LTTE has denied killing Gandhi, who in mid-1987 sent Indian troops to Sri Lanka to crush a Tamil separatist struggle. But most of those arrested in connection with the assassination are said to be linked to the rebel group.

# Serbian rebels sign ceasefire accord

**BELGRADE, Sept 11:** Serbian guerrilla leaders in southern Croatia signed a ceasefire brokered by the European Community but fierce fighting raged in other parts of the breakaway Yugoslav Republic, reports Reuter.

Milan Babic, leader of the Krajina region where Serbs have seized control from Croatian authorities, agreed his forces would not fire first in a deal with EC peace envoy a Henri Wijnaendts in the southern Croatian town of Knin on Tuesday.

Babic said the agreement was a step towards EC recognition of Serbs' autonomy in Krajina, the centre of an uprising by Croatia's 600,000-strong Serbian minority

against the republic's independence moves.

Wijnaendts welcomed the accord. But the death toll rose in fighting in central and eastern Croatia and diplomats said Serbian and Croatian political leaders had lost control of at least some of the fighting forces.

"The people doing the fighting are crucial to any ceasefire agreement but some of them are out of control," a western diplomat said.

Nearly 400 people have been killed in fighting in Croatia since it declared independence on June 25 despite several ceasefires and the diplomatic efforts of the EC. The Croats say the Serbs are backed by the Serbian army.

## BRIEFLY

**One shot dead in Belfast:** A man in his twenties was shot dead in Belfast Tuesday evening, and a statement from a spokesman for the Irish Republican Army (IRA) claimed responsibility for the attacks, reports AFP from Belfast.

The man, who has yet to be named, had just arrived home with his wife and young child when two gunmen approached, followed him to the back of the house and shot him several times.

The attack was condemned by police as a sectarian killing, it seemed to be a reaction to earlier killings of Catholics in the city, police said.

Police said that the victim had no connection with the security forces.

**Walesa wants UN force in Europe:** A United Nations intervention force should be created that could be rapidly deployed in Europe to deal with emergency situations, Poland's President Lech Walesa said in an interview in the French daily Le Monde published Tuesday, reports AFP from Paris.

Referring to a possible recurrence of situations such as the current strife in Yugoslavia, Walesa said the resurgence of nationalism and old rivalries led him to expect some great arguments.

The problems are only beginning in the Soviet Union, he said. Today Boris Yeltsin appears to be a hero in a week or a month that could change his decisions could go wrong, Walesa said. But added he had a lot of respect for the Russian President.

Walesa is reluctant to embrace Russian proposals for a common economic zone for central European countries while in favour of trade. He said it was necessary to be prudent and know the precise conditions of trade agreements.

**Japanese force may serve UNPKM:** Japan's Opposition Komeito Party decided Tuesday to support a ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) proposal to let Japanese military forces serve overseas party, officials said, reports AFP from Tokyo.

Political sources said the LDP and the Komeito, along with the opposition Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), were expected to agree on the proposal at a meeting of their secretary generals on Friday.

On the basis of the accord, the government of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu planned to submit a bill to parliament that would for the first time allow Japanese forces to take part in United Nations Peace Keeping Missions (UNPKM), they added.

Japan's Armed Forces known as the self defence forces have not served overseas since defeat at the hands of the allies at the end of World War II, some 46 years ago.

Despite foreign pressure, Japan declined to send forces to the Gulf war because of stiff objections from socialists and other opposition party members.

**Sharif invited to attend SAARC summit:** Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herath delivered a presidential invitation to Pakistan Premier Nawaz Sharif for the sixth South Asian Summit in November officials said, reports AFP from Islamabad.

Herath had talks later with Foreign Minister Secretary General Akram Zaki on issues to be discussed by leaders from seven nations of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at the November 7-9 Colombo summit. Other members of the grouping are India, Bangladesh, Nepal, the Maldives and Bhutan.

The Foreign Minister, who is accompanied by Foreign Secretary BP Tilakaratna and two other officials was to leave here late Tuesday for Karachi enroute to Kathmandu.

**UN asked to help PNC members:**

The Palestine Liberation Organisation asked the United Nations on Tuesday to help enable members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) who live in the Israeli occupied territories to take part in a meeting in Algiers, reports Reuter from United Nations.

The Charge d'Affaires of the PLO UN observer Mission, Riyad Mansour in a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said the PNC, the Palestinian Parliament in Emile was meeting in Algiers on September 23.

He asked the UN Chief to facilitate the departure from and immediate return to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem of all members of the PNC in those territories so that they will be able to attend the meeting of the Council.

He did not say how many of the PNC's 500 members live in the West Bank Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

The PNC the PLO's highest authority will decide whether to attend a Middle East Peace Conference proposed by the United States and the Soviet Union next month.

**Baker arrives in Moscow:** US Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Moscow late Tuesday to attend a meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), reports AFP from Moscow.

Baker, who missed the opening session on Tuesday, was to address the CSCE meeting Wednesday. He was also to hold talks with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his Soviet counterpart Boris Pankin, before meeting Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The Secretary of State leaves on Friday for Saint Petersburg for a meeting with Mayor Anatoly Sobchak on Saturday.

# Sharif expands cabinet to record 49 members

**ISLAMABAD, Sept 11:** Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has expanded his 10-month-old cabinet to a record 49 members in an apparent move to appease potential challengers, reports Reuter.

The Premier on Tuesday brought in members of influential political families in naming 12 new ministers, 17 state ministers and one adviser.

Reuter earlier reported that the cabinet was 48-strong, but one man originally listed as a minister of state was elevated to full ministerial position when he was sworn in.

Political sources said Sharif seemed to be trying to secure himself against any challenge from within his ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), which groups eight political parties.

Opposition politicians have accused Sharif of ignoring foreign affairs and defence by not appointing ministers for the two portfolios after he took office last November.

In Tuesday's expansion he gave defence to veteran former Sind Province Chief Minister Ghous Ali Shah a protege of late military President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Sharif will keep foreign affairs under his own wing. But he named a new cabinet face, Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju from his home province

# Hostage issue figures in UN-Iran talks

**TEHRAN, Sep 11:** UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar met with top Iranian officials Wednesday for talks that are widely expected to bring new momentum to efforts to resolve the Lebanon hostage issue, reports AP.

A call on President Hashemi Rafsanjani was included in the opening schedule of Perez de Cuellar's two-day visit, which he said will focus on issues related to the UN ceasefire resolution that ended the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Upon his arrival late Tuesday, the Secretary-General said moves to enhance security in the Gulf region and the situation in Afghanistan, where fighting continues despite a UN-brokered peace accord, also figured in his agenda.

Perez de Cuellar said if Iranian officials wanted to raise the hostage problem he would be "only too happy to listen."

"The Iranians are helping me, but they do not hold the key," he said.

On Wednesday, the Tehran Times quoted him as saying that "whatever progress has been made in this direction, we still have to wait for an appropriate time."

He did not elaborate, but Iranian officials have said Israel must make the next move if the hostage issue is to be resolved.

Perez de Cuellar started his first round of talks Wednesday.

# Pakistan supports Soviet Muslim republics' freedom

**ISLAMABAD, Sept 11:** Pakistan, trying to broaden its links with the Muslim republics of Soviet Central Asia, announced support for their declarations of independence saying they had the right to determine their own destiny, reports Reuter.

A foreign ministry statement on Tuesday rejoiced at the prospect of a peaceful transition in Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan but fell short of outright recognition.

Pakistan on Sunday recognised the independent Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia but made no mention of other republics that have declared they want to break away from Moscow.

# Volcano kills 10 in Philippines

**SAN FERNANDO (Philippines), Sept 11:** At least 10 more people have died from the effects of the eruption of Mount Pinatubo, officials said Wednesday, reports AP.

The latest casualties brought to over 600 the number of people who have died near the 1,740-meter (5,758-foot) volcano which began erupting in June after more than 600 years of dormancy.

# Floods engulf 13 dists in Bihar

**NEW DELHI, Sept 11:** Monsoon floods, which have washed away thousands of homes in Bihar, threatened to spread today in the eastern Indian state where four rivers were peaking, rescue workers and officials said, reports AFP.

The Bihar government said floods had submerged 13 of the impoverished states' 46 districts in the past 14 days and at least four rivers were threatening to burst their banks Wednesday.

Torrential rains and rivers in spate have washed away at least 5,000 houses in flood-affected areas, officials said quoting latest damage reports.

Rescue officials have saved 800,000 stranded people by boat, Bihar Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Anil Sinha said in a news conference in state capital Patna.

Some 17,500 families, or 87,500 people, have fled the floods or taken shelter on higher ground, Sinha said, adding that hundreds of homeless were housed in 175 temporary camps.

Dozens of medical teams were trying to prevent the outbreak of epidemics, he added.

The officials said so far the government has received reports of six deaths, but said thousands of cattle appeared to have drowned in the affected districts after flash floods struck August 30.

No one knows how many cattle perished, but it would be in thousands, journalists quoting the official said by telephone from the rain-battered state capital.

Reporters touring the affected areas said today that hundreds of families were seen living on top of the roofs of their submerged houses while many others were living virtually without food or water.



**TBILISI (Soviet Georgia):** A Georgian opposition supporter stresses his point near barricades erected on Rustaveli Avenue here September 10. Thousands of demonstrators erected the barricades in protest against the government of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, according to a local journalist. — AFP/UNB photo

# Men and women now mix freely in Kuwait

**KUWAIT, Sept 11:** The tall black-haired women in tight jeans and low-cut top drew stares from men in the restaurant, reports Reuter.

"By god, what is this? Is this the new freedom in free Kuwait?" A visibly upset man asked his wife.

Men and women now mix freely in Kuwait, wear the latest western fashions and even hold hands in public.

Many women still cover their bodies and faces with traditional black robes but more are seen unveiled and dressed in Italian and French designer clothes.

Irqi's occupation of the Gulf

Emirate triggered changes in the conservative social system here, and many Kuwaitis say they are not going back to the old ways.

"There is no going back, no matter what. The barrier has been broken," said a young civil servant.

The changes have angered radical Muslims trying to pull the country back to Muslim traditions and its desert heritage.

A group calling itself "commanding good deeds and forbidding evil" has launched a campaign to teach Kuwaitis Islamic values.

Its leader, Abdul Rahman

Al-Shuayeb, said in a recent newspaper interview he was trying to recruit 1,000 people to mount street patrols to catch people who violate Islamic law.

He said the plans depended on the government granting his group legal status and on the cooperation of the Interior Ministry.

Ministry officials said nobody had the right to physically or verbally assault any citizen and asked people to report any such incidents to police.

The group's plan drew angry reactions from other Kuwaitis. Newspapers have

been publishing editorials warning against possible political motives behind the group's calls for Islamic purity.

"The Kuwaiti people don't need anybody to teach them Islam," said one editorial.

Other newspapers said the group's plans might be a front to spread fundamentalism and to try to impose strict Islamic laws similar to neighbouring Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Muslim fundamentalist leaders — apparently trying to satisfy Kuwait's western allies — say they have no plans to copy the Iranian Islamic revolution.

"We want to advise Kuwaitis

to hold on to Islamic values and norms and with cooperation with the authorities to eliminate the new social norms infiltrating our Arab and Muslim society," Shuayeb said.

"We should not be compared to similar bodies in other Islamic countries. Soft persuasion and leniency will be the basis for our work."

Three of the seven groups in Kuwait's opposition movement are fundamentalist — two Sunni and one Shi'ite. Before parliament was dissolved in 1988, fundamentalists controlled more than a quarter of the 50 elected deputies.

Change is apparent in the

streets. In the Salmiyeh district, young boys and girls troll every night — sometimes holding hands — in jeans and T-shirts.

Although Kuwait's state religion is Islam and its laws include bans on alcohol and pre-marital sex, its oil wealth has brought a host of western influences from Britain to hamburgers.

The presence of US troops in the Emirate because of the Gulf war and the American role in freeing their country has encouraged people to further flourish social conventions.

## Off the Record

### Post card travels for 40 years

**NASIK:** It took nearly 30 years and nine months for a post card to reach Kalamdari in Nandgaon Taluka of this district, reports PTI.

The card, which was posted on January 5, 1961 by Ganesh Vaidya from Dapoli in Ratnagiri district to his son Vasudev Vaidya, at last reached its destination after travelling about 500 kms.

But the card was received by the medical officer of Kalamdari, Dr Ratnaparakshi, after paying a fine on September 6 this year as the address was no more and its sender had also died.

### They did it to avert deportation

**SAN JOSE:** Seventeen towel-clad Sri Lankans stripped and ran naked through Costa Rica's International Airport to avoid being deported on a plane bound for their homeland, authorities said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"It was an unusual spectacle for us — seeing those men, most of clothes on to prevent the police from putting them on the plane," Interior Minister Luis Fishman said of the incident, which occurred on Monday.

Fishman said the men refused to dress when told it was time to leave the hotel, however, they were taken to the airport in the bath towels, which they then tore off as tourists and others looked on, he said.

He said deportation proceedings had been temporarily postponed while authorities investigate how the men obtained Costa Rican visas in Los Angeles at a time when all 17 were actually in Brazil.

The men, who Fishman described as "scared to death of returning home," were arrested 10 days ago as they tried to enter neighbouring Nicaragua without the necessary travel documents, Fishman said.

Government officials had put them up at a San Jose hotel pending their deportation on a flight on Monday.

### A strong homosexual theme

**ROME:** Derek Jarman's "Edward II," a powerful film with a strong homosexual theme, got mixed reviews at the 48th Venice Film Festival, but many critics praised the acting, reports AP.

"Passionate, ferocious, moving, cruel, orchestrated with exemplary dramatic economy," wrote a critic in Tuesday's edition of the Rome-based daily La Repubblica.

Based on a book written in 1593 by Christopher Marlowe, "Edward II" tells the story of the young English King, played by Steve Waddington, and his forbidden love for his court chamberlain, Piers Gaveston, played by Andrew Tiernan.

Edward's passion for Gaveston humiliates his spurned queen, played by Tilda Swinton, and sets off a chain of events that ends in Gaveston's torture and execution, and the loss of Edward's crown.

The British director said he was interested in true love, no matter what sexual preference: "Edward is completely in love with Gaveston, he gives up everything for him," he said in an interview.

### Britons want legal brothels

**LONDON:** A majority of Britons would favour legalised brothels as long as the establishments were "small and discreet," according to survey released on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The Mori survey found 55 per cent of those questioned would back legal brothels. Of nearly 2,000 people polled, 33 per cent said they would oppose such a move with 12 per cent uncommitted.

The survey was commissioned by the Corrective Party, which sees itself as a political champion on sexual freedom.

Party leader Lindi St Clair, who campaigns under the name of Miss Whiplash, said the survey showed most Britons wanted legal brothels.

"We are going to go to Downing street with this and make it known to (Prime Minister John Major) what his country wants," she told a party meeting in central London.