

BRIEFLY

23 blacks killed in Johannesburg:

At least 23 people were killed in bloody attacks in black townships, police said Monday, including 10 mowed down by gunmen who stormed a bar and nearby homes, reports AP from Johannesburg.

It was the one of the worst weekends of violence in Johannesburg's black townships in recent months, police said. The killings came despite a peace pact signed last month by most main political groups.

Police commanders moved reinforcements into townships Monday in an attempt to contain the violence. Heavily armed police in armored trucks patrolled streets.

Seven ROK students jailed:

Seven radical students convicted of assaulting Prime Minister Chung Won-shik earlier this year were sentenced Monday to prison terms ranging from two to 3 1/2 years, reports AP.

The three-judge court also imposed a suspended two-year sentence on three others involved in the attack, which aroused public furor over campus radicalism.

Chung, an education specialist, was kicked and attacked with eggs and flour by radical students after he gave a lecture to graduate students of Seoul's Hankook University of Foreign Studies in June. Chung had scheduled the lecture before being appointed prime minister in a cabinet reshuffle 10 days earlier.

12 killed in copter crash:

A helicopter crashed Sunday in southeastern Venezuela killing all 12 people on board, authorities said, reports AFP from Caracas.

The whirl-bird plummeted to the ground in Canaima National Park, in Bolivar state near the border with Guyana, the sources said, adding that the cause of the crash was not determined immediately.

Among the victims of the crash was Cesar Hernandez Acosta, President of the hydroelectric firm Electricidad Del Caroni (EDELCA), sources added.

Perez's special envoy in Syria:

A United Nations envoy who has been negotiating a prisoner swap that would free Western hostages in Lebanon arrived in Syria on Sunday, diplomats said, reports Reuters.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's special envoy, Giandomenico Picco, visited Syria and Lebanon to negotiate the release of the last three Western hostages — Britons John McCarthy and Jack Mann, and American Edward Tracy.

The diplomats said they expected Picco to travel on to Beirut but they did not know when he would leave.

Kim ends China visit:

North Korean President Kim Il Sung completed a 10-day tour of China that included visits to high-tech factories and tips from Chinese leaders on how to reform its centrally planned economy, reports AP from Beijing.

The state-run Xinhua News Agency disclosed early Monday that Kim had left the night before. His schedule had been kept a tight secret throughout the visit and foreign journalists had been given no access to him.

Kim arrived October 4 in search of aid for his stagnant state-run economy and moral support in a world turning away from communism. The collapse of the Soviet Communist Party and Soviet economy left North Korea without its main aid donor and trade partner.

Iraqi call to lift trade embargo:

Arab political figures Sunday ended a three-day meeting in Baghdad with an urgent call to the United Nations to lift a 4-month-old trade embargo imposed on Iraq after its occupation of Kuwait, reports AFP.

The conference, which grouped more than 800 people, according to Baghdad, also denounced alleged attempts by Iran and Turkey to undermine the unity of Iraq, saying that the leaders of both countries played "suspect roles."

A statement said steps should be taken to "lift, without any delay, the unfair embargo imposed by the American administration on Iraq through United Nations resolutions."

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The number of South Americans was 71,495 an increase of more than three-fold from a year earlier.

Most were ethnic Japanese from Brazil, Argentina and Peru seeking better wages in seeking employment.

Koreans were the largest single group of foreigners, numbering 687,940 most of them descendants of those forced to come to Japan to work during its imperial rule of Korea.

They were followed by Chinese, at 150,339 Brazilians at 56,429 and Filipinos at 49,092.

VICTORIA FALLS, Oct 14: A hotel in one of the most spectacular settings in the world is about to reopen its doors with a glittering first list of guests — the presidents and prime ministers of nearly 50 countries.

A year or so ago the 276-bedroom Elephant Hills Hotel still stood an empty shell, a reminder of the war that killed 30,000 people in the old Southern Rhodesia. It was wrecked by rockets fired from the other side of the Zambezi by guerrillas of the liberation armies.

Today the \$50 million hotel, with its giant swimming pool and golf course stands ready to host the Retreat — that special informal weekend for leaders in mid-conference that is unique to the Commonwealth.

In no other international organisation do world leaders have quite the same kind of opportunity to mix work and play, strike up new friendships

and renew old ones. Past retreats have been held in such spots as Mont Tremblant in Canada, Glenageary in Scotland and Langkawi island off the Malaysian coast.

This time the view from the windows will be of the Victoria Falls, where in the rainy season 545 million litres of water cascade into a 100-metre chasm every minute. At two kilometres it is the world's widest body of falling water — twice as high and one and a half times wider than Niagara Falls.

The Victoria Falls were named by Scottish Missionary-Explorer David Livingstone, who in 1855 was the first European to set eyes on them. Locally they are known as Mosi oa Tunya — the smoke that thunders.

The Falls are the greatest tourist attraction in Central Africa and the rebuilding in time for the conference of the Elephant Hills Hotel, together with improved roads, will give a big boost to the flow of foreign visitors afterwards.

The golf course, developed from an original design by Gary Player, is one of the most spectacular in the world.

Lakhs of illegal immigrants rush for 40,000 visas in US

WASHINGTON, Oct 14: Tens of thousands of illegal immigrants flooded a suburban Virginia post office on Saturday and Sunday with applications for a lottery of 40,000 visas that will permit them to live and work legally in the United States, reports Reuters.

The lottery is limited to nationals from 35 countries mostly European. Under a provision of the Immigration Act of 1990, Irish illegal immigrants are to get 40 per cent of the available permanent visa Green Cards.

The Merrifield Post Office, 15 miles (35 kms) outside Washington, drew applicants like magnets because it was selected to process the applications that are expected to total at least five million.

There was a carnival atmosphere as immigrants milled about in front of the post office to deposit applications in collection boxes in hopes of winning no-question-asked Green Cards.

Portable toilets were set up and trucks dispensed gallons of hot coffee to applicants.

Police said as many as 75,000 people were expected at the Merrifield station during the weekend. There was no limit on the number of applications any could file.

Peter Brezina of Chicago, who counsels Polish immigrants, said on Sunday he had submitted 1,000 applications

for his clients but warned them not to be too hopeful. "I told them their chances were very little, almost none," he said.

Many immigrants hoped to boost their chances by mailing their applications at Merrifield despite postal authorities, attempt to discourage the notion that posting them there was better than using any other post office.

Two tall, red-haired young men leaving the station on Sunday said they thought it worth while travelling to Merrifield because then they could be certain there would be no delay in getting their bids to the processing point.

Ex-Filipino Mayor, his 2 sons killed in NPA attack

LEGAZPI, Philippines, Oct 14: A former town Mayor and his two sons, both policemen were killed and six other people wounded in an ambush by communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas the police in this city south of Manila said today, reports AFP.

Ciriaco Cariaga, and his two sons Rodolfo and Federico, were killed in an ambush Sunday as they were on their way to negotiate the surrender of six NPA guerrillas police official said.

Six civilians were wounded in the NPA attack which lasted for about 15 minutes.

Cariaga was a former town Mayor of Bula town in the province of Camarines Sur, south of Manila

majority it won in multi-party polls last year.

An earlier report says: Bulgarians voted Sunday to choose their second multi-party parliament since one-party communist rule ended nearly two years ago.

Main rivals for 240 seats in the new Assembly are the former Communist Party which swept to victory in last year's polls — and fragmented opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF).

The polls, and a parallel vote for local government officials, are the second multi-party elections in Bulgaria since the headline communist regime of Todor Zhivkov was ousted in November 1989.

They are also the first follow-up elections to be held by any former communist East European state.

But a lacklustre pre-election campaign suggested public enthusiasm had been dampened since last year's election.

Opinion surveys said at least 12 per cent of the 6.3 million electorate might not bother to vote — a high rate of abstention among voters used to 100 per cent turnout for token elections during communist rule.

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Bush was asked to comment on chances for Baker arranging a peace conference by the end of this month between Arabs and Israelis.

"I don't know how to rate the odds on that but I do know that most prospective participants want to go to the table and that's quite different than it used to be," Bush said in a brief meeting with reporters at a golf course in the Maryland countryside.

"So I'm somewhat hopeful that Secretary Baker can move this forward now," the President said.

Baker arrived in Egypt on Sunday on his eighth trip to the region since the end of the Gulf War.

Baker is due to go on to Jordan, Syria and Israel to see whether remaining obstacles to peace talks can be ironed out.

There are questions about who would represent Palestinians and differences about whether Israel should be prepared to give up occupied Arab land, something Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir says he will never accept.

ROH TAE-WOO, South Korea, Oct 14: President Roh Tae-woo tried Monday to increase the pressure for North Korea to disclose its nuclear weapons development plans, threatening UN action to force Pyongyang to dismantle its facilities, reports AP.

"North Korea may plunge into an unfortunate situation if it is subject to international restrictions as was Iraq," Roh told a government advisory body on national reunification.

Under the cease-fire resolution that ended the Gulf War this year, the UN Security Council required Iraq to help destroy its own weapons of mass destruction including its nuclear weapons development programme.

COLOMBO, Oct 14: Government troops killed at least 50 Tamil Tiger guerrillas in a counter offensive to beat of a rebel attempt to overrun an army post in northeast Sri Lanka. Press reports here said today, reports AFP.

Military officials said at least five soldiers were killed by the 250-man attack force of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) near the army garrison in coastal Mullaitivu district Sunday.

A military spokesman here could not immediately confirm the casualty figures but said troops backed by intense air cover repulsed the surprise assault on the camp. No fresh fighting was reported overnight Sunday, he said.

Racist attacks on in Germany: Two injured

IMMENSTADT (Germany), Oct 14: Two foreigners seeking political asylum in Germany were seriously injured when a group of people set fire to their hostel in the early hours of Sunday, police said, reports AFP.

They said three "skin-heads," all aged 17, had been arrested in connection with the attack.

One of the two foreigners suffered broken legs and hand injuries after jumping out of a window to escape the fire, which was set at around 2:00 am after a group of people had threatened the immigrants.

Another foreigner was hospitalized after inhaling smoke in the fire, and three

freighters were slightly injured while putting it out.

In all, seven asylum-seekers were in the hostel at the time of the fire.

The incident was the latest in series of racist attacks against foreigners, most of which have occurred in former East Germany.

On Saturday, several thousand Germans staged protests in several cities against the violence.

In Cologne, Bielefeld, Essen and Dusseldorf anti-racist marches and rallies brought more than 6,000 people onto the streets.

Demonstrators shouted "long live co-existence between Germans and foreigners."

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NEW DELHI, Oct 14: The Congress (I) has renominated matinee idol Rajesh Khanna to contest the by-election from the prestigious New Delhi Lok Sabha Constituency, the Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, announced shortly before leaving for Harare today, reports PTI.

Khanna will face the BJP nominee and cine star, Shatrughan Singh.

Khanna had lost the seat in the last election to the BJP leader, L. K. Advani by a narrow margin.

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Bandits kill 2, abduct 28 in Sind

ISLAMABAD, Oct 14: Bandits have killed two people and seized 28 hostages for ransom in Pakistan's southern province of Sind, the official APP news agency said today, reports Reuters.

A gang of bandits, known locally as dacoits, killed two villagers and kidnapped nine near Dadutown on Sunday. They later released three with a ransom demand for 300,000 rupees (12,000 dollars), the agency said.

In a separate attack late on Sunday, a gang kidnapped 22 passengers after ambushing a minibus, APP said.

Police believed many of those kidnapped were injured when bandits fired on their bus to stop it, the agency said.

Baker's latest ME trip will be fruitful: Bush

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Off the Record



TOKYO: New Miss International, 1991 Agnieszka of Poland (C), 1st runner-up Catherine Anne Marie Clarysse of France (L) and 2nd runner-up Marketa Silna of Czechoslovakia (R) pose for pictures in the Miss International Beauty Pageant, 1991. — AFP/UNB photo

Democracy a complete garbage: Castro

HAVANA: Cuban President Fidel Castro, scornfully rejecting western style democracy as "complete garbage," has said he is convinced Cuba's one party socialist system is the most democratic in the world, reports Reuters.

It's good that we should talk about democracy, once and for all. And let's forget about the world's criteria," Castro said on Saturday night on the third day of a congress of Cuba's ruling communist party.

His lengthy statement was reported in full by Cuba's state-run radio Rebelde on Sunday.

The Cuban leader addressing congress delegates in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba 1,000 km (600 miles) from Havana contrasted his country's single party socialist system with what he called the dangerous fragmentation of multi-party policies in the West.

"I am of the conviction that our system is the most democratic in the world," he said adding, "and now we want to make it still more perfect."

He went on to say that Western bourgeois democracy has nothing to do with democracy its complete garbage, truly.

His remarks were clear evidence that the veteran president who has ruled Cuba since the revolution he led in 1959, had absolutely no intention of swapping his country's one party system for western-style multi-party politics.

MANILA: The Philippines top radio station announced Monday that it will give a pair of shoes to each of 50 people who will correctly guess the exact date of Imelda Marcos' return from US exile, reports AFP.

The write-in contest, inspired by the 1,220 pairs of shoes left by the former First Lady after fleeing in 1986 and put on display in a museum at the Presidential Palace, was launched by Manila radio station DZRH three weeks before her planned return.

Marcos recently said she will return to the Philippines on November 4 despite Manila's ban on her bringing back the remains of her deposed husband Ferdinand, but she had already postponed her arrival several times, causing doubts about her latest announcement.

The contest will go on as long as she remains in New York, DZRH news manager Deo Macalana said.

Fifty winners will be selected from among the thousands expected to send their written answers to DZRH, and will each be given a gift certificate from a store, he said.

The shoe store and the value of the certificate have not been determined.

MANAMA, (Bahrain): Saudi King Fahd has ordered the return of passports to women who last year defied a ban on female driving, a protest that shook the conservative Muslim nation, sources said Sunday, reports AP.

About 50 women led last November's "drive-in" in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, causing widespread alarm in the deeply religious kingdom.

The sources, travelers arriving from the kingdom, said an anniversary protest involving a boycott of shopping centers regularly patrolled by the powerful Saudi religious police was planned this week.

The role of women in Saudi society came under fire during the buildup of the 500,000 Western troops prior to the Gulf War. The troops included American women who drove trucks and had leadership roles, and this was said to have encouraged the Saudi women to defy a ban on female driving.

In last year's protest, the defiant drivers were stopped by the Mutawa and taken to police stations. They were banned from speaking to others, including journalists, and their passports were seized.

Some, who were professors at all-female colleges at Riyadh university, were banned from teaching. Sympathizers were brought to police stations to sign pledges not to let their sisters and wives drive.

LONDON: Britain's Princess Diana has been receiving hate mail over her high-profile campaign to help victims of AIDS and fight public prejudice about the killer disease, a British newspaper reported on Monday, says Reuters.

The 30-year-old Princess, the popular wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles, is credited with helping raise public awareness about the disease by visiting AIDS clinics and comforting the afflicted.

She makes a point of hugging babies with AIDS and holding hands with victims to show that people need not be afraid of infection through casual contact. The AIDS virus, which attacks the immune system, is spread through sexual contact or contaminated body fluids.