

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 Reuter.

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."

Foreigners in Japan rise by 92 p.c.

TOKYO, Oct 14: The number of foreigners living in Japan has reached a record high, with a sharp increase in arrivals of ethnic Japanese from South America seeking work, the Ministry of Justice said, reports Reuter.

There were 1,075 million foreigners in Japan at the end of 1990, an increase of 92 per cent over a year earlier and the highest level since the ministry began keeping figures in 1960. It said in statistics released at the weekend.

Foreigners accounted for 0.87 per cent of Japan's population of 123.6 million, the ministry said.

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.

The Victoria Falls were

and renew old ones.

Past retreats have been held in such spots as Mont Tremblant in Canada, Gleneagles 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 wide body of falling water — twice as high and one and a half times wider than Niagara Falls.

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

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 Most on 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.

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Elephants roam the area and, in between the informal talking and taking the chance for bilateral meetings, the Commonwealth leaders will have the chance to indulge in the more adventurous sport of white-water rafting below the falls.

The main summit business will take place in the international conference centre in Harare's Sheraton Hotel, which was built by a Yugoslav company in 1985. The hall to be used for the opening ceremony seats 4,500, but the meeting of leaders itself is a small affair, with only about

150

people in quite a small room.

The 48 leaders — two member countries, Tuvalu and Nauru, are in a special category and do not attend these summits — are allowed only two officials sitting behind them.

A few days before the summit opens Queen Elizabeth, as Head of the Commonwealth, will arrive in Zimbabwe on a state visit. She plays no part in the talks, but meets the leaders one by one and hosts a banquet for them.

GEMINI NEWS

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