

BRIEFLY

IFJ call to protect newsmen : The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) on Wednesday urged the London Conference on Yugoslavia to protect journalist and media workers caught in the crossfire of the conflict. Reuter says from Brussels.

"The London Conference must take urgent action to stop the slaughter of media workers and to force all sides to respect freedom of the press," IFJ General Secretary Aidan White said in a statement.

He said 27 deaths of journalists have already been recorded since the Yugoslav conflict started last year. In addition, scores of media workers have been injured, he added.

The Brussels-based IFJ, which represents more than 300,000 journalists in 64 countries, said it was supporting a mission to Zagreb next week to investigate the circumstances in which two journalists were killed in Croatia.

Russia, S. Africa jt venture likely : Russia and South Africa intend to set up a joint venture for concentrating gold ore that will use advanced Soviet-designed technology, the Interfax news agency reported Wednesday.

According to a memorandum signed last week in South Africa, the joint venture will use the technology designed in the former Soviet Nuclear Energy Ministry that allows to receive bullions with 99.99 percent of gold, Interfax said.

It said profits will be split evenly between the founders, the Russian Atomredmetzoloto corporation and the South African MinTec company.

The joint venture will be located in South Africa, the report said.

In addition, the two countries expressed their mutual interest in cooperation in mining and concentrating ores of gold, platinum, tungsten, vanadium, chromium and other rare and non-ferrous metals, Interfax said.

Ban on Pak religious parties soon : Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Wednesday his government might ban parties based on religious sects. Reuter reports from Karachi.

The sectarian parties had done much harm rather than good to the country, he said in a speech to businessmen in Karachi capital of troubled Sind province where an army-led crime crackdown is underway for the past three months.

Seven people were killed and several wounded in gun battles between rival Muslim sect Monday in the northern town of Gilgit where a curfew was later imposed.

Sharif said some religious parties had contributed to creating hatred rather than love among the people.

Presley's drummer dead : Drummer Larrie Londin, who played in Elvis Presley's last concerts and recorded with stars of Motown and country music, has died at age 48, AP says from Nashville.

Londin died Monday at Baptist Hospital. He had suffered an irregular heartbeat April 24 and lapsed into a coma.

As a recording session drummer in Detroit, he played on hit records by the Supremes, Marvin Gaye and the Temptations. He moved to Nashville from Detroit in 1969 and toured with various rock "n' roll and country stars. He played at Presley's last two concerts in 1977.

After that, he began concentrating on studio work. He drummed on pop recordings by Glenn Frey, Journey, the Carpenters and Adrian Belew and on country songs by Randy Travis, Reba McEntire, Vince Gill, George Strait, Dan Seals and others.

Londin is survived by his wife and two sons.

Quake shakes Podgorica : An earthquake Wednesday night shook Podgorica, capital of the Yugoslav state of Montenegro, sending panicked people into the streets, the Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug reported, AP says from Belgrade.

There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties. The quake measured 4.5 on the Richter scale and had its epicentre nine miles southeast of Podgorica, formerly named Titograd, near the Albanian border.

Tanjug reported that the tremor was felt along Montenegro's Adriatic coast and there were aftershocks.

Militants hurl grenade into truck : 16 injured

JAMMU, Aug 27: Muslim separatists threw a hand grenade into a military truck, wounding 16 paramilitary soldiers in Jammu, a Hindu-dominated town where the militants had never struck before, police said Thursday, reports AP.

Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu-Kashmir state, was virtually shut in response to a strike call by a hardline Hindu party demanding tough action against the militants supporters.

Government offices and banks were opened, but few employees could reach their desks because public transportation was off the streets. Political activists stoned private cars that defied the strike.

"The situation in Jammu is really grave," said police Deputy Inspector General Rajan Bakshi. He claimed Wednesday's attack on the troop-carrying truck could have been prevented if the forces were not diverted by the strike action and political conflict.

Bakshi said the militants hurled the grenade through the open canvas flap at the rear of the truck that was travelling on Residential Road, a boulevard in an affluent residential area.

He said the police were concerned at the militants' ability to strike in Jammu, a city of 700,000 people that is 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of the Muslim-majority

On Tuesday night nine Blacks were wounded by gunmen firing from a train leaving Johannesburg central station.

They said men armed with guns and knives carried out the latest attack on Wednesday night on a train serving townships east of Johannesburg. Two other passengers were wounded.

In an earlier attack on Wednesday morning three people were killed by a gang which police said rampaged through a train signing African National Congress freedom songs.

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On Wednesday, rock-throw-

Post cold war summit opens in Jakarta Sept 1
Reaching consensus may be difficult for NAM states

JAKARTA, Aug 27: Leaders of 106-member Non-Aligned Movement start pouring into Jakarta this week for a summit that host Indonesia hopes will give developing countries stronger economies and more say in how the world is governed, reports Reuter.

But political analysts say the group is so diverse and riven by internal disputes that it will be near impossible to achieve more than very general consensus on what to do now there is no cold war.

"We want it [the movement] to be non-confrontational and more rational," Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told reporters on Wednesday night. He pointed to the need to



24 HOUR TOLL OF DEAD: A woman walks past bodies laid out at the morgue in Sarajevo. Artillery duels ripped the city Wednesday with two hospitals putting a partial 24-hour toll of dead on arrivals at 15. A former military hospital also took a direct hit, killing a nurse. — AFP/UNB photo

Israel rules out Palestinian plan for election

WASHINGTON, Aug 27: Israelis and Arabs took sharply opposing stands on land, elections and settlements as they headed toward the end of a week of talks characterized by unusual cordiality, reports AP.

Israel's chief negotiator on Wednesday ruled out a Palestinian plan for electing a legislative body in the occupied territories as an unacceptable step toward a Palestinian state.

The Palestinians, in turn, linked progress in the talks to resolution of the issue of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, while Syria rejected any partial solution to its demand for the return of the Golan Heights.

Israel has put forth a plan to elect an administrative council

The current round, the sixth and by far the most relaxed since talks opened in Madrid last September, will recess for the weekend after Thursday's session. The Israelis and their negotiating partners—Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians—are expected to stay in Washington for about a month.

After a two-hour session Wednesday, chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi said "there was no forward movement" in Israel's proposals for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories. But they were not being rejected, he added.

Israel's chief negotiator Elyakim Rubinstern, speaking at a news conference, rejected the Palestinians' previous proposal for an elected legislature. "What is not offered," he said, "is a legislative council and legislative powers which are tantamount to those of a sovereign state".

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said the initial reaction to the Israeli plan was "one of skepticism and of disappointment".



A NEW CLIMATE: Muslim Palestinian women pass an Israeli soldier standing guard Wednesday as the army reopened several streets on the Gaza Strip which had been barricaded off to help prevent riots. The measure is one of a series of Israeli gestures aimed at creating a new climate for the Middle East peace talks in Washington. — AFP/UNB photo

refugee tide has been a dramatic jump in the number of known rightist extremists, and the number of cases of violence against foreigners.

After the riots erupted, Uwe Jannutseh, a 36-year-old art teacher, stood in Rostock's picturesque central square with a sign reading, "I am a Rostocker. I am ashamed." For many passersby, the attacks called to mind the country's painful Nazi legacy.

IG Medien, the main journalists and printers union, said the violence "is a troubling reminder" of the events of the Third Reich's infamous 1938 Crystal Night when thousands of Nazi thugs attacked Jews and plundered their homes and businesses.

The country's main Jewish organization, the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said Tuesday that it was appalled by the throngs of Rostock residents who cheered on the rightist radicals and neo-Nazis.

Support shown, by more than a thousand onlookers for the radical rightist storm troopers was especially offensive," the council said, referring to Hitler's Nazi militia. "Onlookers were reminiscent of the culpable actions of those who 60 years ago made possible the emergence of National Socialist (Nazi) barbarism."

diversified. Even with only a handful of countries it is difficult to get consensus."

The NAM — founded by India, Egypt and Yugoslavia — currently groups 104 nations, but is due to admit Brunei and Uzbekistan during next week's meeting.

Analysts said the movement faces so many internal disputes the summit will be hard pressed to come up with a strong enough consensus to jolt industrial countries into action on such issues as foreign debt relief or wider distribution of power in the United Nations.

Among the many disputes dividing members, the issue of founder member Yugoslavia

and its breakaway republics poses the most immediate problem to resolve, they said.

Some, notably Islamic countries such as Iran, Egypt and Malaysia which are furious over the treatment of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, want what remains of Yugoslavia expelled.

They say it is no longer the country which headed the movement for the last three years and which must break tradition by passing the chair to Indonesia before the summit starts.

Diplomats said some African and Asian countries — including Indonesia itself — oppose expulsion for fear of offering a precedent on problems they have themselves.

The OIC groups Muslim nations around the world.

"We ... reject the blind and brutal use of force aimed at imposing (Serbia's) sectarian and nihilistic law in the former Yugoslavia," he said in a speech made available to journalists.

It is well known to all that the ambitions of Serbian leaders are to substitute a "greater Serbia" for former Yugoslavia," OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabidi told a closed session of the London International Conference on Yugoslavia.

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Rebels fired automatic weapons and rifle-mounted grenades at the soldiers southeast of Madagal town, which troops captured last week, said Col. Sarath Munasinghe, the army's spokesman.

Two soldiers were killed and four wounded in the dawn attack at the town, about 11 kilometers (seven miles) north of Jaffna town, Munasinghe said.

Troops had captured the town after a two-day offensive that left 70 rebels and one soldier dead, he said.

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Peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia by year-end

CZECHOSLOVAKIA, Aug 27: Czech and Slovak leaders agreed late Wednesday on a timetable to divide up Czechoslovakia by the end of the year, reports AP.

The announcement was made after eight hours of talks between Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus and his Slovak counterpart Vladimir Meciar in this Moravian town.

"On Jan 1, there will be two republics, two states," said Meciar.

Klaus told reporters, "I am sure we shall be able to form better relations with Slovakia than we have now."

The two leaders reached principal consensus on how to divide the 74-year-old federation but said a series of agreements were needed to complete the peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia.

"Today we have taken another step toward the division of the federation," said Miloslav Macek, Klaus's deputy in the Civic Democratic Party.

The agreement on the divorce of the two constituent republics is subject to approval by the federal parliament in Prague. It requires a three-fifths majority, and opposition is likely to come from the strong left-wing faction in the 300-seat legislature.

Irreconcilable disputes over the pace and scope of post-Communist economic reforms are at the root of the split.

Klaus and Meciar agreed shortly after the country's general election in June to divide the federation into two sovereign republics and spell out details of the deal by the end of September.

The two men said Wednesday that during September they will submit to the federal parliament two crucial constitutional laws for approval. One will be on the dissolution of the federation, the other on the division of powers.

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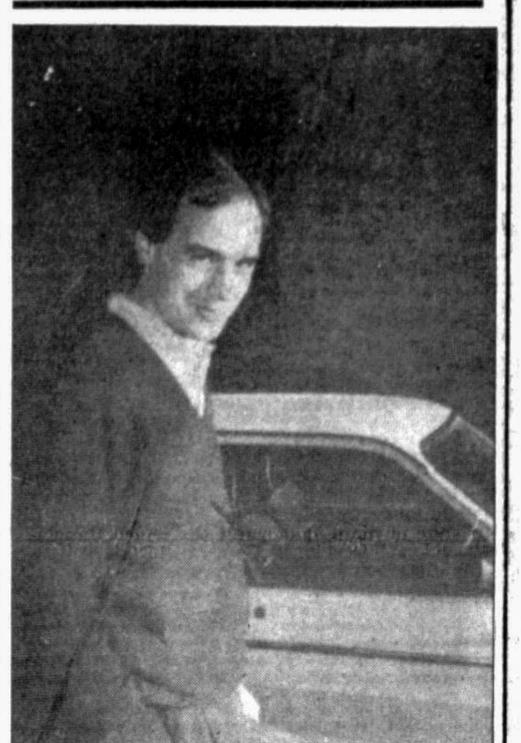
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Off the Record



MYSTERY MAN OF DI: Undated file photo of James Gilbey, who is said to be the mystery man on a recorded telephone call with, it is alleged, the Princes of Wales. The recording, made in 1989, is the subject of a new Royal controversy. — AFP/UNB photo

Diana's love chat

LONDON: Britain's royalty-obsessed Tabloid newspapers on Wednesday named an old friend of Princess Diana as the male admirer quoted in a much-publicised telephone "love chat" attributed to the future queen, reports Reuter.

The newspapers agreed the so-called "Dianagate" tape was probably genuine and said the man who blew her kisses down the telephone had to be James Gilbey, a former escort.

Suggestions that Diana is emotionally entangled with another man could strike a new blow to public confidence in the monarchy, already humiliated by newspaper photographs of the Duchess of York, estranged wife of Queen Elizabeth's second son Prince Andrew, in topless frolics with an American businessman.

The Tabloids said the woman in the 23-minute conversation was almost certainly princess Diana Glamorous wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles. The woman is heard saying her husband "makes her life torture".

Buckingham palace has said it cannot be sure after listening to the tape whether the woman is Diana or someone trying to imitate her. The 31-year-old princess has kept silent over the tape.

Best way to enrich English vocabulary

TOKYO: Tens of thousands of Japanese have scooped up copies of a waterproof English vocabulary book that turns time spent in the bathtub into study hall, reports AP.

The book, entitled "Remembering English Vocabulary in the Bath" looks like just another of the hundred of English primers available here.

But its waterproof paper, made of the synthetic polypropylene, sets it apart — as do the booming sales it's racking up in bookstores.

Dalichi Nakagawa, a spokesman for the book's publisher, Kyogakusha, said 100,000 copies — at 7.50 dollar each — have been sold since last year.

Homeless monkeys carry AIDS

MIAMI: Dozens of monkeys freed from a laboratory by Hurricane Andrew roamed the streets, worrying people who feared they carried AIDS. A lab official said Wednesday there was no threat to humans, reports AP.

Two baboons also were loose in the Metropolitan Correctional Center a federal prison compound. It wasn't clear where they came from.

All inmates, including former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, had been evacuated from the damaged prison on Sunday and Monday.

It wasn't known if the baboons escaped from Miami Metro-zoo or Monkey Jungle, both of which were badly hit and lost primates. Phone lines to both zoos were down Wednesday.

About 330 rhesus monkeys had been housed in outside cages at the University of Miami's primate research lab in Perrine, said its director of veterinary resources, Dr Joseph Wagner.

The storm destroyed the caging and killed about 30 monkeys, he said. Other monkeys roamed the lab compound and about 50 more were missing Wednesday.

Anti-foreign violence catastrophe for a civilized society

BERLIN, Aug 27: For many Germans, recent anti-foreign riots in the Baltic port of Rostock call to mind the Nazis' brutal pogrom against the Jews. Hordes of youthful right-wing street fighters are condemned as "storm troopers", reports AP.

Though 1992 is a long way from 1933 and the rhetoric is overheated, Germans are pointing to the murderous legacy of the Third Reich.

Daily television news images of street battles in Rostock have shocked the country. Once a proud East German shipbuilding centre, the city is economically depressed after unification, leaving many young people unemployed and restless.

On Wednesday, rock-throw-

ing neo-Nazi skinheads chanting "Germany for Germans, Foreigners Out" clashed for a fifth night with police protecting a refugee centre. Police say more than 180 police have been injured and more than 240 rightists have been detained since the violence began.

Heinrich Heinsen, the head of police in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania state, said Wednesday he did not believe the violence stemmed from a nationally planned programme.

But he said the rioters had clearly been well-prepared for the Rostock clashes. They monitored police radios and reacted quickly to police tactics.

The refugees, mostly Romanian Gypsies, were moved two days after the attacks started Saturday, and police in other German states said they were stepping up security at refugee shelters.

In an embarrassment to both the city's municipal authorities and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, hundreds of Rostock residents came out to applaud the anti-foreign violence.

Unemployed workers facing a bleak future have been angered by the government's aid for refugees, including housing and financial support.

The violence in Rostock has heated the debate over how to handle Germany's influx of refugees, which this year may double the 1991 record of 256,000. The Interior Ministry says that paralleling the

refugee tide has been a dramatic jump in the number of known rightist extremists, and the number of cases of violence against foreigners.

After the riots erupted, Uwe Jannutseh, a 36-year-old art teacher, stood in Rostock's picturesque central square with a sign reading, "I am a Rostocker. I am ashamed." For many passersby, the attacks called to mind the country's painful Nazi legacy.

IG Medien, the main journalists and printers union, said the violence "is a troubling reminder" of the events of the Third Reich's infamous 1938 Crystal Night when thousands of Nazi thugs attacked Jews and plundered their homes and businesses.

The country's main Jewish organization, the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said Tuesday that it was appalled by the throngs of Rostock residents who cheered on the rightist radicals and neo-Nazis.

Support shown, by more than a thousand onlookers for the radical rightist storm troopers was especially offensive," the council said, referring to Hitler's Nazi militia. "Onlookers were reminiscent of the culpable actions of those who 60 years ago made possible the emergence of National Socialist (Nazi) barbarism."

Civil rights activist Friedrich Schorlemmer said in an interview with the Neue Press newspaper of Hanover that the rioters are attempting to use "raw violence" to impose

their own version of order on society. "That's how fascism started," Schorlemmer said.

Heiner Geissler, a leading member of Kohl's Christian Democrats, called the attacks "a catastrophe for a civilized society" and criticized Rostock residents for their support of the rioters.

Other politicians deplored the violence but pressed for a quick tightening of Germany's liberal asylum laws.

The actual dangers of a widespread Nazi revival in Germany are minimal. The government has been a stable democracy for more than four decades, while the country's economy is Europe's richest and strongest.

More than 2,000 people have been killed in the four-year-old conflict.