

## 49,000 Chinese students to get US residence

WASHINGTON, Sept 12: Some 49,000 Chinese students who were in the United States when the Chinese government cracked down on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing in 1989 will be granted permanent US residence, a magazine reported, says AFP.

### Aristide's close friend shot dead

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Sept 12: A close friend of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was shot dead Saturday and shot dead, witnesses said, reports AFP.

The body of a second, unidentified man was also seen outside the church.

Antoine Izmerly, 46, a Haitian business leader of Palestinian descent who bankrolled Aristide's presidential campaign, was killed outside the Sacre Coeur de Turgeau here after being taken from a mass held to mark the fifth anniversary of a massacre at the church of Saint Jean Bosco.

Father Hugo Triest, who was attending the mass, said the killers were armed guards who were there to ensure security at the mass.

Armed thugs also beat Aristide sympathizers outside the church, witnesses said. Many of the 30 people attending the mass took refuge in a neighbouring Presbyterian church.

Izmerly's body could be seen lying outside the church after the killing.

Service for permanent resident status since July 1, and most will get approval notices later in this month, US News and World Report said in its September 20 edition.

According to the magazine, the students gained their blanket amnesty on the ground that in 1989, many of them participated in rallies and other activities protesting China's policy.

The students claim Chinese diplomats in the United States monitored them during protests here and sent their names to Beijing, which the students say would put them in danger if they were forced to return home.

But the Chinese government has said it would welcome the students back despite their past political views if they ended their anti-government activity upon returning, the magazine says.

Despite growing anti-immigrant sentiment in United States, the Chinese students bid to stay has succeeded while efforts by other groups have failed, the news weekly said, citing their high-profile struggle, high level of education and organization.

"The images of young Chinese squaring off against tanks in Beijing touched off an emotional chord in Americans that the tragedies in Haiti or even Bosnia could not match," the magazine said.

Lynda Zengerle, a partner in a Washington law firm that has donated more than 500,000 dollars worth of legal aid to the students, told the magazine, "Haiti has got rats sinking in the ocean. It's just not the same thing."

## Arafat's opponents call for 'day of wrath' today

BEIRUT, Sept 12: Yasser Arafat's rebel militia commander on Saturday called for a "day of wrath" when the PLO leader and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sign a historic peace pact, reports AP.

At the same time, representatives of 10 Syrian-backed Palestinian groups and nine fundamentalist Muslim factions called for protest demonstrations throughout Lebanon on Monday against the PLO-Israeli deal.

Radicals and Muslim organizations were reported to be planning similar protests in Palestinian refugee camps in neighbouring Syria on Monday as the anti-Arafat camp stepped up its campaign to wreck the accord.

Arafat and Rabin are scheduled to sign the pact in Washington on Monday, providing for limited self-rule for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho.

Col. Munir Makdah, who heads the 2,000-strong militia force of Arafat's Fatah group, said in a statement that the PLO Chairman Arafat has "ruled himself out as a Palestinian."

"I call on Palestinians throughout Lebanon to stage a day of wrath on Monday to outline our rejection of the PLO-Israeli recognition plan," he declared.

Makdah last month demanded that Arafat resign over his secret peace dealings with Israel and the PLO chief's willingness to accept limited self-

rule rather than an independent Palestinian state.

Despite the rebellion by Makdah, the most senior PLO military leader to publicly oppose Arafat's plan, he has not yet been sacked.

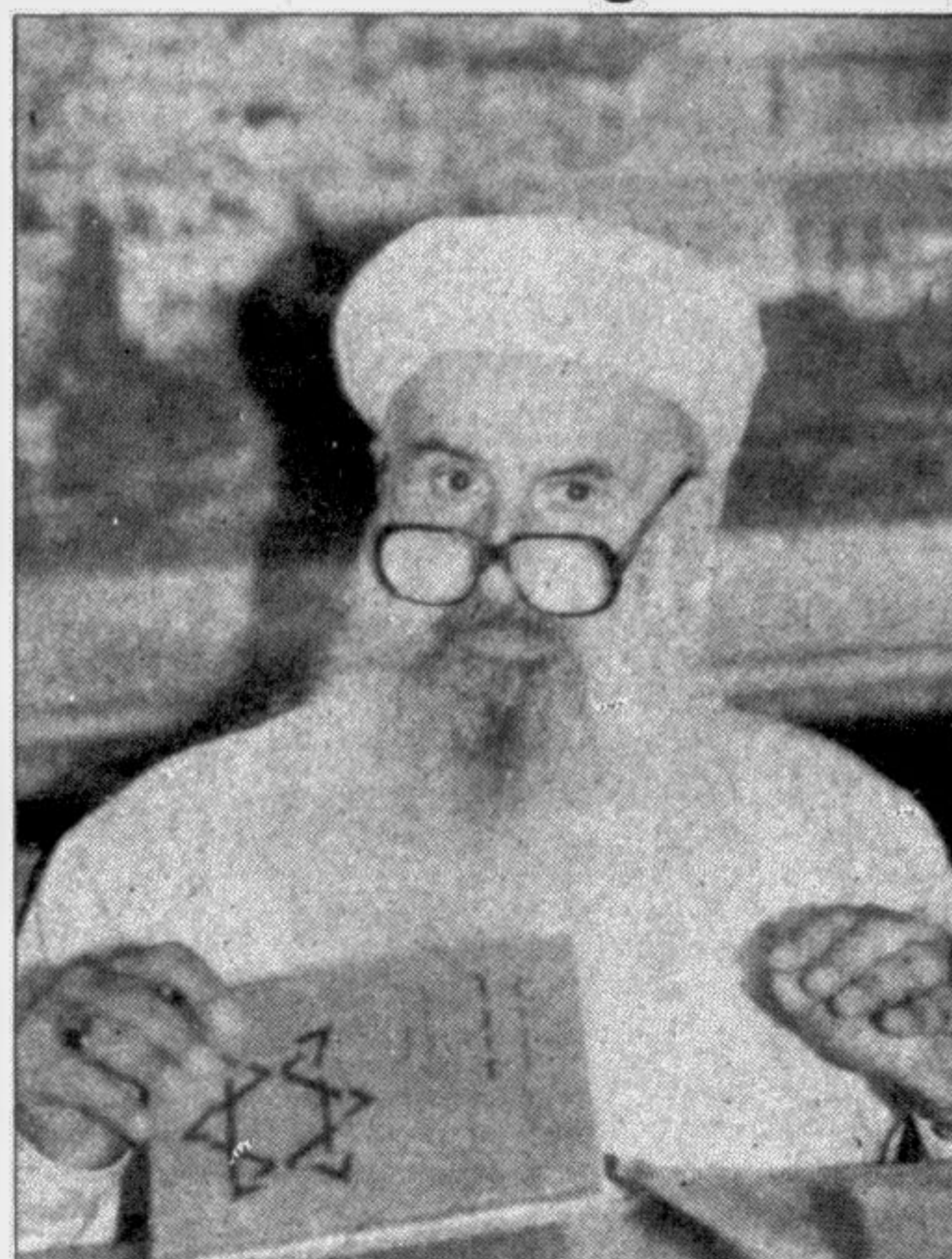
Meanwhile, fundamentalist Muslim clergymen meeting in Sidon, the provincial capital of South Lebanon, issued a religious ruling banning "reconciliation with Israel." The clergymen, in a statement, also exhorted Muslims to support armed resistance against Israel to torpedo the accord.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah, the Shiite Muslim Party of God, threw its weight behind the anti-Arafat opposition. Hezbollah's deputy secretary-general, Na'cem Qasim, denounced Arafat's "treasonous actions."

In Amman, Jordan, Ahmed Jamal, a member of the politburo of the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said factions are planning a top-level meeting in the next few days to draw up a strategy to wreck Israel's agreement with the PLO.

Tayseer Qubaa, who sits on the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's politburo, said the meeting will likely convene in Damascus, the Syrian capital.

Both factions are part of the 1-group alliance of so-called rejectionists based in Damascus formed last September to sabotage the US-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace process, which started in October 1991.



The Leader of the Islamic Palestinian Organisation "Jihad Islamic Beit Al-Makdess," Sheikh Assad Bayoud Al-Tamimi, holds his book "Extermination of Israel" during a press conference in Amman yesterday. Sheikh Tamimi announced the withdrawal of his movement from the National Palestinian Council in protest against the Israeli-PLO autonomy agreement for Gaza and Jericho. — AFP photo

## 15 more killed as troops, Kurds clash in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey, Sept 12: At least 15 more people died in clashes between Turkish forces and Kurdish guerrillas, a local official said yesterday, bringing the death toll to 36 in three days of fighting, reports AP.

Meanwhile, a five-member delegation of Italian lawmakers headed for Turkey on Saturday in a bid to free two of their nationals who were among seven foreigners taken hostage by Kurdish rebels last month.

Turkey's southeast has been the scene of intense fighting recently as government troops mounted a major offensive against guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The latest casualties reported Saturday in southeastern Turkey included nine Turkish soldiers, three civilians and three Kurdish rebels, said a Turkish official speaking on

condition of anonymity.

Five Italian members of Parliament headed to Turkey to seek contact with the guerrillas holding Italians Angelo Palego and Anna d'Andrea.

Two Germans, two Swiss and a New Zealander were also among those held by the Kurdish rebels, who reportedly seized them on Mount Ararat in August.

After arriving in Ankara, the five lawmakers were to fly to another area to meet Kurdish representatives, the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

Unidentified sources quoted by ANSA said the Turkish government had agreed to suspend its offensive in the area where the hostages were being held.

The lawmakers' mission follows contacts with the Kurds in recent days by Roberto Formigoni, undersecretary of the environment, ANSA said.

## Italian peacekeepers accused of paying money to Somali gunmen

LONDON, Sept 12: Nigerian troops deployed in Somalia have accused their Italian colleagues in the United Nations peace-keeping force of paying protection money to Somali gunmen, a British newspaper reported Saturday, according to AP.

The Times newspaper said it based its report on "a confidential Nigerian account sent to UN headquarters."

In Rome, the Italian foreign ministry declined to comment on the report. A defence ministry spokesman, speaking on customary condition of anonymity, said Defence Minister Fabio Fabbri had been informed of the report but would not comment until he met Sunday with US Defence Secretary Les Aspin in Rome.

Seven Nigerian soldiers were killed last Sunday as they took over a checkpoint from Italian

UN soldiers in Mogadishu, the chaotic Somali capital.

The Times reported that Italian and Nigerian officers had met elders of Gen Muhammad Farrah Aideed's Habr Gidr clan a few days before that ambush "to ensure a smooth transfer of control at the checkpoint."

The newspaper report said at the meeting clansmen told the Nigerians of their arrangement with the Italian unit to be paid monthly payments of 200 dollar per tribal elder and 60 dollar per militiaman.

"Taken aback by such tactics, the Nigerians refused to accept deal and were ambushed as they tried to take over the checkpoint," The Times reported.

The Italian component of the 28-nation force has been embroiled in controversy since

three Italian troops were killed at the so-called "Checkpoint Pasta" in July — the first Italian casualties in combat since World War II.

The Italian force retook the checkpoint only after talks with Aideed's followers, during which the deal was allegedly struck.

The report, if true, would underscore the prevailing tensions and suspicions between the Nigerian and Italian forces in the UN effort.

Lt Col Ola Oyindola, commander of the Nigerian unit in Somalia, asserted in the wake of the ambush of his men that the Italians hadn't come to their aid. Italy explained that the Nigerian convoy was 500 yards (450 meters) from the Italian checkpoint and the Italians had to remain in place to protect themselves.

## Abiola to return home in 2 weeks

LONDON, Sept 12: Moshood Abiola, the Nigerian politician believed to have won the annulled June 12 presidential elections, will return home from Britain in about two weeks, an aide said Saturday, reports AFP.

He confirmed that Abiola had met members of the interim government that replace military leaders General Ibrahim Babangida last month but refused to give any details of the talks.

Abiola himself said in a BBC-radio interview that he had initially planned to return this weekend but had delayed his return after the head of the interim government Ernest Shonekan had expressed fears for his security.

Abiola denied reaching any kind of compromise with the new Nigerian authorities. He said he had no plan to be a candidate in new presidential elections set for February.

## 'Thatcher knew how to use feminine wiles'

LONDON, Sept 12: Margaret Thatcher, the iron lady of British politics, dominated her cabinet through intimidation, bullying and shouting but she also knew how to use feminine wiles to get her own way, according to several ex-ministers, reports Reuters.

Minister during Thatcher's 11 years in office as Britain's first woman Prime Minister described in a television programme aired on Saturday, how she savaged ministers verbally or cut them down to size with a piercing look or cutting phrase.

Kenneth Baker, a former minister who narrated the BBC programme based on his memoirs and called Maggie's ministers also threw some light on the legend of Thatcher's handbag, which entered into Britain's political lexicon as "handbagging," or being brow beaten into submission by Thatcher during meetings.

Baker said that ministers lived in dread of Thatcher opening her handbag during a cabinet session to produce from its depths a policy briefing of unknown origin which would directly rebut their own arguments on thorny policy issues.

"If she felt things weren't going her way, one of her techniques to regain control in cabinet was to open her handbag and produce a briefing, this led to a complex guessing game."

Former minister and Conservative Party Chairman Sir Norman Tebbit said, "This meant that ministers had to work out in advance how you shot down the advice in her handbag. If you did it well enough the handbag wasn't used."

According to Malcolm Rifkind, currently Defence Minister in John Major's cabinet, Thatcher deliberately used intimidation to get her way. He quoted her as saying at the

start of one cabinet session, "well I haven't much time today — only enough time to explode."



Margaret Thatcher and have by way.

Major's chancellor of the exchequer (Finance Minister) Kenneth Clarke, who served Thatcher as Health and then Education Minister, said she used her femininity to her advantage.

"She did use her femininity as a weapon. She didn't just shout and bully," Clarke said.

Thatcher's former Public Relations Adviser, Sir Tim Bell, agreed she used her feminine wiles when it suited her.

"She would throw little temper fits, she would be sweet and coquettish. Of course, men find that slightly uncomfortable," Bell said on the British Broadcasting Corporation programme.

Rifkind also recalled that Thatcher, who was ousted in a Conservative Party coup in November 1990, used her charm with the same effect on former US President Ronald Reagan and ex-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

## BRIEFLY

**Emergency in Alma Ata:** A state of emergency was declared in the Kazakhstan capital of Alma Ata after an outbreak of some 200 cases of cholera and two cases of the plague, Russian radio said Sunday, reports AFP from Moscow.

Special hygienic measures to try to isolate the diseases have been put into effect in the capital of the former Soviet central Asian republic, the report said without giving details.

**Quake rocks southern Mexico:** A moderate aftershock registering 5 on the Richter scale rocked southern Mexico on Saturday, one day after a much larger one rattled the area. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, AP reports from Mexico.

The tremor struck at 1:24 pm (1924 GMT) off the Pacific coast of the southern state of Chiapas near the border with Guatemala, the National Autonomous University's Seismological Service in Mexico City reported.

The service said the quake was the largest of some 40 tremors that were registered in the area Saturday. They were all located near the epicentre of the 7.2 magnitude quake that was felt along a 700 mile (1,025 km) wide swath Friday afternoon.

**Road mishap claims 10 in Peru:** An overloaded truck caused a bridge in the southeastern Peruvian Andes to collapse, killing 10 people and injuring 12 others, police said Saturday, AFP reports from Lima.

The accident occurred Friday when a truck carrying 20 tonnes of rice and sugar, as well as an unspecified number of passengers, passed over the bridge with a 10-tonne weight capacity, police said.

The truck, its passengers and cargo, and most of the bridge plunged 25 metres (yards) into the river and sank, police said. Local residents rescued many of the injured who were rushed to local hospitals.

**80 states to attend WTO Confce:** Some 80 countries have confirmed attendance at a conference of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) to be held at the Indonesian resort island of Bali next month, the official Antara news agency said yesterday, AFP reports from Jakarta.

Antara quoted Tourism Director General Andi Mapisameng as saying in Kuta, Bali, that 80 of the 109 member countries of the WTO have already confirmed their participation at the organisation's 10th conference to open on October 4.

The organising committee has said it expects around 700 participants, including a host of ministers, to attend the conference and the congress of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) to be held concurrently in Bali.

**Aideed's faction calls for truce:** Somali warlord Mohamed Aideed's faction Saturday called for a ceasefire and renewed talks with UN forces here, AFP reports from Mogadishu.

Two leaders of the Somali National Alliance told reporters here that "all problems could be settled peacefully."

"We want peace and we call on the international community to stop the massacre of Somali people and to promote dialogue," Mohamed Hassan Awale and Mohamed Siad Issa said.

The two, speaking in the Aideed stronghold of southern Mogadishu, also accused UN forces here of "not being ready to negotiate at a time when an already very tense situation can only get worse."



A man lies dead on the pavement after being run over by the water cannon tank in the background Saturday during police action to repress a march by thousands of leftists protesting the commemoration of the Sep 11, 73 military coup that put Gen Augusto Pinochet in power. Police also used tear gas to prevent the marchers from reaching the presidential palace. — AFP photo

## EC ready to help implement peace plan for Bosnia

ALDEN BIESEN (Belgium) Sept 12: The European Community has said it was ready to help implement a peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina, and called for resumption of the stalled Bosnia peace talks in Geneva, reports AFP.

EC foreign ministers, meeting at a countryside Belgian Chateau late Saturday, agreed to take over the temporary administration of the Bosnian town of Mostar once a peace agreement has been reached.

They also expressed a commitment to help implement a peace agreement in general, but remained at odds over whether the necessary peace-keeping troops should be under the control of the United Nations or the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

"We are ready to help, but we are not prepared to exert pressure on any side (in the negotiations) including the weakest," said the meeting's Chairman, Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes.

The peace talks between

Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Muslims broke down at the end of August.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic would not accept a map for the partition of Bosnia to three republics because he charged the Muslims were being asked to give up too much land at gunpoint.

But EC negotiator David Owen, Co-Chairman of the Bosnia peace talks, told the meeting that the talks might be resumed and even possibly completed by the end of this month.

He said Izetbegovic and Croat President Franjo Tudjman would meet in Geneva next week to discuss Muslim access to the sea — one of the main sticking points of the negotiations.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told journalists, "The Croats are behaving very badly. We must give a guarantee to the weakest party, the Muslims."

But diplomats said there was no discussion of economic

sanction against the Croats, who have been involved in an upsurge of fighting in central Bosnia and around Mostar.

The German minister, Klaus Kinkel, called on the Bosnian Serbs and Croats to make concessions in favour of the Muslims.

He announced that Germany was ready to name an administrator to temporarily run the town of Mostar, where the Muslim quarter is under siege by Croat forces.

The Western European Union (WEU) defence alliance of 10 EC countries has offered to police the town for a maximum two-year period after a Bosnian peace accord is signed.

Kinkel also announced that a German-French team would leave for the mainly-Croatian fishing port of Neum next week to study whether it could be turned into a viable access to the Adriatic for the Muslims.

Claes acknowledged that the EC was split over whether peace-keeping troops in Bosnia should be under UN or NATO command.

## Two killed in Santiago clash

SANTIAGO, Sept 12: Two people were killed and at least six seriously injured on Saturday in clashes between police and thousands of demonstrators in Santiago during the 20th anniversary of the military coup in which Marxist President Salvador Allende and thousands more died, says Reuters.

Earlier, General Augusto Pinochet, who led the 1973 coup, came close to asking Chile's forgiveness and admitted unjustified excesses had been committed during the coup.

"Those who have done nothing, can fear nothing," the 77-year-old Pinochet, who once said he was destined by God to save Chile, told a small group of cheering supporters and army officers in an informal address outside his Santiago home.

## Militants kill 2 cops in Egypt

ASYUT, Egypt, Sept 12: Suspected Muslim militants on Saturday killed two policemen in the southern Egyptian town of Dairut, hours before a trial of 19 fundamentalists was due to open in Cairo, police and court officials were due to open in Cairo, police and court officials said, reports AFP.

Four attackers, believed to be members of the outlawed Jamaa Islamiyya group, carried out the attack as the two policemen were on their way to work in the nearby town of Al-Quesayya, police said.

Markamallah Saber was killed instantly while his colleague Ahmad Abdel Ahkim died in hospital later.

The security forces launched a manhunt for the assailants, they added.

Court officials said the trial of 19 militants accused of belonging to the banned Vanguard of the Conquest (Tal'ah Al-Fatah), which like Jamaa Islamiyya seeks to establish an Islamic state in Egypt, was due to open later Saturday at military high court in Cairo.

They are also accused of sheltering members of the underground organisation.

## Serbs rocket Zagreb suburb: 11 hurt

ZAGREB, Croatia, Sept 12: Two rockets hit a suburb of the Croatian capital and injured 11 people Saturday, as fighting escalated between government troops and rebel Serb forces, reports AP.

The violence threatened to rekindle a six-month war Croatia fought with its rebel Serb minority in 1991 over the republic's secession from Yugoslavia.

UN officials also expressed concern that the renewed fighting could jeopardise peace talks on neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina, where war among Serbs, Croats and Muslims has raged for nearly 18 months.

A Croatian defence ministry official said two surface-to-surface "Luna" rockets, each carrying about 500 kilograms (1,100 pounds) of explosives, hit the southwestern suburb of Lucko.

Police prevented journalists from reaching the impact sites, about 10 kilometers (six miles) from the center of Zagreb.

Associated Press photographer Zoran Boicevic quoted officers as saying that one rocket landed in a vacant field, and the

second hit a pig stall. Officials said glass from shattered windows caused most of the injuries.

Meanwhile, the Yugoslavia news agency Tanjug reported fierce fighting near Gospić, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) southwest of Zagreb. The clashes erupted Thursday when the Croatian army attacked several predominantly Serb villages near Gospić, capturing at least two.

A UN official in Zagreb, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed intense fighting in the village of Medak. He said there was sporadic shelling overnight along Serb-Croat lines in areas of western Croatia monitored by the United Nations.

Local Croat defence officials in Karlovac, 50 kilometers (30 miles) southwest of Zagreb, said Serb shelling Saturday afternoon killed at least one child. They reported nine people killed and 20 wounded in a Serb barrage against Karlovac on Friday. The casualty reports could not be confirmed independently.