

## 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.

About 49,000 Chinese students have applied to the Immigration and Naturalisation

## Aristide's close friend shot dead

PORTE-AU-PRINCE, Sept. 12: A close friend of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was dragged from a church service 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 Tergeau 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.

## 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.

# 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.

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 said.

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 organisation.

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 rafts sinking in the ocean. It's just not the same thing."

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.

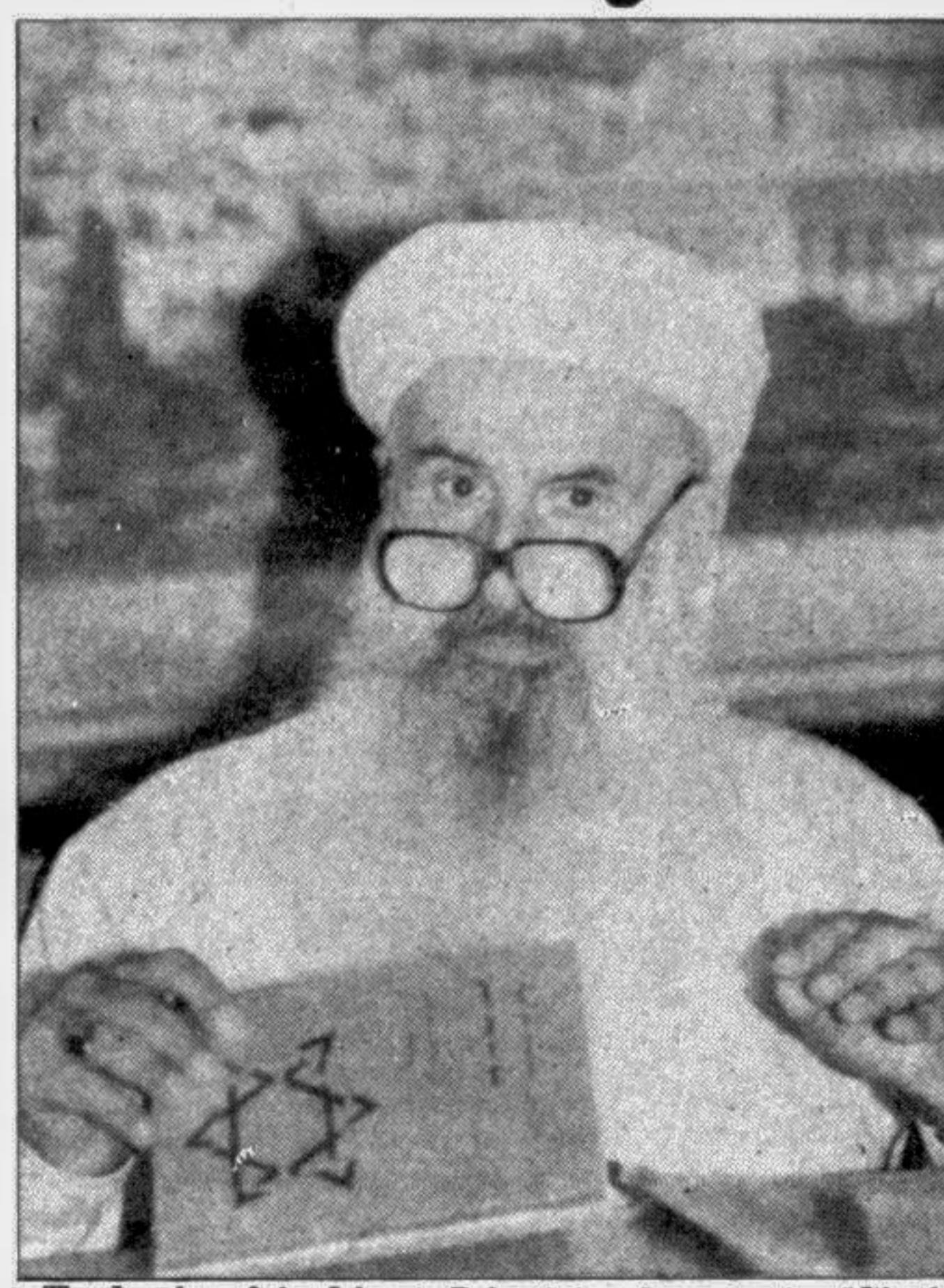
The Iranian-backed Hezbollah, the Shi'ite Muslim Party of God, threw its weight behind the anti-Arafat opposition. Hezbollah's deputy secretary-general, Na'eem Qasim, denounced Arafat's "treacherous actions."

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."

Taysir Quba, 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 rejections based in Damascus formed last September to sabotage the US-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace process, which started in October 1991.

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



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

## Italian peacekeepers accused of paying money to Somali gunmen

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 Oyinola, com-

mander 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.

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 Fabri 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

## 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.

## 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 Reuter.

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.

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 femininity 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.

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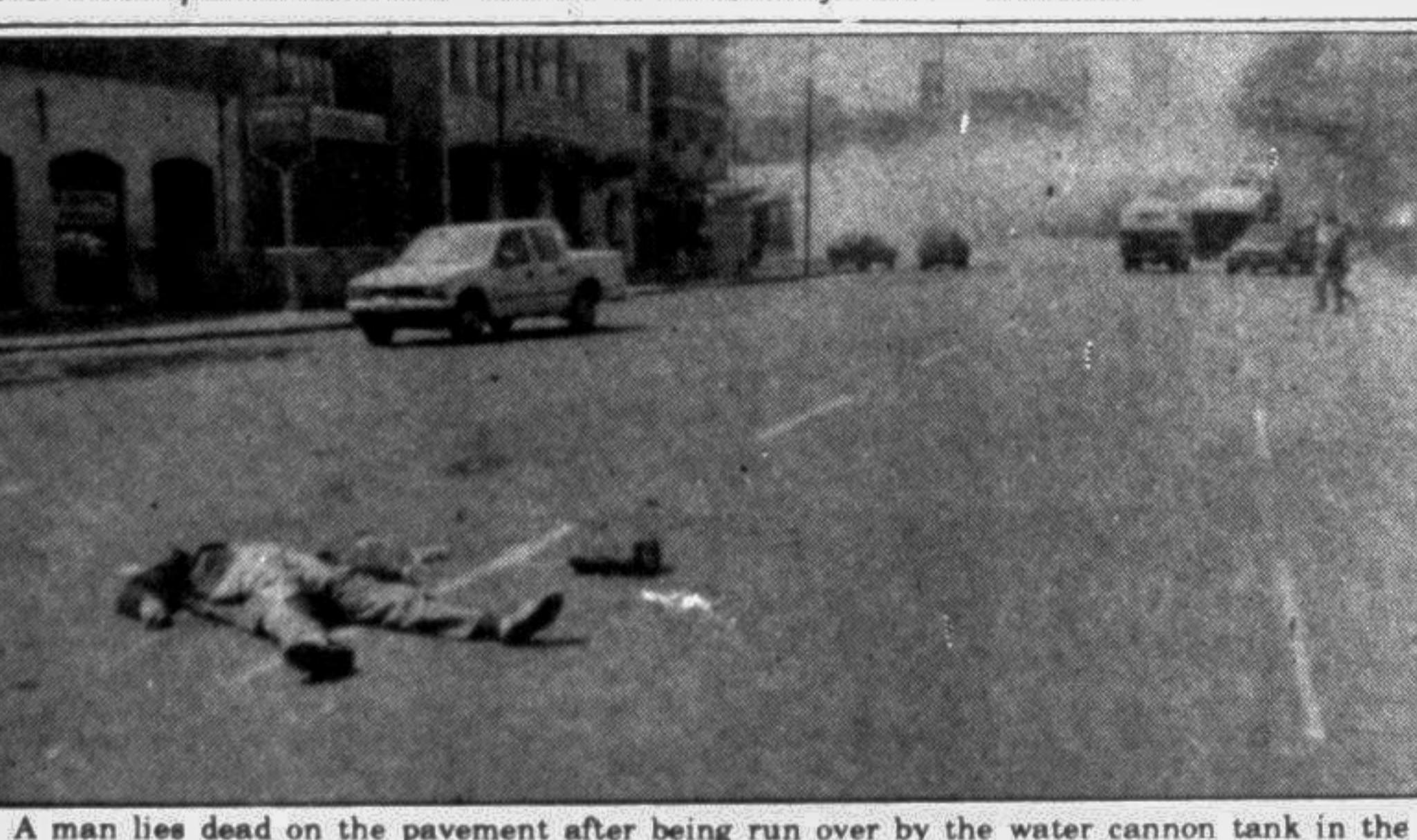
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A man lies dead on the pavement after being run over by a water cannon tank in the background Saturday during police action to repress a march by thousands of leftists protesting the commemoration of the Sep 11, 73 military coup that put Gen Augusto 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).

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 the 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

## 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 said, reports AFP.

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

Markamallah Saber was killed instantly while his colleague Ahmad Abdel Alikim 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 (Talash Al-Fatah), which like Jamaat Islamiyyah 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.

## Off the Record

### Children search for parents at 'adoption fair'

DETROIT: About 200 "hard to place" children spent Saturday at the fifth annual 'Adoption Festival', an outdoor fair to inform people about adoption and put a human face on a social problem, reports AP.

Veda Thompkins of Detroit has four adopted children and one biological one. She met her 4-year-old son, Justin, at last year's festival.

He just came up to me and said, "Will you hold my potato chips and push me on the swing?" Thompkins said. "I wasn't even there to adopt anyone, but I ended up taking him anyway."

The children ranged from infants to 16-year-olds. They spent the day playing and participating in various activities. Would-be adoptive parents could meet them and pick up information about how to adopt.

Most of the younger children seemed oblivious to the fair's purpose as they scampered around the spacious festival grounds. But the older ones were more savvy.

"I like checking people out, seeing what they're like," said 14-year-old Shannon.

Several children spoke of being "in the system," their code for being shuffled from home to home while waiting to be adopted.

The children at Saturday's fair were considered hard to place because many have emotional and psychological problems from abuse and neglect. Some have physical or mental disabilities.

The event was sponsored by the Black Family Adoption Registry and Kinship, a coalition of 24 area adoption agencies. It attracted about 2,000 people, including hundreds of prospective parents, said organizer Maretta Arts.

She said the festival, among the largest of its kind in the country, placed 50 of the 180 children who participated last year.

## Thief leaves resume in the stolen car

MARSHALL: A man accused of stealing a car was easy to track, police said, especially after they found his resume under one of the seats, reports AP.

Police discovered the handwritten resume when they looked through the stolen 1985 Chevrolet Celebrity they had recovered.

Detective Timothy Tomasek then telephoned an employer listed on the resume for a different sort of reference. That led authorities straight to Scott Timothy Root,