

International

BRIEFLY

10 die in Salvadorean jail riot: Ten people died and 16 were injured when hundreds of armed inmates clashed with guards during an attempted mass escape from El Salvador's central prison, authorities said on Saturday, reports Reuter from San Salvador.

More than 100 police and soldiers had surrounded La Esperanza Prison, which houses some 2,300 prisoners about 5 miles (8 km) north of the capital, and had taken control of most of the compound, said Raul Somoza, Deputy Minister of Justice.

Russian border guard kills 3: A Russian guard opened fire on a border post in southern Russia on Sunday, killing three of his colleagues and wounding another six, Itar-Tass news agency said. Reuter reports from Moscow.

It quoted a border guards spokesman as saying the guard had been disarmed and detained. There was no immediate explanation for the incident, in Novorossiisk region north of the Caucasus.

4 die in German plane crash: Two small planes collided on Sunday over a Bavarian lake popular with tourists, plunging into the water and killing four people in the aircraft, police said, AFP reports from Passau.

The victims were two men and a woman from Austria who were flying in one of the planes and a man from the Passau area of southern Germany who was flying alone in the other plane. The aircraft crashed around noon in clear weather and fell into the lake, near Kirchdorf in southern Germany.

Floods claim 187 in Gujarat: Rampaging monsoon floods have killed 187 people and displaced thousands in the western Indian state of Gujarat, newspapers said yesterday. AFP reports from New Delhi.

Two girls and a man drowned in the coastal state over the weekend, as major rivers swollen by pounding rains submerged vast areas, the Times of India and other dailies reported.

US suspends aid to Lesotho: The United States government on Sunday suspended all economic aid to the tiny Southern African mountain Kingdom of Lesotho following a royal coup which ousted the government of Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle. AFP reports from Maseru.

The British government earlier warned King Letsie III that it will "reconsider" its aid programme unless he reinstates the elected government in the former British protectorate.

Tunisian train mishap claims 21: Twenty-one people were killed and 89 injured on Saturday when two trains collided in the worst rail crash in Tunisian history, it was announced on Sunday. AFP reports from Tunis.

Tunisian state television showed pictures of the crash at Kalaa-Syihra near Sousse, 150 kilometres (90 miles) south of Tunis. Several carriages had jumped the rails and lay mangled at the trackside.

UN peacekeepers kill 2 Somalis:

UN peacekeepers from Nigeria shot dead two Somalis and captured eight others in Somalia on Saturday when gunmen attacked their convoy outside the southern port Merca, a military spokesman said. Reuter reports from Nairobi.

"The Nigerians managed to kill two of the attackers and captured eight of them," UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) military spokesman Major Richard McDonald told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone.

27 die as Kurds, troops clash:

Turkish army troops mounted a weekend offensive against Kurdish rebels in southeastern Turkey that left 22 militants and five soldiers dead, an official statement disclosed on Sunday. AFP reports from Ankara.

It said the army operations on Saturday and Sunday targeted the regions of Bitlis and Batman, where guerrillas from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) have been fighting for independence since 1984.

7 die in Filipino sea battles: Four suspected smugglers and three navy personnel were killed in two separate sea battles in the southern Philippines over the weekend, naval officials said on Sunday. AFP reports from Zamboanga.

Cholera cases double in S Russia: The number of cholera cases has more than doubled in the past week in southern Russia with hundreds infected and more cases being reported daily, Russia's Ministry for Emergency Situations said Monday. AP reports from Moscow.

Eighteen people have died from the intestinal disease since the epidemic broke out in late July in the southern republic of Dagestan, ministry spokesman Karl Smolikov said.

Egypt hangs 5 fundamentalists:

Egypt yesterday hanged five Muslim militants for an assassination attempt on Interior Minister Hassan Al-Alfi which killed three people, the official Egyptian news agency reported. AFP says from Cairo.

They were members of the Al-Jihad (holy war) fundamentalist group's military wing Talaah Al-Fatah (vanguard of the conquest).

6 criminals executed in China: The authorities in southern Fujian province have executed six people for murder, robbery and rape, while handing down prison terms to 25 other criminals, the China News Service (CNS) said yesterday. AFP reports from Beijing.

Moscow remembers '91 coup victims:

Government officials and ordinary Muscovites laid flowers and paid tribute Sunday to the three young men killed three years ago as they helped thwart the attempted Soviet coup, AP reports from Moscow.

Baskets of flowers were laid at the men's graves in Vagankovo cemetery on behalf of the Kremlin, the city and both houses of Parliament.

Another N Korean defector to South:

A North Korean man who escaped a Siberian logging camp arrived in Seoul yesterday, becoming the 40th defector from the isolated communist state so far this year, AP reports from Seoul.

Han Ho Gil defected through an unidentified third country after fleeing a North Korean logging camp in Siberia, the Foreign Ministry said in a terse news release.

Muslim rebels set afire 8 schools in Algeria

TUNIS, Aug 22: Algerian Muslim militants have set fire to at least eight schools in the past three days, stepping up a campaign on arson after warning students and teachers early this month to stay away from centres of education, reports Reuter.

Algeria's official news agency APS said two schools in the capital were set ablaze late last week, along with two high schools in Bounedja Province some 40 km (25 miles) east of Algiers.

Four classrooms were damaged by fire in Bouria 90 km (60 miles) east of Algiers. 10 set ablaze in the western province of Chlef on Friday and 11 more burnt in the town of El Tarf the same day.

The militants also set fire to a school in the eastern

province of Constantine while the floors of the National Institute of Physical Sciences in the provincial capital were destroyed by fire on Saturday night, APS quoted officials as saying.

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