

International

Sporadic violence in Palestinian territories after deadly riots leave 20 dead

GAZA CITY, Oct 1: Sporadic incidents of violence broke out in Palestinian territories today after three days of fierce clashes that have left more than 20 Palestinians dead and hundreds injured, reports AFP.

In the Gaza Strip, more than 50 youths were hurling stones at Israeli soldiers near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, witnesses said, but so far the army had not responded with gunfire.

However, a spokesman said the army was bracing for possible riots in Gaza, the scene of some of the bloodiest violence on Saturday.

Israel dispatched police and army reinforcements in Jerusalem and the West Bank and set up roadblocks in some areas, while Israelis were banned from visiting

the Palestinian territories for a second day.

Elsewhere, Palestinian youths were also throwing stones in an Arab district on the outskirts of east Jerusalem and in the divided West Bank town of Hebron, where demonstrators set fire to tyres.

No injuries have so far been reported.

A top Israeli army officer met Palestinian security officials for an hour overnight in the West Bank town of Ramallah in a bid to restore calm after the bloodshed that threatened to plunge the fledgling peace process into turmoil.

General Yitzhak Eitan, head of the army central command which covers the West Bank, was acting at the request of Prime Minister Ehud Barak, an army spokesman said.

He did not disclose the results of the meeting.

Barak had called Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat late Saturday to ask for his personal intervention to stop the clashes, the worst in the area in four years.

"The prime minister stated that Israel will not allow the violence to be a tool in the negotiations and that Israel will do everything to protect its citizens," said a Barak spokesman David Baker.

But Arafat reportedly accused the Israelis of having orders "to aim for the heads of Palestinian citizens and worshippers."

The violence was sparked by a controversial visit by right-wing opposition leader Ariel Sharon on Thursday to a holy disputed site in Jerusalem's Old City that is sacred to both Jews and Mus-

lims.

Control over the site, known to Jews as Temple Mount and to Muslims as Haram al-Sharif or Noble Sanctuary, is the key sticking point in efforts to reach an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord.

Seven of the Palestinians were killed by Israeli gunfire at the al-Aqsa mosque compound in the walled Old City on Friday, revered by Muslims as their third holiest shrine.

Sixteen more were killed Saturday as the violence spread, while hundreds have been injured over the three days, while in separate incidents an Israeli soldier was shot dead in the West Bank on Friday and another was killed in a bomb attack near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

Most of the victims were buried on Saturday, including a 12-year-old boy shot dead in Gaza, while some funerals are expected to be held Sunday.

The Palestinian leadership called Saturday for a UN investigation into what it branded the "massacre" at the mosque compound.

"We call on all who believe in the peace process to ask the Israeli government to stop the bloodbath," a statement said after a late-night meeting in Ramallah.

The violence was the worst since 1996 when 80 people died in riots sparked by a decision by then right-wing prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to open a new entrance to an archaeological tunnel near the compound.



A TV picture from France 2 footage of Israeli-Palestinian clashes in Netzarim in the Gaza Strip on September 29 shows Jamal Aldura and his son Mohammed, 12, behind a barrel where they attempted to protect themselves from cross-fire. Here Mohammed is seen after he was fatally struck in the abdomen. Seriously wounded, Jamal shook with convulsions, rolled his eyes skyward and lost consciousness. He was hospitalised in Gaza and was expected to recover. —AFP photo

'Indian army to be trained for N-war'

NEW DELHI, Oct 1: The Indian army will be trained to prepare for a nuclear war with an emphasis on weapons, tactics and war games, the new army chief General Sunderrajan Padmanabhan was quoted as saying today, reports AFP.



India's new army chief General S Padmanabhan

Padmanabhan, who took charge on Saturday, said that India's military force needed to be ready for a nuclear war, "even if it is unlikely to take place," according to the Times of India.

"Nuclear weapons are weapons of tremendous power... we have to war game, evolve, assess, internalise tactics and work out a series of approximations," he said.

India staged shock nuclear tests two years ago, sparking a matching riposte from arch-rival Pakistan almost immediately. The tests earned both countries international condemnation and

sanctions. Padmanabhan is the first army chief deceased General K Sundarji in 1986 to openly talk about nuclear war.

He explained that being ready for a nuclear war was vital.

"If we have a capability, it is necessary that we should be prepared with our doctrines, tactics and plans. A certain amount of work has already been done in this regard which I would not like to go into. But we need to do it further."

Padmanabhan also vowed to defeat the Muslim separatist insurgency in the troubled state of Kashmir, which has claimed more than 34,000 lives since 1989.

"Though there may be the odd hiccup, we have got a good grip on the situation. We will defeat the nefarious aims of these mercenaries," he said.

Diana was a deeply unhappy person

LONDON, Oct 1: Princess Diana was quick to laugh but remained a deeply unhappy person, according to a new biography that was strongly condemned by her son Prince William, reports AP.

The Sunday Times on Sunday printed the second installment of "Shadows of a Princess" by Patrick Jephson, Diana's private secretary from 1987 to 1996, a period that included her 1992 separation from Prince Charles.

Saying his mother's "trust has been betrayed," the 18-year-old prince made his disapproval clear Friday during his first substantial news conference.

Jephson insists his book is a "truthful and balanced account" intended as a service to the late princess and those who worked with her.

In last week's excerpt, Diana was described as manipulative and desperate for attention. In Sunday's installment, Jephson wrote that Diana loved to laugh, sometimes at the expense of the royal family.

"She would laugh at anything," Jephson wrote. "Sometimes I thought you could read her the phone book in a funny voice, then look at her expectantly, and she would laugh. She was that desperate to be liked."



Chinese police forcefully push a woman member of the outlawed Falungong spiritual group into a police van on Tiananmen Square in Beijing yesterday. Chinese police rounded up close to 1,000 Falungong followers at a protest in the square on China's National Day. —AFP photo

1,000 Falungong members rounded up in Beijing

BELJING, Oct 1: Chinese police rounded up close to 1,000 members of the outlawed Falungong spiritual sect during one of the largest and most violent protests by the group in Tiananmen Square today, China's National Day, reports AFP.

The demonstrators stole the show on celebrations of the 51st anniversary of the Communist Party's rule in China, humiliating the government by organising another large-scale act of defiance against the regime more than a year after the group was banned.

A small army of 1,000 soldiers and police dragged and shoved protesters from the square into police buses and vans, as throngs of tourists celebrating National Day watched in shock.

The protesters were bolder than in the numerous other protests that have occurred after the spiritual group was banned in July last year. A crowd of 50 demonstrators pulled open the doors to a bus and freed detained protesters.

An AFP reporter saw 15 police buses each holding about 50 followers and 20 police vans with up to 25 practitioners each leaving the square, heading towards a

nearby police station. The Falungong members, who had announced their intention to gather several days ago, started their protest at around 8:15 a.m. (0615 BST), unfurling banners in the middle of the square.

The police quickly cordoned off the area, but waves of up to 50 people rushed to where the first protesters were being pushed inside buses. As one group was arrested, other groups followed.

The protesters, 80 per cent of whom were women, were kicked, punched and pushed onto buses. A woman with a small child in her arms was hit by police. Several children were also arrested.

But despite the large number of police and soldiers, they were at times overwhelmed by the Falungong followers. A plainclothes policeman was using a straw broom to hit a practitioner already lying on the ground.

As busloads of protesters were driven away from the square, the practitioners opened the windows, unveiled their yellow banners and, using an alternative name for the group, shouted "Falun Dafa is good. It's the real law."

By 9:45 a.m., the centre of the square had been reopened, but

smaller groups of up to 20 people continued to protest until well into the afternoon, while detachments of 100 uniformed soldiers patrolled the square.

Falungong's US-based headquarters said more than 1,000 people had been arrested in and around the square by 10 a.m. Sunday.

Gail Rachlin, the group's US-based spokeswoman, said Falungong followers wanted to use the holiday to tell the world about the government's harsh suppression.

"I see them as being very courageous because they're standing up for what they believe in," Rachlin said.

More than 10,000 practitioners from around the country had arrived in Beijing and thousands more were trying to get to the city, with protests expected to continue throughout the seven-day holiday, Rachlin said.

A human rights group said 600 adherents had been detained in the run-up to National Day.

A 28-year-old protester and former lawyer told AFP he avoided police by taking several buses to get from his hometown of Dalian in northern China to Beijing.

BRIEFLY

Four die in Russian apartment fire:

Four people, including a child, have died in an apartment house fire caused by leaking gas, officials said Sunday. AP reports from St Petersburg.

Two other children were hospitalised as a result of the fire caused by a natural gas leak late Saturday night, civil defence officials said. In the town of Tambov, 400 kilometres (250 miles) southeast of Moscow, one person died in an explosion Saturday night caused by leaking gas, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported Sunday.

ROK FM to visit Japan in Nov:

South Korean Foreign Minister Lee Jung-binn will visit Tokyo next month to discuss North Korea and economic cooperation, state Yonhap news agency said Sunday. AP reports from Seoul.

During the Nov 6-7 visit, Lee will meet Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono to discuss issues raised during South Korean President Kim Dae-jung's visit to Japan last month, it said. Foreign Ministry officials were not immediately available to confirm the report.

Space shuttle to be launched:

US Space Shuttle Discovery is scheduled to be launched on October 5 at Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, beginning the fifth International Space Station assembly flight by a space shuttle, a NASA report said. Xinhua reports from Washington.

The mission will begin the "heart" of station construction in orbit, attaching two major components. Discovery will deliver an exterior framework called the Z1 Truss and a third mating adapter. The new truss houses four gyroscope devices that will become the station's primary "sense of balance," and Ku-band communications equipment. The truss contains parts of both systems, but the full systems will not become active until another flight.

Three earthquakes rattle Taipei:

Three moderate earthquakes rocked eastern Taiwan Sunday, seismologists said, the latest in a series of quakes that have struck the area. No damage or injuries were immediately reported. AP reports from Taipei.

A 4.7-magnitude earthquake struck near Hualien; a city about 150 km (93 miles) south of the capital, Taipei. It was followed hours later by two more quakes of magnitudes 3.9 and 4.0, the Central Weather Bureau said. Over the past two weeks, Hualien has been rattled by a series of earthquakes ranging from magnitudes 3.9 to 4.7.

Putin begins India visit today, calls for joint efforts to combat terrorism

MOSCOW, Oct 1: President Vladimir Putin talked up a new strategic partnership between Russia and India ahead of official visit to New Delhi, and called for joint efforts to combat Islamic terrorism, media reported today, reports AFP.

"I want to stress that, in our opinion, India plays one of the most important roles in world politics and that Russia and India naturally complement each other in many spheres," Putin said ahead of a four-day visit to New Delhi and Bombay beginning Monday.

He was speaking to Indian journalists at the Kremlin, in an interview broadcast by Russia's RTR television channel.

Putin said he and Indian Prime

Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee would sign a strategic partnership accord reflecting an awareness that "the world has changed, that Russia has changed, that the balance of forces in the world has changed and that certain priorities have changed."

His upcoming visit to India is seen on both sides as an opportunity to revive a waning bilateral relationship that has gone largely unmentioned since the end of the Cold War, with a raft of multi-million-dollar defence contracts due to be signed.

"We are very interested in maintaining relations with such a great power as India, especially in the pursuit of creating a democratic multi-polar world and in bilateral cooperation," the Rus-

sian leader added. Putin said the strategic partnership was not intended to suggest a military alliance but merely economic and technological cooperation.

However, he said Russia and India were "natural partners and allies" who should pool efforts to combat international terrorism and religious extremism.

"Exchanges of information, political support and joint decision-making on any manifestation of extremism could effectively weaken international terrorist groups," he added.

Russia has been fighting Islamic separatism in the breakaway republic of Chechnya and has accused the Taliban militia in Afghanistan of financing and training the rebels.



Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic delivers his speech during a passing-out ceremony of recruits at the military academy in Belgrade on Saturday. Milosevic made his first public appearance since last weekend's disputed elections at the military academy. —AFP photo

Serbian opposition to boycott state institutions from today

BELGRADE, Oct 1: President Slobodan Milosevic appeared determined to cling to power Saturday, quashing opposition complaints over official election results and reportedly rejecting a Russian offer of mediation.

Just hours after Russia offered to mediate in the stand-off that threatened to plunge the country into post-election chaos, the UN's human rights rapporteur for the Balkans, Jiri Dienstbier, said Milosevic had "refused mediation" by Moscow to end the impasse over the September 24 vote.

Meanwhile, the Serbian opposition has called for an overall campaign of "civil disobedience

Fighting in Lanka kills 54

COLOMBO, Oct 1: Tamil Tiger rebel attacks against military defences in northern Sri Lanka triggered heavy fighting killing at least 54 combatants on both sides, the government said today, reports AFP.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launched several attempts to breach military bunker lines at Eluthumaddula and fighting raged until Saturday evening, the government's Special Media Information Centre said.

The attack was totally repulsed by security forces causing heavy damages to the attacking LTTE, the SMC said in a statement. "Over 50 terrorists were killed and most of them were teenage cadres."

The statement added that four government soldiers were

killed and another 41 wounded in the heavy firefight.

Tigers had begun shelling populated areas of the Jaffna peninsula in a bid to displace civilians ahead of October 10 parliamentary polls in the region, it said.

On Friday, troops deployed ground attack aircraft and artillery to beat back attempts by Tamil rebels to smash army defences in the Jaffna peninsula.

Air force jets carried out bombing sorties just outside the northern peninsula of Jaffna in support of ground troops resisting the rebel onslaughts, defence officials said.

Ministry spokesman Sanath Karunaratne said the guerrillas had suffered heavy casualties, but were still throwing more cadres into the firefight, which he described as a prestige battle for the militants.

Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

(পানির অপচয় রোধে কাজ শেষে কলের মুখ বন্ধ করণ)

Tenders in Form No-2 of Dhaka WASA are hereby invited from the local agents of Telemechanic and Marlin Zerin or their nominated agents for supply of spare parts (Telemechanic and Marlin) for urgent maintenance work of starter and PFI supplied from Adex. The estimated amount of money for the work is Taka 2,50,896/-. Tenders will be received on 16.10.2000 till 12-00 Noon and will be opened on the same day at 2-00 PM before the tenderers or their representatives (if anyone remains present).

Schedule of tender will be available from the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka and all MODS Zone Offices of Dhaka WASA. Other details will be available in the office of the undersigned.

Ajit Kumar Roy
Executive Engineer
FM Division
Dhaka WASA.

More species threatened with extinction

WASHINGTON, Oct 01: With dramatic declines in the populations of many species, conservationists here warn that the global extinction crisis is worse than previously thought, reports IPS.

From birds and plants to reptiles and primates, the number of critically endangered species has increased in practically all types of species tracked by field biologists, according to the new list of endangered species released here Thursday by the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Known as the '2000 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species', the Geneva-based Organisation's findings have become the most authoritative assessment of global bio-diversity loss, used by scientists and policy makers worldwide. The last Red List was released in 1996.

"The trends are distressing," said Russell Mittermeier, chair of IUCN's primate specialist group. "Many wonderful creatures will be lost in the first few decades of the 21st century unless we greatly increase levels of support,

involvement and commitment to conservation."

Dwindling populations of species is usually due to a variety of factors, said the report. Usually, it is a combination of habitat loss and degradation combined with hunting or the introduction of non-native species that invade an ecosystem.

In the last 500 years, human activity has forced 816 species to extinction. Since 1800, about 103 species have died out, indicating an extinction rate 50 times greater than the natural rate.

"Many species are lost before they are even discovered," said the IUCN report. The number of critically endangered mammals since 1996 has increased from 169 to 180 while the number of birds in this category increased from 168 to 182.

About 25 per cent of all mammals, or 5,205 species, are listed as threatened with extinction. These are not considered critically endangered or at high risk of going extinct, but could end up on that list if there numbers con-

tinue to drop. Field biologists studying primates recently declared a primate extinct. Known as Miss Waldron's red colobus, a loud red-cheeked monkey from the rainforest canopy of Ghana and the Ivory Coast, was the first primate in several centuries to be labelled extinct.

A bat species that was once only considered vulnerable by the conservation group is now listed as critically endangered. Found in small numbers on only about five small and remote Ogasawara or Bonin Islands of Japan, the Bonin Fruit Bat has lost much of its habitat through deforestation on the islands.

Amongst bird species, the most significant changes in endangered status have been in the albatrosses and petrels. Sixteen albatross species are now threatened compared to only three in 1996, as a result of long-line fishing. Of the remaining five albatross species, four are now near threatened, according to the Red List.

Threatened penguin species have doubled from five to 10, since 1996. Doves, parrots and perching birds (known as passerines), especially those species in Southeast Asia, have shown marked increases in threatened species due to the vast deforestation in countries such as the Philippines, said IUCN.

About 25 per cent of reptiles are listed as threatened. The number of threatened reptiles increased from 253 in 1996 to 291 in 2000. This is "mostly due to a focussed analysis of the status of freshwater turtles and tortoises, especially freshwater turtles in Southeast Asia," said the report. The number of critically endangered reptiles has increased from 10 to 24.

"The rapidly deteriorating status of tortoises and freshwater turtles in Southeast Asia is due to heavy exploitation for food and medicinal use," said IUCN. Hunting of these species is unregulated and unmanaged, and the hunting levels are "far too high" for the species to sustain itself, the report said.

Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation
Purbagarh Bhaban (1st Floor), 3 No Dilkusha C/A
Dhaka-1000

Tender Notice

Scaled tenders are hereby invited by the Chief Engineer (Civil), Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation, Purbagarh Bhaban (1st floor), 3 No Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka from A-1, A-2 enlisted contractors of Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation for construction/making cubicles at 58, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka. Earnest money amounting to Taka 40,000/= (Tk forty thousand) only in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft from any scheduled bank in favour of Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation is to be submitted along with the tender. No tender will be accepted without earnest money. Earnest money if submitted other than Pay Order/Demand Draft will not be accepted and the tender will be rejected. Pay Order will be valid only if it is done within Dhaka. Demand Draft will be valid for outside of Dhaka. Tender form with terms & conditions will be available from (1) Accounts Department, BSFIC, HO Adamjee Court (4th floor), 115-120, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, (2) Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Office, Room No 206 (1st floor), 1st 12-storied Govt Office Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka on payment of Tk 1,000/= (One thousand) only per set (Non-refundable) from 9-10-2000 to 17-10-2000 during office hours. Tender will have to be dropped in the tender box kept in front of the office of the (1) Chief Engineer (Civil), Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation, Head Office, Purbagarh Bhaban (1st floor), 3 No Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, (2) Addl Divisional Commissioner (General), 2nd floor, Room No 303, 1st 12-storied Govt Office Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka on 18-10-2000 up to 12:00 Noon and will be opened at 12:15 PM on the same date in presence of the tenderers, if any. No tender form will be sold after 1:00 PM of 17-10-2000. If the quoted rate of the tenderers is found more than 5% (Five per cent) above/below than the schedule rate, the tender will be rejected. In case of lowest quoted rate is found more than one the tenderer will be selected through lottery. The lottery will be held on 19-10-2000 at 12:00 Noon. Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject the lowest or any other tender without assigning any reason thereof.

SF-132
GD-912

Md Entaz Ali
Dy General Manager (Civil)