

International

12 more killed in Israel-Palestinian clashes

US to head an inquiry into violence

NABLUS, West Bank, Oct 2: Twelve people, including the first member of Israel's security forces, were killed and almost 300 injured in bloody clashes that swept across the Palestinian territories on Sunday and spilled over to Israel, reports AFP.

More than 250 Palestinians and Arab Israelis were also injured in exchanges of fire and shootings by Israeli forces against stone-throwing demonstrators in violence that has plunged the stumbling Middle East peace process into further turmoil.

Israel's acting Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben Ami blamed Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority for the clashes -- the worst in four years -- but urged a return to the negotiating table.

"We should not allow the tragic clashes to derail the process," he told reporters in Tel Aviv, with negotiations all but stalled since the collapse of the US-hosted Camp David summit in July.

The fighting, which has claimed the lives of 34 Palestinians, an Israeli Arab demonstrator, and an Israeli Arab member of Israel's border guards over the

past three days and left about 1,000 wounded, erupted over a controversial visit Thursday to a hotly disputed holy site in east Jerusalem's Old City by Israeli right-wing opposition leader Ariel Sharon.

Islamic militants called on Palestinians to launch a "holy war" against Israel and begin a new Intifada like the seven-year violent popular uprising against the occupation which ended with the 1993 Oslo peace accords.

In Washington, the White House said on Sunday that amid a "full-court press" by President Bill Clinton to quell renewed violence in the Middle East, Israeli and Palestinian leaders agreed to support a US led, three-party inquiry into the outbreak.

Clinton spoke by telephone with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak late on Saturday and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Sunday, US National Security Council spokesman P.J. Crowley said in announcing the all out US effort.

He said Clinton had urged an end to the violence.

The violence has come as a new

blow to already halting negotiations on a permanent Israeli-Palestinian peace deal, talks that stalled over the future of Jerusalem, the status of Palestinian refugees and the borders of a Palestinian state.

It also dims the prospect that Clinton will be able to broker a peace deal before he leaves office in January.

"The president called on both sides to exert maximum efforts to restore calm immediately," Crowley said.

In the deadliest confrontation on Sunday, five people, most believed to be members of the Palestinian security forces, were killed in gunbattles in the West Bank town of Ramallah while in Nabulus four were killed, including a seven-year-old boy and the Israeli border guard.

In the Gaza Strip, one 10-year-old boy was reported clinically dead after being caught up in violence in Rafah near the border with Egypt, and another Palestinian man was killed near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim.

In northern Israel an Arab was shot dead by police near Umm el-

Fahm during a violent demonstration against Israeli repression in the Palestinian territories, relatives said.

Around 50 Arab Israelis were injured.

Violent clashes also erupted in Hebron and Bethlehem and surrounding areas where a total of more than 130 people were hurt, and in Tulkarem and Jenin to the north of the West Bank.

In an unprecedented move the army said Sunday it was closing certain roads to civilian traffic and would progressively reopen them under army protection.

The measure could serve to split up disparate areas administered by the Palestinian Authority thus improving the defence of isolated Israeli settlements.

Arafat warned in an interview published Sunday in the Saudi newspaper Okaz that he was ready to use any option including war to face up to Israel.

Jordan's King Abdullah II also blamed Israeli "provocation" for the clashes while Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad agreed that they might have

"negative repercussions" for the peace process.

The violence continued despite Prime Minister Ehud Barak's call for Arafat to intervene personally and a meeting overnight between Israeli and Palestinian security officials aimed at restoring calm to the region.

"Unfortunately I cannot see that it (the meeting) had any effect," said Giora Eiland, head of the Israeli army's operations directorate.

The Palestinian Authority Sunday called on Israel to "cease fire immediately," but a spokesman for Barak said Israel would only do so if the Palestinians did likewise.

However, he said the two sides were in contact, and that Barak had spoken to US President Bill Clinton and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar who were attempting to mediate.

Sharon, whose visit set off the wave of clashes and who is blamed by the Palestinians for the massacre of hundreds of refugees in Lebanon 18 years ago, rejected any responsibility.



Palestinian youths evacuate a wounded demonstrator shot by Israeli troops during heavy armed clashes in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Sunday. More than 30 Palestinians have been killed and hundreds more wounded in four days of clashes between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians. --AFP photo

Kumaratunga in London for check-up

COLOMBO, Oct 2: Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who was injured in her right eye in an assassination attempt last December, is in London for a medical check-up, official sources said today, reports Reuters.

The Daily News newspaper said Kumaratunga would return to the island before parliamentary polls scheduled for October 10.

Officials said Kumaratunga had left on Friday. She has travelled to London several times this year for medical treatment after the assassination attack blamed on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Fiji court rules Coup plotters breached immunity

SUVA, Oct 2: In a landmark decision that could decide the fate of coup plotters George Speight, who is facing treason charges, Fiji's High Court today found his group had breached conditions for immunity, reports AFP.

Justice Peter Surnam was giving judgement in an appeal by the state in a case of attempted murder against Speight supporter Isosa Karawa.

Karawa had been released by the magistrates court on the grounds that he was covered by an immunity granted to Speight and his group in return for ending a siege of parliament.

Karawa had faced charges over the shooting of a television cameraman shortly after the May 19 coup.

Overturning the magistrates court decision, Surnam said conditions of the decree granting immunity had clearly been breached because all arms stolen by the coup plotters had not been returned to the military as required.

Floodwaters recede in India

Death toll tops 1,000

NEW DELHI, Oct 2: A let-up in heavy rains saw floodwaters recede today in India's West Bengal state even as the estimated death toll from the past two weeks topped 1,000, reports AFP.

West Bengal Deputy Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya said the water levels in most major rivers, including the Hooghly River which runs through Calcutta, had receded overnight, although the situation in the eastern district of 24-Parganas was still serious.

"The flood situation has improved in all the other eight flood-hit districts except the 24-Parganas," said Bhattacharya.

"There have been no major showers in the past 24 hours with

the discharge from the dams also down to normal levels," he added.

However, weather experts warned that the respite from the persistent rains may be very short.

"A low pressure belt has formed over the northern stretch of the Bay of Bengal, roughly 500 km southeast of Calcutta," said R.N. Golder, director of the state meteorological department.

"If the depression intensifies over the next few days, there is a possibility of heavy rains lashing the state," Golder said.

Bhattacharya said 905 bodies had been recovered as of Monday, while 106 people were missing, presumed dead.

Disposing of the corpses was proving a problem in districts like

Murshidabad, where flood waters had covered the 'ghats' where bodies are normally cremated.

"State relief workers found over 100 bodies in Bhagabangola village in Murshidabad district. It is a problem to cremate these bodies as all the ghats are under water. We are very worried about the spread of disease," Bhattacharya said.

The government is worried that marooned villagers are being forced to drink contaminated flood waters, thus exacerbating the risk of water-borne disease.

Thousands of people were still crowding highways and elevated railway tracks to escape the flood waters, while hundreds of others had crammed themselves precariously onto wooden boats, said relief workers.



A long articulated lorry blocks access to and from the main Belgrade-Podgorica highway at the Uzice intersection yesterday while hundreds watch the blockade. They were taking part in the opposition call for a campaign of mass disobedience in response to the Federal Electoral Commission's failure to recognise the victory of the presidential candidate Vojislav Kostunica. --AFP photo

'Mr Thief, please do not steal'

PHNOM PENH, Oct 2: Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen appealed to the nation's thieves today to go on holiday while the nation struggles to cope with the worst flooding in 70 years, reports DPA.

"After the floods we have to help each other. Even thieves must be compassionate," Hun Sen said in a radio broadcast from Kompong Thom province, where he was distributing flood aid.

"Please, Mr Thief, I beg you please do not steal at this difficult time," he said. "The Cambodian people are already victimised by the floods. I beg you to stop, but of course you must decide for yourself."

More than 2 million people have been affected by unusually heavy flooding this year along the Mekong River.

Russia offers advanced N-technology to India

NEW DELHI, Oct 2: Russia has offered advanced nuclear technology to India at cheaper prices to set up more power plants, a top Indian official said Sunday ahead of President Vladimir Putin's Indian visit, reports AP.

"Russia's most modern nuclear technology was already offered to China, but we have safety features in addition," VK Chaturvedi, chairman of the state-run Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, was quoted as saying by United News of India.

Chaturvedi said the Russian know-how was about 140 per cent cheaper than the prices

quoted by western nations. He did not give details.

India has 12 nuclear power plants and 16 more are planned.

Chaturvedi said the two countries would discuss setting up of more nuclear power plants in India during the visit of Putin.

Among the planned Indo-Russian projects are the building of two 1,000-watt reactors in Kudankulam in the southern Tamil Nadu state. The project will be completed by the NPCIL and Russia's Atomstroyexport agency.

Nuclear power supplies about 3 per cent of India's electricity, and is expected to reach 10 per

cent by 2005. Officials say India needs to produce about 15,000 megawatt more of nuclear power each year to help bridge the energy shortages in several parts of the country.

Nuclear power is earning big profits for the NPCIL, one of the richest companies among Indian state-owned firms most of which have registered huge losses over the years and are being considered for closure.

During the 1999-2000 financial year, the corporation earned profits of 6 billion rupees, more than 67 per cent higher than the last year's net profit, the NPCIL said on its web site.

Opposition vows to intensify anti-Milosevic protests

BELGRADE, Oct 2: Opponents of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic called a halt to a short-lived blockade of Belgrade today, but warned more chaos would follow if he refused to concede electoral defeat, reports AFP.

Cedomir Jovanovic of the Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS) told the Beta news agency that the protests would resume for several hours Tuesday, and continue round the clock from Wednesday if Milosevic remained in power.

Protestors blocked main intersections in the Yugoslav capital and brought economic activity to a stop in other towns on the opening day of a campaign of civil disobedience aimed at forcing Milosevic out.

"If the commission fails to present the real results today, the blockade will continue on Tuesday for five hours and from Wednesday, it will be round-the-

clock until the electoral will of the people is recognised," Jovanovic said.

DOS leader Zoran Djindjic told AFP that the blockade was meant to last only for several hours, but "in other parts of Serbia, everything seems to be halted."

"We are absolutely satisfied with whatever citizens do, and what they have done so far, has exceeded what we thought was possible," Djindjic said.

He warned that the "climax" of the campaign would be on Wednesday or Thursday "if Milosevic remains stubborn."

"I think that the next phase should be to bring the whole of Serbia to Belgrade, to remain here until the dispute is solved," Djindjic said.

He added that "allowing Milosevic to cut our electoral fate would mean only new wars and further isolation."

The DOS is planning another

Philippine military rescue 11 hostages

MANILA, Oct 2: The Philippine military today rescued 11 Filipinos from among 16 remaining hostages held by Abu Sayyaf Muslim extremists in the southern island of Jolo, President Joseph Estrada announced over local radio, reports AFP.

Those rescued were Christian preachers led by veteran television evangelist Wilde Almada who had gone to the Abu Sayyaf lair to pray over other captives in July.

The military chief General Angelo Reyes called me and said brother Almada and his followers have been rescued in the village of Mababay in the Talipao municipality in Jolo, Estrada told the radio station DZMM.

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority
Corrigendum to Tender Notice

Following amendments have been done in the tender invited from the office of the undersigned through the reference no EE/DL/8/233 dated 20.08.2000 due to unavoidable circumstances.

The dates of selling and receiving of tender schedule have been extended till 11.10.2000 and 12.10.2000 instead of 26.9.2000 and 27.9.2000 respectively.

Other terms and conditions as mentioned in the tender notice will remain unchanged.

Executive Engineer
 Distribution Line Division
 Dhaka Electric Supply Authority

DFP-23349-26/9
 G-1712

Thai herbs could help fight malaria

BANGKOK, Oct 2: A pharmaceutical researcher has discovered that several Thai herbs have the potential to treat malaria, a medical research institute said today, reports AFP.

Kittisak Likitvitthayavudh, a doctor at Chulalongkorn University, has found that eight species of herbs contain anti-malarial compounds, the Thailand Research Fund said in a report.

The pitcher plant, or Namtao Lom in Thai, has the strongest anti-malaria qualities, and is sometimes as effective as the drug chloroquine, it said.

The report said that Thailand could begin a study on whether the herbs should be tested, suggesting that some could be manufactured into anti-malarial drugs.

"We need to keep researching, to find new drugs to kill malaria. If we go back to the past, we find that most drugs for malaria ... start from herbs," it said.

"The malaria situation is still a major concern."

Malaria is widespread along Thailand's northern, eastern and western borders. Some areas along the Thai-Myanmar border are home to some of the strongest strains of drug-resistant malaria in the world.

Dalai Lama does not support Taiwan independence

TAIPEI, Oct 2: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama does not support Taiwan's independence from China, saying the move would further isolate the island, it was reported here today, reports AFP.

The living Buddha said he would advise President Chen Shuibian not to seek independence for Taiwan, which China views as part of its territory awaiting reunification, when he visits the island again later this year.

"The so-called 'independence' does not have any real significance nowadays and it would lead to isolation," the Dalai Lama told United Daily News in an interview.

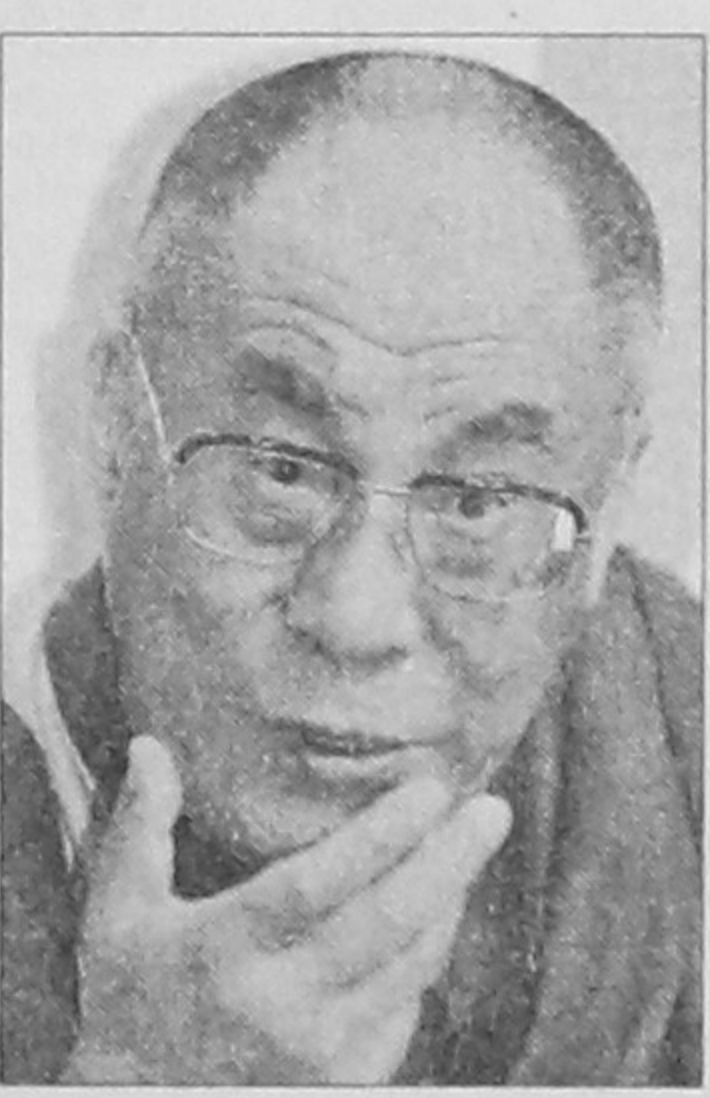
"Taiwan should maintain close relationship with mainland China as long as its democratic freedom and economic achievement are not jeopardized," he said from his exile home in Dharamsala, India.

The Dalai Lama encouraged more cross Strait exchanges to build mutual trust before the two sides resumed dialogue.

The god king in March 1997 made a historic visit to the island and met then president Lee Teng hui.

Beijing heaped vitriol over the meeting, saying it was part of concerted efforts to split Taiwan and Tibet from China. China considers both Tibet and Taiwan part of its territory.

The Dalai Lama told the paper that he was not seeking independence for Tibet but nor would he acknowledge Beijing's claim



that the Himalayan kingdom belongs to China.

He planned second visit here by the 1989 Nobel Prize winner, expected in November or December, was likely to trigger protests from China, said Kunga Tashi, spokesman of Tibet Religious Foundation of the Dalai Lama, the exile government's representative office in Taipei.

The Dalai Lama declined an invitation to attend Chen's May 20 inauguration to avoid annoying Beijing, which had accused the two leaders of trying to split their territories from the "motherland."

"At that time the relations across the Taiwan Strait were quite tense. I felt the timing may not be appropriate (for the visit)," he told the paper.

The Dalai Lama cancelled a 1998 trip here amid strong protests from Beijing.

China has viewed the island as a breakaway province since the two sides separated in 1949 at the end of a civil war.

The Tibetan leader has said he recognized Beijing's "one China" policy and agreed the "one country, two systems" formula used to return Hong Kong and Macau to Chinese sovereignty was a suitable model for Tibet.

But Beijing has refused to hold dialogue with the Dalai Lama, saying he was "insincere."

Bangladesh Rifles Headquarters
 Directorate of Administration
 Cue & Ord Section
 Peelkhana, Dhaka

Tender Notice

Number-401/17/XI/Cue Dated: 25th September, 2000/10th Aswin 1407 Bangla

1) Sealed tenders are invited from contractors enlisted with this section and non-enlisted contractors for purchasing 1400 litres mosquito killing oil (Secoflyng).

2) Schedule of tender can be purchased from the RP on duty at the Gate Number 4 at BDR Headquarters, Peelkhana on payment of Taka 400/- till 1400 hours on Tuesday on 10-10-2000 from the date of publication of this notice. The undersigned can be contacted to know any information on days excepting holidays during office hours that is from 0800 hours to 1400 hours. Participating tenderers can submit tenders in the box kept at Gate Nun 4 at BDR Headquarters at Peelkhana on 11-10-2000, Wednesday till 1100 hours and the tender box will be opened the same date at 1130 hours in presence of the tenderers (if anyone remains present).

3) The authority reserves the power to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

DFP-23419-26/9 DAQMG
 G-1710 on behalf of the Director General.

BRIEFLY

Russian rocket blasts off: A Russian Proton-K rocket blasted off today from Baikonur space station in Kazakhstan, carrying a US television satellite into orbit, reports DPA from Moscow.

It was the 11th successful launch of a modernised Proton-K rocket since the start of this year, Interfax news quoting Russian authorities reported. The launch of rockets was temporarily suspended after two of the older Proton models crashed last year.

Police killed in Karachi: Gunmen hiding in a school shot and killed a policeman on patrol in this troubled southern port city. Another policeman was injured, said a police official Monday, reports AP from Karachi.

There have been no arrests, but police were blaming a breakaway faction of the ethnic-based Muttahida Qami Movement, headquartered in Karachi. There has been considerable violence in southern Karachi in recent years often involving members of the rival factions of the MQM organization.

Tajik blast death toll 7: Seven people are now known to have been killed and 50 were injured when an explosion ripped through a church in the capital of Tajikistan, officials said yesterday, AFP reports from Dushanbe.

The blast hit the church, run by a Korean Christian mission, as worshippers attended a weekly service on Sunday, the ITAR-TASS agency reported.

BJMC Advertisement
Import Tender Notice

Sealed quotations are invited by Adamjee Jute Mills Limited, Adamjeenagar, Narayanganj, Bangladesh for Import of (1) Tender No. /10-Polyethylene Granules (Laminating & Film Grade), (2) T No. /11-Pure Tin Ingot, (3) T No./12-Boiler Plain Tube, (4) T No/13-Ceramic N K Insert/Eye for Mackie Spinning Frame 4.1/4" Pitch and (5) T No/14-Flannel Cloth from the genuine manufacturers/suppliers under IDR Grant or any other available Foreign Exchange Allocation showing FOB and C&F (C) Dhaka Airport/Chittagong Seaport/Benapole prices separately.

Tender schedules with full details of requirement, specifications, terms & conditions may be obtained from the Office of the (1) Controller of Accounts & Finance, BJMC, Adamjee Court, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka and (2) General Manager (A&F), Adamjee Jute Mills Limited, Adamjeenagar, Narayanganj on payment of Tk 750/- for SI No. 1, Tk 200/- for SI No 2, Tk 100/- for SI No. 3, 4 & 5 of each tender schedule (non-refundable) on all working days (during office hours) except on the date of opening.

Earnest Money will have to be deposited in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of Adamjee Jute Mills Limited. Tender schedule purchase money receipt also to be enclosed with the tender, otherwise tender will be straightway cancelled. Tender to be dropped in the tender box kept in the office of the (1) Dy. General Manager (Planning), Planning Division, BJMC, Adamjee Court (5th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka and (2) Dy General Manager (SP), Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd, Adamjeenagar, Narayanganj and will be opened on 31.10.2000 at 12:30 PM in presence of the bidders (if any). Tender box will be closed at 12:00 Noon. The management reserves the right to accept/ reject any tender in full or part without any obligation or assigning any reason.

BJMC-575 dt. 25.9.2000
 DFP-23409-26/9
 G-1703