



World Briefs

Troops fire on ANC march in South Africa

BISHO, South Africa — Troops in the black homeland of Ciskei opened fire Monday on an ANC march against the region's military government, killing at least 24 people and injuring almost 200.

South Africa said it would send troops to Ciskei at the request of the homeland's pro-Pretoria government to guard important installations from possible retaliatory attacks. Homeland troops patrolled the capital, Bisho, and guarded the border, where ANC supporters staged a vigil late Monday.

Ciskei is one of several homelands formed by South Africa under apartheid to create separate nations for blacks. The homelands, dependent on South African aid, have been failures and most are dominated by authoritarian regimes. The homelands are expected to rejoin South Africa under a new constitution to share power with the black majority.

But the bloodbath in Ciskei threatened to plunge South Africa into a major crisis and block efforts to revive stalled talks between the African National Congress and the government on giving blacks the vote and ending apartheid.

The ANC, which considers the homelands vestiges of apartheid, said the killings could trigger an outbreak of popular anger.

The Ciskei government is an ally of President F.W. de Klerk's government, which the ANC blamed for the killings on the outskirts of Bisho, about 450 miles south of Johannesburg.

A Ciskei military official said troops fired after being attacked by marchers.

South African Foreign Minister Piki Botha accused the ANC of trying to seize power and said the government would not resume power-sharing talks until the ANC abandoned "Communist" plans.

The Ciskei troops fired on the march by about 20,000 ANC supporters calling for the removal of Ciskei ruler Brig. Gen. Oupa Gqozo, witnesses said. The march began in King William's Town.

Soldiers with semi-automatic weapons fired into the crowd as terrified people ran screaming for cover. Some witnesses said the troops fired for at least two minutes before throwing tear gas grenades.

Ciskei Defense Chief Brig. Gen. Marius Oelshig said his forces began shooting after being attacked by a group of marchers armed with handguns and grenades.

A spokesman for the South African embassy in Ciskei, said 24 people had been killed and 196 wounded, most of them by bullets.

The ANC supporters, led by ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa, had vowed to march through Bisho to protest the Ciskei government. Ramaphosa was among the ANC leaders taking part in the march.

De Klerk criticized the ANC, saying the deaths could have been avoided. "I would like to stress that the role of the South African government throughout has been one of trying to avoid just this," he said.

Afghanis cheer public hanging of criminals

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least 10,000 people packed into a downtown park Monday cheered the first public hanging since the U.S.-backed rebel resistance ousted the Communist government in April.

The new Islamic government said the hangings of three men, none of them more than 25 years old, showed its will to rid the capital of the murder, extortion and robbery that has wracked the capital since the rebel leadership took power.

A fourth man who was to be executed committed suicide a few hours earlier in his cell, said a security guard.

The men were tried behind closed doors, and no one would say what crimes they had committed. There are reportedly dozens more waiting on death row.

The trio stood silently on a long wooden table, the nooses loosely wrapped around their necks as a religious cleric railed against the rampaging lawlessness that has wracked the capital since the rebel leadership took power.

"This will show people what their fate will be if they loot, plunder and kill," said a rebel commander known only as Khakar.

"We hope this will have a positive result."

"Anybody who kills, loots, drinks alcohol, commits adultery or smokes hashish will be judged in accordance with Islamic law," said Abdul Majid Sultani, a judge of the special Islamic court set up last May to impose strict Islamic law.

U.S.-China relations cool after jet sale talks

BEIJING — A top State Department official flew to the Chinese capital Monday and sought to patch up relations chilled by U.S. plans to sell fighter jets to Taiwan, but neither side announced any improvement.

Chinese officials instead warned that United States would be responsible "for the serious consequences arising from its wrong action" in agreeing to sell 150

F-16s to Taiwan, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported Monday.

In a dispatch from Washington, Xinhua said a State Department spokesman had "cudged his brains" to justify the sale of fighter jets to Taiwan.

"No matter how the U.S. government tries to justify its wrong decision, it cannot offer a tenable argument," said the article.

William Clark, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Asian and Pacific affairs, declined to speak with reporters after the meeting that also included Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy.

They met with Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu and Zhang Yijun, director of the Foreign Ministry's department of North American and Oceania affairs, who reiterated China's strong opposition to the \$6 billion sale, according to Xinhua.

The Chinese have refused to say what actions they might take if the sale proceeds.

Clark was dispatched to Beijing specifically to try to ease tensions about President Bush's decision last week to sell the fighters to Taiwan, the longtime rival of China's Communist government.

The move by Bush has caused one of the most serious disputes in recent years between Washington and Beijing.

Taiwan, which says it needs the planes for defense, has seen China's rival since the Communists came to power in 1949 and sent the Nationalist government fleeing to the island just off the mainland. Both Beijing and Taipei claim to be the legitimate rulers of all China.

Tajik president resigns under rebel pressure

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan — The hard-line Communist president, Rakhmon Nabiyev, resigned Monday after armed anti-government militants stopped him at the airport and prevented him from leaving the Tajik capital.

Nabiyev was the third president of a former Soviet republic to be toppled in the tumult following the 1991 collapse of the Soviet government. The Georgian and Azerbaijani presidents also were ousted amid civil strife.

The resignation came a week after armed opponents seized the presidential palace, forcing Nabiyev into hiding and taking more than 40 hostages, who were later freed. Days later, Nabiyev's cabinet and leaders of the Supreme Soviet legislature approved a vote of no-confidence in his government.

He faced growing opposition from a coalition of former Communists, the liberal Democratic Party, the Islamic Revival Party and Rastekhez, or Renewal, a nationalist people's front. They said he did not move fast enough to introduce political and religious freedoms and end civil strife.

Nabiyev, 61, said that he decided to resign in order to end a civil war in the poorest former Soviet republic, a mostly Muslim country of 5.3 million people bordering China and Afghanistan.

Tajik television showed the white-haired Nabiyev at the VIP lounge of Dushanbe airport, wearing a gray suit and brown tie and surrounded by 15 senior government and legislative leaders as he signed a document.

He then said in a calm voice: "I'm submitting my resignation."

He passed his powers to parliament speaker Akbarshah Iskandarov, in accordance with the constitution.

— The Associated Press

Brazilians try to oust president

The Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil — Thousands of demonstrators booed scandal-plagued President Fernando Collor de Mello at a military parade Monday and called for his resignation as Independence Day protests erupted around the country.

Opposition leaders said the protests were spontaneous. They said plans for huge anti-government rallies were dropped to avoid antagonizing military leaders, who have discreetly endorsed a campaign to remove the president.

"The military is in a good position, and we don't want to create problems with them," said Rep. Jose Genoino of the Socialist Workers Party.

"We didn't organize anything," said Jair Meneguelli, head of the radical leftist Central Workers Union, Brazil's biggest labor group. "A demonstration could cause conflicts, and that only interests the government."

Collor, 43, is accused of receiving millions of dollars from a slush fund run by his 1989 campaign treasurer, Paulo Cesar Farias.

Congress is to vote on the question of impeachment by October.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Aristides Junqueira will decide whether to recommend filing criminal charges against the president for corruption and criminal association.

Collor denies any wrongdoing and says he will serve out his term, which ends in 1995. He took office in 1990 as the first freely elected leader in three decades.

A nationwide movement to oust Collor has drawn millions to the streets and united nearly all sectors of society, from students and church officials to big business and the military.

On Monday, Collor was greeted with a chorus of boos, whistles and shouts as he took the viewing platform in front of the Army Ministry.

Top generals reportedly tried to dissuade him from attending the Independence Day parade, fearing protests or insubordination among soldiers who might refuse to salute the commander-in-chief.

Collor was joined by Cabinet members, including his military ministers. Congressional leaders were absent, as was Vice President Itamar Franco.

The president ignored the shouts calling for his indictment and resignation from some 3,000 protesters. Many were dressed in black as a sign of mourning.

Collor's military chief of staff, Gen. Agenor Homem de Carvalho, had proposed banning anyone dressed in black from the parade. The idea was dropped as unenforceable.

However, police confiscated banners and flags reading "Collor Get Out" and pamphlets urging his resignation. No violence was reported.

Presidential press spokesman Etevaldo Dias said the protests were "normal" and "part of democracy."

Thousands of protesters also marched in the state capitals of Fortaleza and Belo Horizonte. Hundreds paraded along Rio de Janeiro's beaches in the rain.

Bishops of Brazil's influential Roman Catholic Church held a mass for "ethics and morality in politics" at the cathedral in Aparecida do Norte, the shrine of Brazil's patron saint, Our Revealed Lady.

NATION AND WORLD

Experts critique Clinton, Bush economic strategies

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — George Bush and Bill Clinton are scattering economic proposals like crumbs along the presidential campaign trail, hoping to lure recession-battered voters down their competing paths to the White House.

With income lagging behind inflation, poverty spreading and the jobless rolls expected to swell anew, the overriding concern of the 1992 campaign is how to resurrect what Bush concedes has been a "dreary, slow-growth economy."

The two contenders say they've got the answers, but economists aren't so sure.

"Neither plan deals with the current soft, weak economy or the concerns that people have right now about keeping their jobs," said Murray Weidenbaum, who was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under Ronald Reagan.

"There are some huge gaps — for example, what's going to be paid for in what manner," added Joseph Duncan, chief economist for Dun & Bradstreet and former head of budget statistics in the Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan administrations.

Bush subscribes in theory to the baseline GOP tenet that "government is too big and spends too much."

So he's seeking an unspecified across-the-board tax cut, a capital gains tax cut and other incentives for investment and consumer spending. He stresses his private-business experience as a Texas oilman and said last week that small business was "over-regulated and over-taxed."

He supports a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and wants to let people check off a box on their tax returns to earmark 10 percent for reducing the \$400 billion annual deficit.

But Bush also recently proposed a \$10 billion job retraining program for workers. Hewould give tax breaks to first-time homebuyers and families with children. He would also offer vouchers to help low-income families pay for health insurance and private-school tuition.

Clinton, in line with Democratic tradition, told a union audience last week that "I want to have a vibrant public sector. I want to use the government to promote growth in the private sector."

The Arkansas governor maintains his economic plan would halve the deficit in four years.

But his top priority in a first term would be investment in education and public works, rather than stringent deficit-reduction steps.

Clinton programs would spend \$220 billion on education, training, transportation, communication and environmental cleanup.

He supports an extensive worker retraining program financed by 1.5 percent of the private-business payroll, college aid for all with repayment tied to future income or community service, tax breaks for families, and universal health coverage through public and phased-in employer plans.

Clinton would cut defense spending \$100 billion during four years and raise \$150 billion from new taxes on the wealthiest Americans and foreign companies doing profitable business in the United States.

Clinton says he would cut 100,000 federal jobs by attrition and proposes other savings through administrative reforms and controlling Medicare and Medicaid costs.

Weidenbaum called Bush's check-off box a gimmick and said a broad tax cut now would be premature. Still, he said, "I lean towards the Bush approach because it's a business that creates new jobs. The Clinton program pays lip ser-

vice to private enterprise, but it has an almost endless array of bigger or new government involvement."

Weidenbaum and other critics say Clinton's growth and savings projections aren't realistic.

"You've got to look at the numbers in the Clinton program skeptically," agreed Stan Collender, director of federal budget policy for Price-Waterhouse. "But the Bush program has no numbers."

While Clinton has gotten heat for his specifics, Collender said, "it seems to me that's a whole lot better than saying we'll pay for it somehow, which is what Bush says."

Last month, speaking to a gathering of conservative state legislators, Bush brandished a July 24 mid-session budget document that suggests restraints and cuts of more than \$200 billion in mandatory spending programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, welfare, food stamps, student loans, veterans benefits and child nutrition.

"It tells exactly and specifically how to get this budget deficit down," the president proclaimed.

Bush spokeswoman Torie Clarke said it was "wildly inaccurate" to suggest that meant Bush was endorsing any of the specific cuts.

But Clinton seized on Bush's apparent embrace of the document.

He argued last week that Bush would have to make draconian cuts in all the programs — and Social Security as well — to pay for "this ridiculous list of promises" he's made.

Clinton, for his part, promises 8 million new jobs and often says Bush has fallen 14 million short of the 15 million he pledged in 1988.

Bush meanwhile contends Clinton's training tax, health plan and "irresponsible" defense cuts would cost 2.6 million jobs. "We cannot have that," he declared Friday.

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