

Thousands of Yugoslavians rally in deepening crisis

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — Tens of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets Sunday and students began a hunger strike to protest police violence and demand the ouster of Communist leaders.

Residents reported a heavy police presence and roadblocks around Titograd, the capital of the southern republic of Montenegro, 280 miles southwest of Belgrade. Club-wielding riot police broke up an overnight rally there against local Communist leaders early Saturday.

Three people were reported hospitalized in Niksic, 15 miles northwest of Titograd, where police fired tear gas Saturday to break up a crowd.

The state news agency Tanjug

quoted local authorities as saying the situation in Niksic was "extremely serious" and said thousands of workers at a local steel mill put down their tools Sunday and marched to protest police actions.

The news agency said federal president Raif Dizdarevic would speak to the nation to address "the deteriorating crisis situation."

The presidency of Bosnia, another of Yugoslavia's six republics, issued a statement saying violent protests are "most seriously jeopardizing the integrity, constitutional order and security of the country," Tanjug said.

At Cetinje, 42 miles north of Titograd, authorities also increased security at workplaces and in public

places, Tanjug reported without further detail.

In Titograd, students went on hunger strike to protest the police violence and demand that local Communist leaders resign. In an unusually outspoken demand for democracy, the official Communist youth union also called for "direct and secret" elections to get leaders the people would support.

About 20,000 people attended a rally in Serbia's southern autonomous province of Kosovo, where the Serbian minority alleges harassment by the ethnic Albanian majority.

Police did not report any incidents at the rally in Titovo Mitrovica, 145

miles south of Belgrade.

At dozens of similar rallies in recent months, Serbs have rallied against the ethnic Albanian Communist leaders in Kosovo.

But in an apparent effort to prevent ethnic violence in Kosovo, Albanian Ilalit Trnavci told the crowd that Serbs and Albanians had forged links through the centuries in Kosovo and should not allow these ties to be destroyed.

About 10,000 more people rallied in Subotica, a town on the border with Hungary in Serbia's other autonomous province, Vojvodina, Tanjug said.

The crowd denounced Montenegrin leaders for ordering police

to use violence to break up Saturday's Titograd demonstration. They chanted "They are beating the boys to hide their deceit" and "Yugoslavia, wake up, don't let yourself be torn apart."

Serbs have been pushing for greater control over both autonomous provinces, backing the demand with street rallies drawing crowds of hundreds of thousands.

But the nationalist demands were increasingly mixed with loud protests against economic hardship and calls for the ouster of leading Communists. Prices have risen with a government austerity program to combat inflation of 217 percent and a foreign debt of \$21 billion.

Nebraska AIDS cases reach 78

LINCOLN — The vast majority of the 78 cases of AIDS reported in Nebraska since 1983 have involved homosexual and bisexual men in the eastern part of the state, more than half of whom now are dead.

Seven cases of AIDS were confirmed in Nebraska between July 1 and Sept. 30, bringing the total since 1983 to 78, said the AIDS quarterly report issued by the state Health Department.

Of those victims, 30 were alive as of Sept. 30, but 48 had died, the report said.

Only two cases were reported as heterosexual cases, while 52 were either homosexual or bisexual men. Four were listed as IV drug abusers. Another seven were identified as both drug abusers and homosexual or bisexual men, the quarterly figures showed.

Three cases were blamed on hemophilia-coagulation disorders, three on transfusion-blood components and one case's cause was unknown.

Since Jan. 1 of this year, 29 cases of AIDS have been reported in Nebraska. Ten were reported in the first quarter and 12 in the second.



Andy Mennert/Daily Nebraskan

Virginia Wilkinson, AIDS program director, said the fact a smaller number of cases were reported in the most recent quarter is not significant.

"We expect some variability in the cases added in each recording period. This quarter's figure does not indicate a significant fluctuation or downward trend in the action number of AIDS cases in Nebraska," she said.

Of the new cases last quarter, all but one were reported in the most-populated eastern region covering the two tiers of counties on Nebraska's eastern border. Since 1983, 67 of the 78 cases have been

reported in that region, which includes Douglas and Lancaster counties.

A total of three cases have been reported in the western region, which stretches from the state's western border to a line that runs north and south along the eastern edge of Cherry and Lincoln counties.

Eight cases have been reported in the central region since the first Nebraska case was confirmed in 1983.

Seventy-four of Nebraska's AIDS victims have been males and four females.

Violence in Algeria claims lives of at least 200 people

ALGIERS, Algeria — Soldiers fired into crowds of demonstrators Sunday who refused to disperse, and police and hospital sources said at least 200 people had died in rioting over rising prices and a government austerity program.

Clashes between the army and demonstrators grew more violent late Saturday and early Sunday. Soldiers were ordered to shoot at protesters who did not disperse and fired repeatedly.

The government confirmed deaths among security forces.

The worst violence was reported in the southern and eastern suburbs of Algiers and in the western port city of Oran. Fighting also was reported in a dozen provincial centers.

In the capital, Algiers, army helicopters armed with rockets flew low, apparently to discourage the formation of crowds.

The city was mostly calm. After midday prayers at the city's mosques, some people gathered and chanted, "Chadli Must Go!" a reference to President Chadli Bendjedid. They dispersed quickly when soldiers charged.

Hospital and police sources in various parts of the country providing fragmentary information said more than 200 people had been killed and

several hundred injured in the past five days. The government has given no official death toll.

From the accounts of sources, as well as descriptions from citizens who witnessed clashes, it seemed likely the final death toll could be much higher than 200.

A 26-year-old government official, Aliouane Fadela, said she saw gendarmes in riot gear "charging bystanders who were doing nothing, and then kick them once they were on the ground." The gendarmes are police under military control.

Authorities on Thursday imposed a state of emergency with overnight curfews and arrested more than 900 people for looting.

The official APS Algerian news agency gave a list of reasons for the mounting unrest — crop failure, the collapse of oil prices, the global economic crisis and Algeria's enormous population increase — from 9.4 million in 1954 to more than 23 million.

The unrest began about 10 days ago, when industrial workers staged strikes for higher wages. The government said it would not break with its austerity plan to raise wages, and youths began rampaging in Algiers and other cities.

Students equate high tuitions with high quality

NEW YORK — Fewer than six out of 10 young people say they have saved for college, and nearly 50 percent said tuition costs prevent many from seeking a higher education, according to a poll released Sunday.

In addition, more than one out of three teen-agers and young adults questioned in a survey commissioned by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education believe the most expensive colleges offer the best education.

The poll, aimed at measuring student awareness of college issues,

was based on telephone interviews of 1,001 people age 13 to 21 from Aug. 24 to Sept. 7. It was released as part of National Higher Education Week, which began Sunday. The poll, conducted by the Gallup Organization, had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Thirty-eight percent agreed that "the higher the tuition costs of a college, the better the quality of education a student will receive." Among pre-college-age students, the figures were higher: 53 percent of 13- to 15-year-olds agreed with the

statement; 41 percent of 16- and 17-year-olds surveyed did. But only 27 percent of current college students and graduates felt that way.

Asked what they thought was the major reason more students do not go to college, 48 percent said they thought the reason was that college is too expensive and they can't afford it.

Fifty-nine percent of high school juniors and seniors polled said they or someone in their families had saved for their college education. The rest said they hadn't saved or they didn't know.

Asked what they'd do if they

couldn't afford the college they wanted, 37 percent said they'd try to get loans, 32 percent would look for part-time jobs, 14 percent said they would select another college, and 2 percent said they would not attend college at all. The rest weren't sure.

Other findings:

•54 percent of America's high school juniors and seniors said they expect to graduate from college; 8 percent plan to graduate from high school but go no further. The remainder said they plan to attend vocational or trade school, or go to

college but not long enough to graduate.

•67 percent said that in selecting a college, availability of particular courses and curriculum was "extremely important"; 44 percent cited the school's academic reputation; 45 percent said expense was a crucial factor. Only 20 percent cited social life or athletic reputation as "extremely important."

•Seven out of 10 believe public colleges offer as good an education as private schools, and three out of five felt two-year institutions are on a par with four-year schools.

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Thousands evacuate for gas destruction

NITRO, W.Va. — More than 3,000 people left their homes Sunday while a hazardous waste crew blew up a corroded tank believed to hold up to 30 pounds of deadly hydrogen cyanide.

The 4-foot-long cylinder was abandoned at the site of the defunct Artel Chemical Co. plant, now a federal Superfund cleanup site, with 3,400 other drums and barrels of hazardous materials, many of them unidentified and most of them rusting.

As little as 50 milligrams — a size less than one-sixth the average aspirin — of the hydrogen cyanide can kill.

The explosion occurred at 1:54 p.m. and a fire was started to burn off the tank's contents. Environ-

mental Protection Agency spokesman Harold Yates said that at 2:01 p.m. "no air readings indicated any hydrogen cyanide down wind."

EPA officials had not been certain of the tank's contents, so analysts will examine a videotape of the explosion to look for a telltale purplish corona, an indication of the presence of hydrogen cyanide, surrounding the main body of the flame, Yates said.

He said the fire would have to be out and the wreckage of the cylinder would have to be inspected before anyone would be allowed back into the evacuated area.

Ambulances arrived shortly after dawn to begin taking the

elderly and handicapped to evacuation centers, but city buses from nearby Charleston that rolled through the town were relatively empty as most people chose to go to relatives' homes and local shopping malls.

"This is going to be the best thing that's happened for the Charleston Town Center and the Huntington Mall. These people are going shopping," Nitro Mayor Don Kames said.

After the area within 1,000 yards of the plant was evacuated, three men who work for a disposal company hired by the federal Environmental Protection Agency carried the cylinder 100 feet to a bunker.