

News Digest

Jewish students murdered; Netanyahu seeks attackers

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered his security chiefs Thursday to make their top priority finding the attackers of two Jewish seminary students who were shot in an ambush in the Old City's Muslim Quarter.

Authorities suspected Palestinian militants were behind the early morning shooting, which killed one student and seriously wounded the other Thursday.

"We cannot accept ... an attack in the Old City, in the heart of the capital of Israel," the prime minister said.

A spokesman for the Jewish seminary that the students attended suggested it would retaliate by pushing Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

"The Arabs will pay for the attack for many years to come," Ateret Cohanim spokesman Matti Dan promised.

The students were ambushed shortly after midnight Wednesday as they walked through a narrow alley in the Muslim Quarter on the way to their dormitory.

One or more gunmen crouching behind a low wall in the alley opened fire with Kalashnikov assault rifles, felling one student with a shot to the leg, police said.

The attackers shot 26-year-old Gabriel Hirschberg, a Hungarian immigrant, six more times as he lay on the ground, and killed him.

Three more bullets hit the second student, who managed to run hundreds of feet to a group of Israeli border policeman guarding the home of Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

The student, seriously wounded, was hospitalized.

At one point, police said it appeared there had been only one gunman, but said later there may have been more. While there was no claim of responsibility, Netanyahu said the shooters "appear to be professional killers."

After an emergency Cabinet meeting on the attack, Netanyahu ordered a new police post and beefed-up patrols in the Old City.

Police stopped passers-by in the Muslim Quarter to check their identities, and detained several residents. Israel's Channel 2 TV said police were also investigating whether members of the Palestinian police were involved.

Ateret Cohanim seminary has been leading a campaign to settle Jews in Arab neighborhoods of east Jerusalem, which they hope to see as the capital of a Palestinian state.

Clinton promises patience with Iraq

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brokered by Russia, which promised to press for the lifting of sanctions. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said Russia had promised to work for a "just and fair diplomatic solution." But he acknowledged that the U.N. Security Council's permanent members had offered no specific commitments.

The United States declared it was not party to the Russian deal. "It is not binding on us or on the U.N.," Berger said. "It is not something that we are obligated to in any respect, or the U.N."

The United States said that U-2 spy planes, which Saddam had threatened to shoot down, would continue to fly over Iraq and that Americans would remain part of the weapons inspection team.

"There should be no attempt and no expectation that there will be any change in either composition of inspectors or flights that may be flown or any material change in the inspection regime that is required," Defense Secretary Cohen said at the U.N. after meeting Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The White House suggested that Russia's promise to seek sanctions relief gave Saddam a face-saving way out of the crisis. An administration official said Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov had delivered a strong message to Aziz in Moscow earlier this week that the

international community was united and Iraq had to back down.

Before a decisive foreign ministers' meeting Thursday morning in Geneva, the White House was skeptical about Russia's diplomatic efforts. Afterward, the administration was still reluctant to give Russia a pat on the back.

"I'd rather read the last chapter of this book before I decide whether I like it or not," Berger said.

In recent days, Clinton raised the possibility that the United States would never allow sanctions to be lifted as long as Saddam was in power. Even after Saddam changed course, White House press secretary Mike McCurry said, "Based on his behavior, it's hard to see how there would be any lifting."

Cohen said, "The fact is that until there is full compliance (with U.N. resolutions), there can be no lifting of the sanctions."

The United States was concerned that the expulsion of inspectors allowed Iraq to make some advances in its weapons programs. Berger said the United Nations would not be able to assess what had happened until its inspectors were allowed to go back to work.

Even so, Berger said that Saddam "can't reconstitute in a matter of a few weeks what (U.N. inspectors) have been successful in destroying" over the last six years. Yet, he said there was "obviously some loss as each day went — goes by."

Massacre sends signal for new security system

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak called an emergency Cabinet meeting Thursday to draft a new security plan for Egypt's tourist sites, days after the massacre of 58 foreigners at a Pharaonic temple.

Mubarak also announced creation of a security committee to supervise attractions such as Luxor's Temple of Hatshepsut, which six Islamic militants stormed Monday, spraying bullets at a crowd of tourists from Europe and Asia. At Thursday's Cabinet session, Mubarak instructed security chiefs to report back within 24 hours on security gaps at Egypt's tourist sites.

The security overhaul follows Mubarak's removal of Interior Minister Hassan el-Alfy, who supervised the nation's police, as well as the Luxor police chief and several lower-level police and government officials.

The outlawed al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, or Islamic Group, which claimed responsibility for the attack, derided the government in a statement faxed today to a Western news agency, saying "the firing of el-Alfy is not enough."

It offered to declare a cease-fire if the government meets a string of demands, none of which Mubarak is likely to accept: end a government crackdown on militants; end relations with Israel; and install strict Islamic law.

By Wednesday, police had identified 54 of the 58 foreigners killed in the attack. They included 34 Swiss, eight Japanese, five Germans, four Britons, a Bulgarian, a Colombian and a French citizen.

Monday's massacre — the overall

death toll of 68 included four Egyptians and six gunmen — is the worst violence in the militants' five-year campaign to oust Mubarak's secular government. More than 1,000 people have been killed in the rebellion, which in recent years has mostly involved shootouts between militants and police.

The slaughter at the temple, however, makes clear that militants are once again targeting tourists, as they did in the early years of their insurgency. Protecting foreigners is a premium in Egypt, since tourism is a crucial part of the nation's economy.

Tightening security at the archaeological wonders that draw thousands of tourists to Egypt every year won't be easy. The pyramids and the sphinx rest on a sweeping desert plain that would be difficult to guard.

And the hundreds of tombs and monuments outside the southern city of Luxor are even more open to approach, stretching for miles along hilly, arid land on the Nile's West Bank.

Mubarak, on a visit to the massacre site, called security there "a joke." On the day of the shooting, security at the Hatshepsut monument was as usual: Two policemen guarded the entrance to the site, about 200 yards from the temple itself. There were no police inside, only the ticket takers and administrative staff.

The attackers passed through the entrance, shooting at the police stationed there, according to witness interviews published today in the Al-Ahram newspaper. It is possible, however, to avoid the main entrance when approaching the temple,



Four out of 50 motorists survive Anzob avalanche

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP) — An avalanche buried more than a dozen vehicles at a mountain pass in Tajikistan, killing as many as 46 people, emergency officials said Thursday.

The avalanche hit the Anzob Mountain pass in this Central Asian nation two weeks ago, but the government disclosed the disaster only after abandoning hope of finding more survivors or bodies.

No other reason for the delay was given.

Of 50 people who were buried in 15 trucks and cars under a 40-foot-deep blanket of snow, only four were pulled out alive. Thirteen bodies were found, and the remaining 33 people are presumed dead.

Worsening weather prevented further rescue efforts, the government said.

The Anzob pass, one of the most difficult in Tajikistan, is on a key highway about 60 miles north of the capital, Dushanbe, at a height of 11,000 feet. The pass links Dushanbe with northern Tajik regions and Uzbekistan.

Hutu rebels ransack

Rwanda prison, kill 290

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Nearly 300 people were killed when Hutu rebels, apparently trying to free their comrades, attacked a prison in northwestern Rwanda, a military spokesman said Thursday.

The dead in Monday night's clash at Giciye, about 40 miles northwest of Kigali, included 200 rebels, 88 prisoners and two soldiers, army spokesman Richard Sizibera said.

He said 93 prisoners escaped and the army was pursuing the inmates and survivors of the rebel force, estimated at 1,500. Sporadic fighting continued Wednesday night.

The attack occurred in an area where soldiers of the former Hutu-dominated government have attacked Tutsi soldiers and survivors of a 1994 genocide in which more than 500,000 people were killed.

Most of the victims of the state-orchestrated killings were minority Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus.

"The strategy is to complete the genocide," Sizibera said. "Who else is better placed to help the rebels than people accused of carrying out the genocide in the first place?"

The inmates at Giciye were among thousands of mostly Hutus charged with carrying out the genocide who are held in Rwandan jails awaiting trial.

The slaughter ended after three months when mostly Tutsi rebels chased Hutu officials, soldiers and civilians — more than 1 million in all — across the border to Congo, formerly Zaire.

Some of the soldiers returned with refugees to Rwanda late last year, while an unknown number are hidden in forests along the Congo-Rwanda border from where they launch attacks.

Everyone has an opinion

Here's your chance to be heard

The Daily Nebraskan is now hiring columnists for the spring semester. Columnists do not have to be journalism majors. Pick up an application and job description at the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union. Applications are due Nov. 21. Finalists will be called in for interviews in early December. The Daily Nebraskan does not discriminate in its hiring practices and abides by all university policies regarding the same.

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