

NEWS DIGEST

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U.N. struggles to keep peace

DILI, East Timor (AP) — Struggling to keep the situation in East Timor under control, peacekeepers stopped crowds of hungry refugees from looting Wednesday, collected weapons from pro-Indonesian militias and sent an advance team into the territory's second-largest city.

But in the first show of defiance toward the international force, armed men killed one Western journalist and attacked two others, raising fears that the peacekeepers themselves could come under attack as they deploy into more areas outside Dili.

Many Indonesians accuse the foreign media of stirring up problems in East Timor and conspiring with the United Nations to rig the outcome of an Aug. 30 referendum, in which East Timorese voted overwhelmingly to become independent from Indonesia.

"It would appear that the militia have attempted to step up some activities as a show that all is not yet secure. Well, I would agree with that," said Australian Maj. Gen. Peter Cosgrove,

commander of the peacekeeping force.

Cosgrove said he did not have enough soldiers to protect all of the residential areas in East Timor's ravaged capital, Dili.

Thousands of East Timorese descended from the hills Wednesday morning and stormed a government warehouse, looting 110-pound sacks of rice, sugar and tins of cooking oil. Indonesian guards were overwhelmed, but peacekeepers soon arrived and brought the crowd under control.

Relief efforts, which began again Wednesday, were expected to pick up Thursday. Food drops had been suspended since Monday in favor of airlifting peacekeepers and supplies for the multinational force.

Less than half the force, expected to number 7,500, was in the territory by Wednesday. Despite the paucity of troops, 150 peacekeepers flew in Blackhawk helicopters to East Timor's second-largest city, Baucau, to secure the airport, said Brig. Mark Evans, land forces commander.

"We have lost count of the number of weapons."

MARK EVANS
land forces commander

The militia violence has waned since the peacekeepers' arrival Monday, but in the Dili suburb of Becora, Dutch journalist Sander Thoenes was killed, officials said Wednesday. Thoenes, a 30-year-old reporter for London's Financial Times newspaper, had disappeared after being attacked Tuesday.

In a separate attack, two other journalists were ambushed and managed to escape. Their driver was severely wounded.

At the United Nations in New York, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said he deeply regretted Thoenes' death.

"It shows that we have always to be very, very careful," he said.

In Dili, peacekeepers drove armored personnel carriers down the devastated streets, searching for anyone who looked suspicious. Within 24 hours, the soldiers had rounded up dozens of suspected militants and confiscated hundreds of guns, knives and machetes.

"We have lost count of the number of weapons," Evans said.

Indonesia's army chief, Gen. Wiranto, claimed the situation was improving.

"Of course there's always a criminal element, one or two people are still fighting and looting — this is always going to happen. But in general, our indications are that things are OK," he said.

World and Nation

Datelines

London

Diana Ross arrested after alleged assault

LONDON (AP) — Singer Diana Ross was arrested Wednesday at Heathrow Airport after allegedly assaulting a security officer. She was released in the afternoon, walking out of the Heathrow police station through a throng of reporters.

She was given a warning but not charged with an offense, Scotland Yard said.

Ross, 55, was detained after a female security officer, who had attempted to search the singer, complained of being assaulted. Ross was at Heathrow to board a flight to the United States, according to Press Association, the British news agency, and Air News, a news agency based at Heathrow.

Massachusetts

Dole stresses restored order in classrooms

MELROSE, Mass. (AP) — Reminiscing about her student teaching days while addressing harsh concerns of today, Elizabeth Dole said Wednesday that order must be restored to classrooms — even if it means parent-approved locker and backpack searches and drug-testing of students.

"For drugs and weapons, I say: there will be no place to hide," Dole said.

The Republican presidential candidate detailed her education platform at Melrose High School outside Boston where she was a student teacher in the 1959-60 academic year.

Washington

FBI broadens investigation of alleged espionage

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal investigation of alleged Chinese espionage is being broadened following criticism that for more than three years it has focused too narrowly on the Los Alamos nuclear weapons lab, a government official said Wednesday.

The official emphasized that a former Los Alamos computer scientist, fired in March for violating security rules, remains a subject of the FBI's attention in the alleged 1980s theft of secrets about a sophisticated, miniaturized nuclear warhead called the W-88.

Washington

Frank Gifford defends wife on sweatshop allegations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former football star Frank Gifford defended his wife, Kathie Lee Gifford, during a heated Capitol Hill news conference Wednesday where labor activists said her clothing line is still produced in foreign sweatshops.

Gifford told members of the National Labor Committee that his wife was working hard to improve conditions at the factories and said he was unhappy the group released its findings before discussing them with her.

Charles Kernaghan, head of the National Labor Committee, said he told Gifford he was sorry Mrs. Gifford had become the brunt of talk show jokes and other criticism. But that discomfort cannot be likened to the plight of the sweatshop workers who earn as little as 50 cents an hour, he said.

Gore races to add to campaign funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — With nine fund-raising events in 10 days, Vice President Al Gore sprinted toward month's end and the next official tally of candidate cash. His pitch Wednesday sounded like a battle cry and was aimed at Democratic rival Bill Bradley.

"Let's fight for the way this country should be," Gore told women at a fund-raising luncheon.

Wednesday's take alone was \$700,000, and President Clinton, his voice hoarse from allergies and strain, once again chipped in to woo the Democratic Party's biggest cash-rakers.

Gore's fund-raising is on track but won't yield blockbuster surprises in the third-quarter Federal Election Commission reports, said his chief finance official, Peter Knight.

"Eye-popping is what George W. does," said Knight, referring to Republican rival George W. Bush's record-setting \$52 million tally to date.

As of June 30 and the last quar-

terly FEC report, Gore had raised \$17.5 million to Bradley's \$11.7 million.

Bradley is Gore's only challenger for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Where once Gore shadow-boxed with Bush, the vice president now aimed punches at Bradley and the former New Jersey senator's campaign for "big ideas."

America's problems will not be solved with "pie-in-the-sky rhetoric that's not matched with practical, good, hard-nosed common sense," Gore told a Washington luncheon of some 1,200 working women who contributed at least \$125 apiece to Gore's campaign.

Gore's schedule for the last two weeks of September suggested more of a frenzied dash. The vice president had fund-raisers this week in Boston, New York and Washington. On Sunday, he mines Connecticut and then trolls Chicago and New York again next week.

Government sues tobacco industry

Justice Department wants manufacturers to pay for health care.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department sued the tobacco industry Wednesday to recover billions of dollars taxpayers have spent on smoking-related health care, accusing cigarette-makers of a "coordinated campaign of fraud and deceit."

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court alleges the cigarette companies conspired since the 1950s to defraud and mislead the American public and to conceal information about the effects of smoking.

"Smoking is the nation's largest preventable cause of death and disease, and American taxpayers should not have to bear the responsibility for the staggering costs," Attorney General Janet Reno said. "For more than 45 years, the cigarette companies conducted their business without regard to the truth, the law, or the health of the American people."

The suit names Philip Morris Inc.; Philip Morris Companies; R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.; American

Tobacco Co.; Brown & Williamson Tobacco Co. Inc.; Liggett and Myers Inc.; The Council for Tobacco Research U.S.A. Inc.; and the Tobacco Institute Inc.

In the complaint, the U.S. government alleges that "for the past 43 years, the companies that manufacture and sell tobacco have waged an intentional, coordinated campaign of fraud and deceit." The long-anticipated lawsuit alleges the companies engaged in a conspiracy in violation of the federal law against civil racketeering.

Reno announced the department is formally closing, without charges, a nearly 5-year-old criminal investigation of whether tobacco companies lied to Congress or regulatory agencies about the addictive nature of tobacco.

"We are moving forward," Reno, joined by acting Assistant Attorney General David Ogden, told a news conference today.

Reno said the aim of the lawsuit is to "require the tobacco companies to restore the funds that they acquired through their unlawful conduct. ... I pledge today that we will work tirelessly to see that justice is done."

Russians pay respects to Raisa Gorbachev

MOSCOW (AP) — Several thousand Russians paid their last respects Wednesday to Raisa Gorbachev — and some also asked forgiveness for a nation that reviled her while she lived for being the antithesis of the typical Soviet leader's wife.

Raisa Gorbachev's death Monday, after a battle with acute leukemia, has prompted an outpouring of veneration from ordinary Russians.

"That's a peculiarity of our nation — they know how to bury, but they can't honor the living," said one mourner, Yelena Bondarenko.

A solemn procession for the wife of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev lined up outside the Russian Culture Fund, which she founded. Mourners waited more than an hour to

lay flowers at the foot of her coffin, which was heaped with blossoms.

The mourners were mostly women, and mostly middle-aged or elderly — about the same age as Raisa Gorbachev, who died at 67. They also were members of a generation that had bitterly resented her for being stylish, sophisticated and outspoken — unlike the wives of previous Soviet leaders.

World leaders including President Clinton, French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder sent condolences to the Gorbachev family.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and President Boris Yeltsin's wife, Naina, along with several other government and parliamentary leaders, came to pay tribute at Raisa Gorbachev's coffin.

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