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Riot breaks out at N.Y. funeral

NEW YORK (AP) - Furious protesters hurled bottles and clashed with police Saturday after the funeral for an unarmed black man shot to death by an undercover officer, the latest police shooting to inflame tensions between Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and the minority communi-

Police used batons to knock back bottles thrown outside a Brooklyn church as the funeral Mass ended. One officer was seen holding his head, wrapped in a bandage. In all, 23 police were injured, some suffering torn ligaments or broken bones, others had to have shards of glass rinsed from their eyes.

Police said 27 people were arrested on charges ranging from disorderly conduct to inciting a riot during the clash, which included the burning of an American flag. They were expected to be arraigned Sunday. Five civilians were injured, police said, but details of their conditions were not immediately released.

A miles-long procession of more than 3,000 protesters and mourners led by the Rev. Al Sharpton followed a hearse carrying the body of 26year-old Patrick Dorismond from a funeral home to Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church in for the service.

Dorismond's shooting March 16 was the third time in the past 13 months that an unarmed black man has been fatally shot by undercover

Giuliani has been criticized for releasing information Dorismond's police record, including sealed juvenile files, and for not visiting Dorismond's family

As Dorismond's coffin was carried inside, a few protesters surged forward and snatched the U.S. flag that had draped it, tore it to shreds and then set the pieces on fire.

"It's our blood. It's not cheap. We must let them know this must stop,' said Michel Eddy, a 26-year-old Haitian immigrant.

With car horns blaring, protesters chanted, knocked down police barricades and many demanded Giuliani's resignation.

A car driving the wrong way on a nearby street was plastered with banners, including one that read: "If you shoot one of my children, I shoot five of you," and others threatening 66 It's our blood. It's not cheap. We must let them know this must stop."

> Michel Eddy protester

Giuliani's family.

As the two-hour service ended around 2 p.m., a group of unarmed community affairs police and uniformed officers outside the church began having increasing difficulty controlling the crowd.

Within half an hour, about 25 officers in riot helmets carrying batons entered the crowd and were met by people throwing bottles and knocking down police barricades. The face-off with hundreds of protesters escalated quickly.

Giuliani issued a statement praising the restraint of officers involved in the confrontation.

"Unfortunately, when you allow demagogues to take over for political and divisive purposes, the American flag gets shredded and burned; steel barricades are hurled and bottles are thrown, injuring police officers and civilians," he said.

Dorismond, a security guard and the son of Haitian singer Andre Dorismond, was shot after an officer conducting a drug sting allegedly asked him if he would sell marijuana. The two scuffled, backup officers arrived and one officer's gun went off, killing Dorismond.

The officer whose gun went off, Anthony Vasquez, issued a statement Saturday, telling the Dorismonds: "As a father and a son, I can only imagine the depth of your grief. Our prayers are with you."

The shooting happened just two weeks after another undercover officer fatally shot an unarmed man in the Bronx near where Amadou Diallo was shot and killed in a hail of 41 police bullets last year. The four officers in the Diallo case were acquitted

■ California

Woman drowns, two lost in Pacific Ocean's waters

SHELTER COVE, Calif. (AP) - A Canadian woman drowned and two teen-agers were missing after they were swept into the Pacific Ocean while on a high school sightseeing trip.

The woman, believed to be a chaperone, slipped in the surf and was pulled out to sea Saturday near Shelter Cove, about 200 miles north of San Francisco, the U.S. Coast Guard said. Four males in the group jumped in after her, according to spokesman Michael Burgess.

The Coast Guard recovered the body of the woman, who was in her 40s, and rescued a 17-year-old male and a 37-year-old male. Both were taken to the Mendocino Coast Hospital where their conditions were not immediately available.

The Coast Guard continued to search Sunday for the two others, both 17 years old. The five people were from a Calgary high school, but their names were not released.

England

Britain could receive 20,000 Zimbabwean refugees

LONDON (AP) - Britain has a contingency plan in place to receive up to 20,000 white Zimbabwe refugees if recent unrest in the southern African country escalates, a newspaper reported Saturday.

The government was preparing for several thousand farmers and their families to apply for permission to come to Britain if the situation in Zimbabwe worsened, the Daily Telegraph quoted Foreign Office Minister Peter Hain as say-

Opposition to Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's rule has grown recently over the occupation of white-owned farmland by squatters and ex-guerrillas. The country is also in its worst economic crisis since it gained independence from

Britain in 1980. About 4,000 white farmers own a third of the nation's productive land. About 1.5 million black families live on the other two-thirds.

Militant black ex-guerrillas have said they are ready to go to war and would even fight to overthrow Mugabe if his government moves to halt their seizures of the farms.

■ North Carolina

Reform Judaism to vote on same-sex marriages

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) Reform Judaism is poised for a vote that could make it the most influential U.S. religious group to support clergy who perform samesex unions.

A resolution sanctioning commitment ceremonies is expected to come up at the Central Conference of American Rabbis convention starting Sunday in Greensboro.

In an unusual step, discussions will be held privately, a sign of the issue's volatility. A similar vote at the group's 1998 convention was dropped to head off potentially divisive debate.

The resolution, introduced by some female rabbis and endorsed by the conference's resolution committee, reads: "The relationship of a Jewish, same gender couple is worthy of affirmation through appropriate Jewish ritual. In accordance with the principles of Reform Judaism, each rabbi should decide about officiation according to his/her own rabbinic con-

Pope ends visit at holiest Jewish site

Pontiff makes plea for forgiveness to Jewish audience.

JERUSALEM (AP) - Pope John Paul II crowned his Holy Land sojourn Sunday with a stunning gesture to the Jews at their holiest site, shuffling slowly up to the Western Wall and placing a plea for forgiveness in a nook between its yellowed stones.

The gesture by the 79-year-old ailing pontiff was sure to become the most indelible image in a week of

unforgettable moments.

It came on a whirlwind final day that saw the pope visit the sacred sites of all three faiths, all within the confines of Jerusalem's walled Old City, one of the most disputed patches of land in the world. At the Church of the Holy

Sepulcher, the pontiff knelt at the spot where tradition says Jesus was resurrected. At the Haram as-Sharif, the hilltop where Muslims say the prophet Mohammed ascended to heaven, he met with Jerusalem's top Islamic cler-

At each stop, he witnessed the passionate dispute over a city that both Israelis and Palestinians claim as their capital. But many who glimpsed him witnessed something equally potent: the charisma and healing power of this aging, ailing pontiff.

'Some wonderful things are going to happen in this century," said Bishop William Murphy of Boston, who fol-

lowed the weeklong journey. "And I think that this week, we saw the beginning of it."

Hunched and leaning on a cane, the pontiff showed doubters he was more than up to the rigors of an ambi-

tious and grueling itinerary. Not only did he uphold his entire packed schedule, he managed to squeeze in an impromptu second look at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher before flying back to Rome on Sunday evening. He even hoisted himself up on the running board of his Chevy Suburban and waved.

But for Israelis, the highlight of the day, and indeed the week, was when the pope navigated the 86 steps it took him to reach the Western Wall and place a note in its stones, echoing a tradition of generations of Jewish worshippers. He had earlier in the week reached out to Jews at their Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem. But this was a gesture at the holiest site of all Judaism

The pope's words were from an address he made earlier this month in Rome, expressing sorrow over the past errors of his church.

"God of our fathers, you chose Abraham and his descendants to bring your Name to the Nations," read the typewritten message. "We are deeply saddened by the behavior of those who in the course of history have caused these children of yours to suffer and, asking your forgiveness, we wish to commit ourselves to genuine brotherhood with the people of the Covenant."

Putin wins election, holds off Communists

MOSCOW (AP) - Vladimir Putin looked set for victory Monday in Russia's presidential election after a surprisingly strong showing by the Communists threatened to force him into a runoff vote.

While Putin would almost certainly win a second round, it would have been a humbling setback for the former KGB officer who has soared from nowhere to become the nation's most popular politician in a few months. Putin's call to strengthen the authority of the state and the security forces worried some Russians, who fear the country's democratic reforms could be rolled back.

With 91 percent of the vote from Sunday's election counted by early Monday, Putin had 52 percent of the vote, enough to ensure victory and avoid a second round against the next highest vote winner.

Communist chief Gennady Zyuganov was second with 29.6 percent. The state-run RTR television network predicted an outright Putin victory with no runoff vote. Liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky was projected to take third place with about 7 percent of the vote.

Zyuganov accused the government of falsifying the results, saying the Communist vote was more than 40 percent.

There were no immediate reports on the fairness of the election from international monitors.

"They have set up a zone of blanket fraud to cheat citizens," Zyuganov said.

Putin looked likely to fall well short of his campaign's hopes for a huge victory and a strong mandate for his call to impose strong government at home and to revive Russia as a global power.

Putin's campaign may have suffered from the widespread assumption that he would win, convincing many of his supporters that there was no need to vote. But the fairly strong vote for Zyuganov was also seen as a protest by Russians unhappy about Putin's apparently inevitable victory.

Putin, looking relaxed, said he was confident of victory as he voted at a Moscow polling station.

"Tomorrow is Monday, a hard day, and I will have to go to work," he said.

Putin later acknowledged the Communists had done well despite their cash-strapped campaign and that his government would have to take popular discontent into account.

That means that our policy must be more balanced, take into account the existing realities and aim at increasing living standards," he told a news conference.

The tough, man-of-action image that Putin cultivates appeals to many Russians, tired of the uncertainty and mayhem of the final years of former President Boris Yeltsin. Putin has promised to end massive corruption, revive the economy after years of recession and restore the political and military influence that Moscow wielded before the Soviet collapse.

Nebraskan

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TODA Mostly sunny

high 65, low 31

TOMORROW

Partly cloudy high 56, low 35