

Booby traps, rockets kill 13 in Kashmir

India blamed the recent attacks on Islamic guerrillas. The Pakistan government reported Indian shelling has increased in past weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JAMMU, India - Five Indian soldiers and at least eight people believed to be part of a separatist movement died in an attack Monday.

Guerrillas used booby traps and rockets to kill the Indian soldiers in troubled Kashmir, the Indian military said.

Indian troops fired artillery across the frontier dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan. Shells rained down on villages Monday, Pakistani police said. The

shelling killed a man and an 8-year-old girl. They injured eight people, including four children, police said.

The Pakistan government reported that Indian shelling has increased in past weeks across the frontier - a frequent scene of artillery exchanges. Meanwhile, in Indian-held Kashmir, Islamic separatist guerrillas continued attacks.

An improvised explosive device instantly killed a brigadier general and a colonel in a jeep, an officer said on condition of anonymity.

They died in Jachil Dhara, a village 30 miles north of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state. Three soldiers were injured in the blast.

Also Monday, guerrillas fired a rocket at an army transit camp from a hideout in the thickly forested mountains about 120 miles north of Jammu, the state's winter capital. Three soldiers were killed and 15 wounded,

said Maj. Gen. PPS. Bindra.

"They had positioned themselves on the mountains overlooking the National Highway," Bindra told The Associated Press.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the two attacks, but the Indian military blamed them on Islamic guerrillas.

The attacks came as government forces killed at least five militants in a forest near Kunzelwan Gurez, a town 70 miles north-east of the city of Srinagar, police said.

Indian security forces also killed three people 60 miles south of Jammu. The army said the people had been trying to cross into India from Pakistan through the international border.

India reported hundreds of Pakistan-based Islamic militants tried to sneak into its territory to fight the 11-year-old separatist war against Indian rule in the Kashmir Valley.

India accused Pakistan of arming and funding the insurgency in Kashmir. Pakistan says it supports the Kashmiris but denied providing material aid to the guerrillas.

More than 25,000 people have died since the Kashmir insurgency began in 1989. During the past month, nearly a dozen attacks blamed on the guerrillas have left more than 120 civilians dead - most of them Hindus.

The Hezb-ul Mujahedeen, the largest of about a dozen militant groups in Kashmir, declared a cease-fire last month. It said it was ready to talk peace with the Indian government. But the group ended the cease-fire two weeks later when New Delhi refused to include Pakistan in the talks.

Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since their independence in 1947, and the two countries have twice gone to war over the territory.

World/Nation Briefs

The Associated Press

St. Maarten Tropical storm may blast Caribbean islands

PHILIPSBURG - Several Caribbean islands recovering from last year's storm damage are facing a new tropical storm.

Speeding west at near-hurricane strength, Tropical Storm Debby is threatening several northeast Caribbean islands.

Schools closed, people rushed to buy emergency supplies, and governments prepared shelters. Tourists crowded airports to flee the storm, and cruise ships turned away from the winds and rain.

The fourth named storm of the Atlantic season emerged suddenly as the season's first threat to land.

Monday afternoon, Debby was centered about 200 miles east of Guadeloupe, heading for French, Dutch and British islands Tuesday.

Forecasters said it was too early to say whether the storm could threaten the U.S. mainland.

Michigan Temporary plant closings will free tires for recall

DETROIT - Ford Motor Co. will halt production at three truck plants for more than a week. It wants to free up 70,000 tires to replace 6.5 million recalled Firestone tires.

The plants in St. Paul, Minn.; Edison, N.J.; and Hazelwood, Mo., will close. The 15-inch tires used in Ford Explorer/Mercury Mountaineer sport utility vehicles and Ford Ranger pickups will be sent to dealers.

The plants will close from Aug. 28 to Sept. 8. They employ about 6,000 workers, who will still get paid.

Northern Ireland Two Protestants killed by gunman linked to turf war

BELFAST - A gunman killed two Protestant militants Monday.

A series of shooting and arson attacks is linked to a deepening turf war among Northern Ireland's pro-British, "loyalist" gangs.

About 100 British soldiers were deployed in the most violent area to back up police.

Friends of one of the slain men, a leading member of the Ulster Defense Association, blamed the rival Ulster Volunteer Force and vowed revenge.

"Our people are furious at this provocation," said John White, a senior Ulster Defense Association figure.

Police said the gunman emerged from an alleyway during a heavy thunderstorm. He fired at least eight bullets at the two victims as they sat in a brand-new Range Rover parked on Crumlin Road. The road is plastered with fading wall murals that honor both the UDA and the UVF.

Hours later, the body of victim UDA member Jackie Coulter, was still in the front seat of the bullet-smacked vehicle. The other victim, Bobby Mahood - a one-time UVF member - died in a hospital.

It was the first time a gunman had killed two or more people in a single attack in Belfast since 1994.

Illinois Skydiver dies trying to break free-fall record

OTTAWA - Two men collided during an attempt to break a skydiving world record. One man died and the other was critically injured.

Paul L. Adams, 54, of Missoula, Mont., died Sunday during the collision with 22-year-old Kenneth Reed of Holts Summit, Mo.

The men were part of a group trying to break the world record of 282 skydivers in a free-fall formation. Jean Rush, Skydive Chicago office manager, did not know the exact number that jumped Sunday, except that it was more than 282.

In a free-fall formation, parachutes are opened in waves. Skydivers from the outer, middle and inner rings of the flower-shaped formation open their chutes at different times and altitudes to avoid collisions.

Adams opened his parachute first and immediately struck Reed.

"Survivor" cast cashes in on show's fame

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - So the triumphant person on "Survivor" picks up a million bucks Wednesday? Big deal. There's more coconuts than that to go around for the other players, the show's producer and CBS.

Consider the network: 30-second commercial spots on the two-hour "Survivor" finale went for up to \$600,000, CBS Television president Leslie Moonves happily said.

And the No. 1 summer program provided a ratings transfusion to CBS' struggling "The Early Show," which features ousted "Survivor" contestants each week.

Series producer Mark Burnett has emerged as the king of reality television. Especially since CBS' hapless "Big Brother" proved that not just any format - even those that worked in Europe - can make it in America.

Burnett's "Survivor" sequel, set in the Australian outback, will make its debut after the Super Bowl on Jan. 28. Then he sets his sights higher: a trip to outer space, the grand prize for his next series.

"Everybody already knows who the winner is. ... Mr. Burnett and CBS," joked "Survivor" contestant Gretchen Cordy last month.

As for the \$1 million winner, the four remaining players will be whittled down to two Wednesday. The champion then will be picked by the seven last castoffs.

The finalists are Kelly Wiglesworth, 23, a river guide from Las Vegas; corporate trainer Richard Hatch, 39, of Newport, R.I.; Rudy Boesch, 72, a retired Navy SEAL from Virginia Beach, Va.; and truck driver Susan Hawk, 38, of Palmyra, Wis.

So what about the other "Survivor" contestants who will miss out on the big bundle of cash? They're not necessarily losers.

In the biggest coup so far, ex-"Survivor" member and New York physician Sean Kenniff signed on as a medical correspondent for the TV magazine "Extra."

San Francisco attorney Stacey Stillman and B.B. Andersen, a retired contractor from Mission Hills, Kan., filmed Reebok ads. Jenna Lewis, a Franklin, N.H., college student and mother of twins, is considering a reported \$500,000 offer to pose for Playboy.

"It may hinder some of my other career moves. But it would also take care of me and my daughters for many, many years to come," Lewis told the Toronto Sun.

Colleen Haskell, a student from Miami Beach, reportedly rebuffed Playboy but could have a radio job in the Miami area. Biochemist Ramona Gray of Edison, N.J., will be a Miss Teen U.S.A. judge.

Substitute teacher Dirk Been of Spring Green, Wis., endorsed an herbal cold remedy, Airborne. And Philadelphia youth coach Gervase Peterson is appearing on "The Hughleys" sitcom.

Despite the flurry of offers, the contestants have to face reality: Their window of opportunity is about as large as a TV screen, and we don't mean a big-screen model.



Captain Vladimir Kasatonov, commander of the Pyotr Veliky, watches rescuers try to save the crew of the Kursk submarine trapped on the bed of the Barents Sea off of Russia. Efforts by Russian submarines to dock with the crippled sub have been thwarted.

Sailors declared dead in Russia sub

A last-ditch effort failed to save possible survivors. The government conceded the rescue effort was flawed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW - A desperate effort to reach a sunken Russian nuclear submarine ended Monday.

Divers said none of the 118 sailors was alive more than a week after a catastrophic explosion left them inside a crumpled wreck on the bottom of the Arctic Ocean.

Norwegian divers finally opened the escape hatch and forced their way into the hull of the Kursk after working in the Arctic depths for more than 24 hours. They said the submarine was completely flooded.

There was no sign that any of the crew had survived for long inside the mangled warship 350 feet below the surface.

Dejected and emotional, Defense Minister Igor Sergeev expressed condolences to the sailors' families and admitted the rescue attempt had been flawed. He spoke in a Monday night interview on Russia's largest network, ORT.

"We are all mourning together with the relatives and loved ones. We will never forget what the sailors did, that they did all that was possible and impossible."

Igor Sergeev
Russian defense minister

"We are all mourning together with the relatives and loved ones," he said. Then he paused and sighed deeply. "We will never forget what the sailors did, that they did all that was possible and impossible."

Relatives and friends of the crew collapsed with grief after rescuers found no survivors.

Other Russians assailed their government for its slow, bumbling response to the Aug. 12 disaster. They wondered when their crisis-wracked nation will see stability.

"Forgive me for not saving your sailors," the commander of the Northern Fleet, Adm. Vyacheslav Popov, said to victims' wives and mothers in a televised statement. He said the crew was not to blame for the Kursk's sinking.

The Russian government resisted international help for days, even as its rescue capsules repeatedly failed to reach the Kursk's damaged escape

hatch. A British mini-submarine brought to the site was never used.

"They have killed the boys, that's all," said Yekaterina Dyachkova, a retiree in Murmansk, headquarters of the Northern Fleet. She struggled to hold back tears. "The (navy) should have called for help immediately, but they waited for so many days."

Sergeev said that during the rescue operation, "It's possible that we made mistakes." He complained that meager funding left the navy short of divers and modern rescue equipment.

"Our country has been robbed and shredded for the past several years, and the armed forces receive less than 50 percent of what the budget promises," he said.

Moscow was considering ways to raise the submarine, which contained some of the navy's most advanced weapons and equipment. But the precarious project could take weeks or months.

Protesters petition Scouts for gay leaders

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING, Texas - Demonstrators were turned away from the national Boy Scouts of America headquarters Monday after presenting a 55,000-signature petition protesting the organization's ban on gay troop leaders.

Fewer than a dozen demonstrators, some wearing Boy Scout uniforms, were met by a security guard and not allowed past the front desk.

A secretary who refused to give her name said she would forward the petition to the organization's president, who was out of town.

The protesters had hoped to

talk with leaders of the organization or at least schedule a meeting.

"We're disappointed," said Dave Rice, a former Scout leader in Petaluma, Calif. "We don't like confrontation. We like to sit down, shake hands and discuss a solution that's mutually beneficial."

Rallies against the Boy Scouts were planned in at least 36 cities and 21 states as part of a nationwide protest.

"Stop the hate. Stop the lies," read one sign outside a Dallas scouting council office, where about two dozen people were protesting.

The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in June that Boy Scouts can bar gays from serving as troop leaders.

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