Tuesday, January 22, 2002

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eniors and Graduate Students, Notes-N-Quotes is currently hiring notetakers for the Spring Semester. Apply at 701 Uni-versity Drive, directly across from the Blocker building on the A&M campus or

Sitter needed M-W-F afternoons &some weekends for 2-boys, ages 3.5 &2yrs. Must have experience, good driving record &provide references. \$6.25/hr. Call

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F-roommate needed for 3/2/02. House, \$400/mo &1/3 bills. Furnished, w/d, large back yard. Call Kristen 695-8074. Move in

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WORLD

THE BATTALION

Lava causes huge gas station explosion

a massive explosion and a series of fireballs at a gas station Monday, killing at least 30 people scavenging for fuel. Still, residents picked their way across hardening slabs of lava, returning home to this town demolished by a volcanic eruption.

With most of the tens of thousands who fled last week's eruption already returned, a volcano expert declared the area reasonably safe despite continuing earth tremors. He said there were no indications Mount Nyiragongo would erupt again soon and that all lava flows had halted.

Residents scoured cooling tongues of lava for scorched sheets of corrugated iron to use as roofs for makeshift dwellings. Lava destroyed about 40 percent of the city at the head of Lake Kivu, but on Monday the streets once again teemed with people, and many shops were open. U.N. officials said they were concerned about water and air quality.

And the blast at the gas station Monday

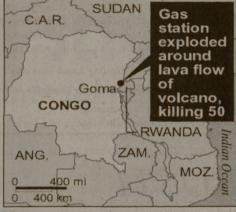
GOMA, Congo (AP) — Lava touched off morning showed the dangers as residents try to move in. Lava apparently ignited fumes of gasoline and diesel fuel at the station, detonating a series of massive fireballs that sent a cloud of jet-black smoke into the sky.

People were trying to scoop fuel into plastic containers from the already burned-out station when the first explosion hit. One witness said 50 people were killed, but soldiers from the rebel organization that controls Goma said 30 died, some of them women and children.

More than a dozen 50-gallon barrels in the station storeroom exploded for hours, sending 100-foot flames skyward and engulfing the building. No bodies were visible outside.

There have been unconfirmed reports that as many as 40 people were killed in the initial eruption on Thursday, when Mount Nyiragongo — 30 miles to the north — sent out streams of lava that destroyed some 14 villages and ran through the center of Goma.

Jacques Durieux, a vulcanologist at the by the settling of the area were the only threat.



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESRI

French Group for the Study of Active Volcanoes, said the worst of the eruption appeared to be over. He said continuing earthquakes caused

Israelis take over Tulkarem in West Bank

TULKAREM, West Bank (AP) — Israeli troops searched homes and traded fire with Palestinians as the military took over an entire Palestinian town Monday, a first in 16 months of fighting and another blow to beleaguered Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Dozens of tanks rumbled through the streets of Tulkarem, emptied by a military curfew. Troops firing tank-mounted machine guns fought with Palestinian militiamen and rounded up suspected militants. Two Palestinians were killed and 24 wounded in clashes in Tulkarem and in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Israel said the seizure was in response to lethal attacks on Israelis and that it was doing the job Arafat failed to do — rounding

Israel hinted that other towns in the northern West Bank might be targeted next. "In the absence of Palestinian Authority security activity, Israel has entered Tulkarem to remove that threat," said Israeli government spokesman Dore Gold.

The Palestinians accused Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of trying to bring down Arafat and destroy all prospects for a resumption of peace talks.

A defiant Arafat said the Palestinians would resist the Israeli incursion, saying Israel "crossed all the red lines" by taking over Tulkarem. "Our people will never keep silence about

his headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah, which has been surrounded by Israeli tanks since Friday. In a rare reference to his own mortality, Arafat also suggested he might not be around to see the establishment of a Palestinian state. "I

swear to God I will see the Palestinian state, as

all of these Israeli attacks," he told visitors at

a martyr or while still alive," Arafat said. Israel's Cabinet has not formally decided to try to topple Arafat, and government officials

have said the latest actions were intended to pressure him to crack down on militants.

Israel has raided Palestinian-ruled areas many times since fighting broke out in Sep-

Incursion

Dozens of Israeli tanks backed by helicopters entered the West Bank town of Tulkarem Monday and took over the entire town. The raid was the largest in 16 months of fighting.



tember 2000. However, Monday marked the first time Israel took control of an entire major Palestinian town since Palestinian self-rule began in 1994.

Army commanders said troops would stay in Tulkarem for days, not weeks, but Gold said that "we are not putting a time limit on this."

The Tulkarem raid came as a reprisal for a shooting attack last week by a Palestinian militant on a banquet hall in the Israeli town of Hadera. The gunman, who set out from Tulkarem according to the army, killed six Israelis before being shot dead by police. Palestinian militants said they launched the Hadera attack after the death of a militant leader in Tulkarem, blamed on Israel.

Tanks rumbled into Tulkarem, a town of about 50,000 Palestinians, at 3 a.m. Monday. "We saw the tanks coming and we ran," said Palestinian policeman Jihad Abu Tawfik, 47.

Elsewhere, Israeli troops met with resistance, especially in the adjacent Tulkarem refugee camp to which many gunmen had fled. Tanks had difficulty entering some of the camp's alleys and groups of children followed the gunmen around as they fired at armored vehicles.

The town of Tulkarem was largely deserted, and shops were shuttered. In the center of town, five armored personnel carriers were parked in front of a six-floor shopping center. Troops had draped camouflage netting across the entrance.

Soldiers took over key buildings, including a local college and the villa of the mayor, sandbagging rooftops and hoisting Israeli flags there.

'They came and knocked on the door at about four in the morning," said the mayor, Mahmoud Jalad. "For three hours, they kept me, my wife and three daughters out in the cold. Then they allowed me to sit in a corner of my house with my family and they said, 'no

NEWS IN BRIEF

Afghanistan appeals for aid

(AP) TOKYO Afghanistan's leader made an emotional appeal for aid to rebuild his shattered country, but at a conference of donors on Monday pledges so far fell short of the United Nations' hopes.

Afghan Prime Minister Hamid Karzai collected promises of \$2.6 billion for the next three years on Monday. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he hoped for \$10 billion for five years, and the United Nations estimates a total of \$15 billion would be needed over the next decade.

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