

Serbian police strike Albanian activists

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — Serbian police using clubs reportedly clashed with ethnic Albanian demonstrators Tuesday in southern Kosovo province, the next potential hotspot of ethnic violence in what used to be Yugoslavia.

In Sarajevo, the senior civilian U.N. official in the splintered Yugoslav federation said the situation was "desperate" in the Bosnian capital.

Cedric Thornberry said crews trying to restore water and electricity before the onset of winter were coming under frequent gunfire.

Fighting convulsed parts of Sarajevo.

Government troops repulsed Serb infantry attacks in the western suburb of Stup and mortar rounds targeted several other city sectors.

Tension rose over a U.N. "no-fly" zone in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The commander of the rebel Bosnian Serbs' warplanes threatened to defy the order.

In Washington, U.S. officials said the government was consulting allies on a response to reports Serb bombers were already violating the flight ban.

While the ban the U.N. Security Council approved Friday is not militarily backed, the United States and other members have threatened to seek a resolution authorizing enforcement.

Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic appealed for calm in Kosovo and announced he would travel to the predominantly Albanian province Thursday.

Opposition leaders in Belgrade have repeatedly charged that Serbia's hard-line leader, Slobodan Milosevic, could exploit violence in Kosovo to undermine Panic's efforts to end the Yugoslav crisis.

Milosevic, leader of Serbia's former Communist party, has accused Panic of being too conciliatory in trying to end the isolation of Yugoslavia, now only Serbia and tiny Montenegro.

Milosevic's strong support for Serb militants in Croatia and Bosnia brought severe U.N. trade sanctions on Yugoslavia. In Kosovo, protest organizers said police officers assaulted ethnic Albanians who tried to enter the university building in downtown Pristina. Belgrade radio said several protesters and police officers were injured before the demonstrators dispersed early in the afternoon.

A statement released by a coalition of ethnic Albanian parties said police "brutally beat up" demonstrators and ran over a 17-year-old girl with a squad car.

Smaller clashes also occurred in the towns of Lipljan, Urosevac and Mitrovica, where several arrests were reported.

Speaking in Zagreb, Croatia, Thornberry said work crews again failed to repair electricity lines and water mains in Sarajevo.

Despite guarantees from Serb militias and troops loyal to Bosnia's Muslim-led government, most of the teams were shot at when they tried to restore utilities, he said. U.N. officials say the resumption of heat and water in Sarajevo could stave off thousands of deaths this winter.

Dysentery cases already are climbing. Bad weather is hampering efforts to fly food to the city.

U.N. officials said one transport plane was hit by fire from the ground as it approached Sarajevo airport.

They did not give its nationality or other details, and they gave no indication the airlift would be halted.

Richards to cast first vote for Clinton in Texas

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Gov. Ann Richards wants to be the first Texan to cast a general election ballot for presidential candidate Bill Clinton by taking advantage of the state's early voting law Wednesday, a spokeswoman said.

Richards, a Democrat, planned to vote at an Austin grocery store at 7 a.m. on the first day of early voting in Texas, said spokeswoman Margaret Justus.

The state's early voting period runs from Wednesday through Oct. 30.

Besides casting an early-bird vote for her party's presidential candidate, Richards "wants to encourage people to follow in her footsteps and vote early, and take advantage of the state's early retail voting," Justus said.

The governor's vote will be among the first in the nation. Early voting already has begun in Colorado, another state that permits voting before the Nov. 3 election day.

Democrats planned a strong push to increase early voting in Texas, highlighted by rallies attended by Richards and other Democrats. For example, Hillary Clinton, wife of Bill Clinton, was scheduled to attend an early-vote rally in Dallas Wednesday, and Democratic

National Committee Chairman Ron Brown was to speak at a Houston rally. Richards planned to attend rallies in East Texas with Democratic U.S. Rep. Charlie Wilson.

"Our goal is to have 1.75 million votes cast during the early voting period," said Kirk Adams, director of Unity '92, Texas' coordinated campaign for Democrats.

Republicans, in contrast, planned to concentrate on a "massive phone bank operation" to get out the vote, said spokesman Mark Sanders for Victory '92, the GOP election effort for Bush and other Republicans.

"We made a decision that rather than having a public display with crowds and dragging our volunteers out of the phone banks to show up at a rally, we'd be better served if they were in the phone banks, working," Sanders said. "We don't have time for gimmicks."

However, Sanders said Republican U.S. Rep. Bill Archer and Bush supporters also planned to vote Wednesday in Houston.

Besides polling places in traditional locations and a number of retail stores, Texans may use mobile early voting sites. These can range from motor home-like vehicles to station wagons containing the essentials for voting, according to Secretary of State John Hannah's office.

Karen Hughes, state GOP spokeswoman, said Richards and Hannah should ensure that every mobile voting site is cleared by the U.S. Justice Department. Hughes said she'd been told many sites had not been cleared.

Bill Cryer, spokesman for Richards, said the responsibility for submitting the sites lies with local county clerks "and we are confident that they would do that."

"It's a typical election-eve kind of Republican thing to try to discourage voters," Cryer said of Hughes' comments.

Hughes said, "We want everyone to vote. We want to make sure that the law is followed."

Also on the eve of early voting, several civil rights groups said they were launching a voter rights protection effort. They said voters who are subjected to intimidation or abuse, or do not receive adequate bilingual assistance or other necessary help, may call 1-800-446-2536.



Richards

Entrepreneur's airline to link Houston, L.A.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — A former America West Airlines employee says he's starting a new airline with flights linking Houston and Los Angeles.

Michael Richmond, 31, said Monday the new company, Richmond Jet International, would begin next year with one Boeing 737-300 jet, seating 143 people, flying two daily round trips non-stop.

The airline will sell only one class of ticket and offer a single economically competitive fare, he said.

Continental is the only airline to offer non-stop service between Houston and Los Angeles, Richmond said.

"The public is always looking for another choice."

The new airline will require an estimated \$10 million investment for landing fees, the lease of the airplane and salaries of an estimated 50 to 60 employees, he said.

Richmond said he has obtained financial backing from a group of private New York investors he did not wish to name.

Richmond said his company

has reached an agreement with America West to use its gates in both cities and provide baggage handling and ground services for the fledgling carrier.

But Dick Shimizu, spokesman for the Phoenix-based America West, said Tuesday no such agreement has been finalized.

"We have an on-call agreement with him in Houston that says he can use the gate, provided we aren't using it at that time," Shimizu said.

But he said talks with Richmond have not progressed to complete a deal at Los Angeles International Airport.

Shimizu said there is no pact for ground services or baggage handling.

"We have had discussion with him," Shimizu said. "But we are nowhere near having an agreement with him."

Richmond said he has 12 years experience in the airline business, including several years with America West, where he worked as a flight engineer handling flight scheduling and operations.

Shimizu said he left the operations in Phoenix in March 1986 as an assistant dispatcher.

Agency's decision stirs issue of race in adoptions

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — A state welfare agency's decision to take a 3 1/2-year-old black foster child away from the white family that raised him has renewed controversy about whether race should play a role in adoptions.

Philip and Lana Jenkins of Abilene say they should be allowed to adopt Christopher, whom they have cared for since he was a newborn whose mother was addicted to crack.

But the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, which oversees the state's Child Protective Services, has ordered Christopher placed with a black foster family that also wants to adopt two of the child's half-brothers.

Although state officials first began seeking Christopher's removal from the foster home in September 1991, it wasn't until a recent decision by state Judge Aleta Hacker in Abilene that the boy was placed with the black family.

Jenkins, who vows to continue seeking custody of the boy and has filed a federal discrimination lawsuit against the PRS, believes the placement was based solely on race.

She said she fears Christopher will be emotionally destroyed.

"He firmly believes he's coming back home," Jenkins said Tuesday. "Our concern is he's been gone three weeks today and he's probably starting to give up hope."

At issue is one of 10 agency guidelines to be used when a caseworker considers what family to choose for an adoption. It lists "preservation of (the child's) racial or ethnic heritage."

Camille Miller, the agency's interim executive director, said the guideline is not to be considered before any other.

"There are 10 factors that must be taken into account," Miller said. "... There is nothing in there that says one is a priority over another. They are all 10 to be taken into consideration."

She said the bottom line is what is best for the child.

"I think everyone would agree that if you've got a situation where a black child can be placed with his black siblings in a black family, that looks like the best situation," she said.

"That may not be, depending on the family and the siblings and the individual child. In this case, that is what appears to be in the best interest."

Surgeons defend transplant

Doctor calls use of pig liver unethical

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Surgeons on Tuesday defended their failed effort to save a dying woman by transplanting a pig liver, facing criticism from a doctor who said putting the animal organ into a human was unethical.

The landmark operation was a temporary measure to keep her alive until a human liver could be found. Susan Fowler, 26, died Monday evening after a human liver was sent to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center from Utah.

She died of complications of acute liver failure despite the fact that the pig liver transplanted on Sunday was functioning, said Dr. Leonard Makowka, head of the transplant team. Rapid deterioration in the woman's health caused doctors to choose the pig liver transplant, he said.

"We were faced with a young woman deteriorating in front of our eyes with signs of severe

brain swelling," Makowka said. "If we're faced again with this situation tonight, we would have to proceed."

"There's absolutely no basis in basic research for trying a pig liver in a human being given the differences in biology between people and pigs," said Dr. Arthur Caplan, director of the Biomedical Ethics Center at the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis.

"But the gap in biology between a pig and a person at the present time is too large to morally justify subjecting any human being to a transplant of organs from a pig," Caplan said in a telephone interview.

"I understand his concerns . . . but Dr. Caplan hasn't had the benefit of years of research" into transplanted pig livers, Makowka said.

The surgeons did not know why the fatal complication, brain swelling, occurred with the pig liver functioning.

CAN YOU FIND 3 THINGS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?



ANSWER: If you picked the giraffe, the cannon, and the upside-down door, give yourself a gold star — those things are wrong here. But if you picked out the three gay couples dancing together, then go straight to your room and think about the difference between right and wrong. Millions of decent, hard-working Americans happen to be gay, and they deserve to fit into the picture too. Still puzzled? Here's a simple clue: Different things are natural for different people.

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