

South African gunmen kill 15 funeral mourners

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Black gunmen in a stolen car shot dead 15 people Sunday night in the black township of Sebokeng, police said. Twelve people were also wounded.

The attack came the same day thousands of mourners filed past the open, flower-draped casket of slain black leader Chris Hani at a soccer stadium.

Witnesses told police the attackers were black men in a Volkswagen that was later found gutted in the township south of Johannesburg.

Police Maj. Joseph Ngobeni said a group of black gunmen killed a man and a woman and stole their car. Several shootings in different parts of Sebokeng then occurred from the same car, Ngobeni said.

One of the shootings killed six people — two men, two women and two children — and reportedly came from a different car, Ngobeni said. But he said the witnesses might have mistaken the model of the vehicle.

Ngobeni said all the victims were black and that police were unable to establish a motive for the attacks. He said police were investigating.

Tension was high as the African National Congress prepared to bury Hani, one of its most popular leaders. He was assassinated in his driveway on April 10 by a white suspected extremist.

Several violent protests and looting occurred in the past week, and the government has deployed thousands of extra police and soldiers to try to maintain order during Monday's funeral.

Tens of thousands of supporters were expected to attend one of the biggest political funerals in the nation's history.

Hani's killing raised fears that right-wing attacks could increase tension and threaten talks between mainstream black and white leaders on ending apartheid. Political leaders have said the talks must continue.

Bosnia signs truce

Armistice permits aid, but surrender

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TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Srebrenica's defenders caved in to a relentless Serb siege Sunday and signed a truce that permits aid and evacuation, but amounts to virtual surrender of the strategic Muslim town.

Many of Srebrenica's fighters resented the agreement and it was unclear if the cease-fire would last. Scores of truces in the Bosnian war have collapsed over the past year.

It would be the Bosnian government's biggest capitulation in the year-long war and underlines the weak position of the outgunned government forces against the Serbs and Croats who have seized most of the state.

Serbs are driving for control of eastern Bosnia to hook up with adjacent Serbia and other Serb-held areas of Bosnia and Croatia into a "Greater Serbia." Only two other Muslim enclaves, Gorazde and Zepa, remain in eastern Bosnia.

Just hours after Serbs and the Muslim-led Bosnian forces signed

the truce, 130 Canadian U.N. peacekeeping troops entered the town to a hero's welcome, said ham radio operators.

Crowds mobbed the peacekeepers' 22 armored personnel carriers and 19 trucks and hugged and kissed the soldiers.

French and British helicopters then began ferrying sick and wounded to Tuzla, under an agreement permitting airborne evacuation of the 500 most desperate cases before an overland evacuation starts for all those who want to leave the town.

U.N. officials said they expected about 60 people to be evacuated before nightfall Sunday, and the helicopters would continue their mission over the next few days.

Tuzla, 45 miles northwest of Srebrenica, is already overflowing with an estimated 60,000 refugees from the Serb drive in eastern Bosnia. There are up to 60,000 more in Srebrenica.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, pledged to honor terms of the Srebrenica agreement.

World News Briefs

Earthquake hits Peru; two die

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A powerful earthquake early Sunday sent thousands of people running into the streets of Lima, and triggered landslides that killed at least two people and injured three on the capital's outskirts.

Civil defense officials reported no major damage in the capital, but said the quake cut electricity and telephone services to parts of the city.

The 4:16 a.m. (5:16 a.m. EDT) quake lasted about 50 seconds in Lima, home to a third of the country's 21 million people.

It measured 5.6 on the Richter scale, the Peruvian Geophysical Institute said. It was centered in the Pacific, 85 miles northeast of Lima.

Yeltsin campaigns for election votes

MAVLADIMIR, Russia (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin mixed religion and politics Sunday, marching in an Easter procession and campaigning for votes one week before a referendum on his

leadership.

Yeltsin flew by helicopter to this 12th-century city 80 miles east of Moscow to kick off the final week of political activity before the April 25 balloting. He called the referendum to settle his power struggle with Russia's Communist-dominated parliament.

A choir sang, church bells pealed and more than 15,000 people cheered Yeltsin as he walked down Vladimir's main street behind altar boys and Russian Orthodox priests carrying candles and icons in celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Mubarak fires interior minister

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak appeased Muslim radicals Sunday by firing his interior minister, whose harsh campaign failed to stanch anti-government violence and raised accusations of human rights abuses.

The new minister has first-hand experience with the militants and is a known crusader against corruption, one of the radicals' main complaints in their holy war to replace Egypt's secular government with strict

Islamic rule.

Moreover, Police Maj. Gen. Hassan el-Alfy, 57, is not a member of Mubarak's political party, which is sure to win favor with militants.

It was uncertain how widely Hassan's policies may differ from his predecessor, Abdel-Halim Moussa. But analysts expect the militants to suspend attacks on tourist sites and other areas as they await his first move.

Seoul hospital fire kills 35 patients

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — At least 35 patients burned to death when a pre-dawn fire swept through a provincial hospital on Monday, police said. Fifteen other patients were rescued unharmed.

The 45 patients of the Seoul Neuro-Mental Hospital in Nonsan were asleep in three rooms when the fire broke out, police said.

The front door of the two-story building was shattered, causing the high death toll, they said.

Police were investigating the cause of the fire and why so many patients were crowded into three small rooms.

Nonsan is 150 miles south-

west of Seoul.

Palestinians ax Israelite to death

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli man was hacked to death Sunday in the first Israeli fatality since the occupied territories were sealed three weeks ago in an attempt to calm unrest.

Army radio said the man was slain with axes and knives, apparently by several Palestinians who were seen fleeing the site in the occupied Gaza Strip.

The army had no other details about the slaying.

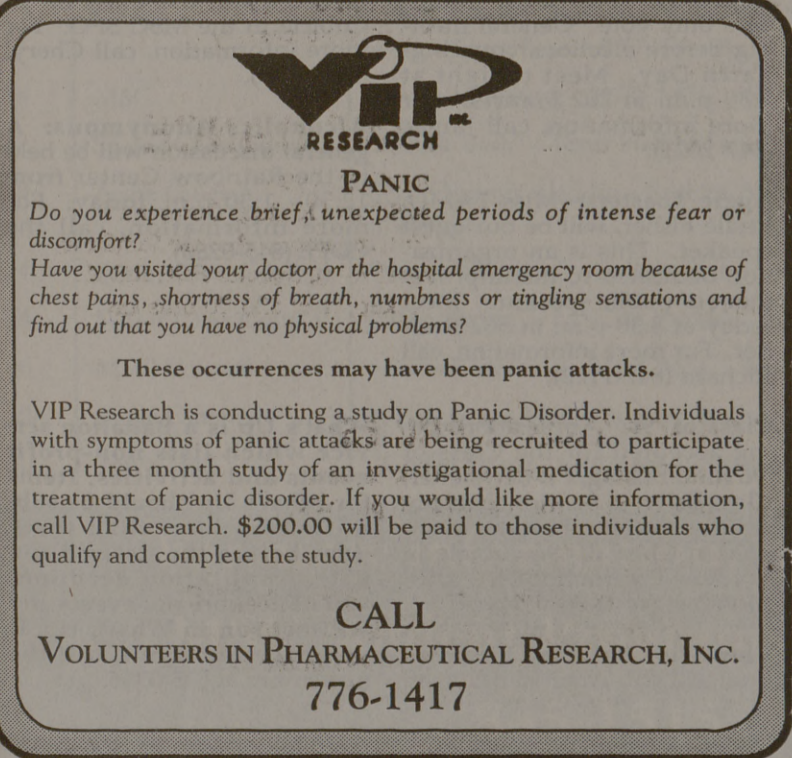
Also Sunday, Israeli newspapers quoted senior military sources as saying a Palestinian commander who was ambushed and critically wounded in south Lebanon on Friday "got what he deserved."

They portrayed Samir Sweidan as a major Israeli foe who engineered rocket attacks on northern Israel and bombed Israeli troops in southern Lebanon.

Sweidan, 36, belongs to the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. His wife and daughter died in the ambush near Tyre.



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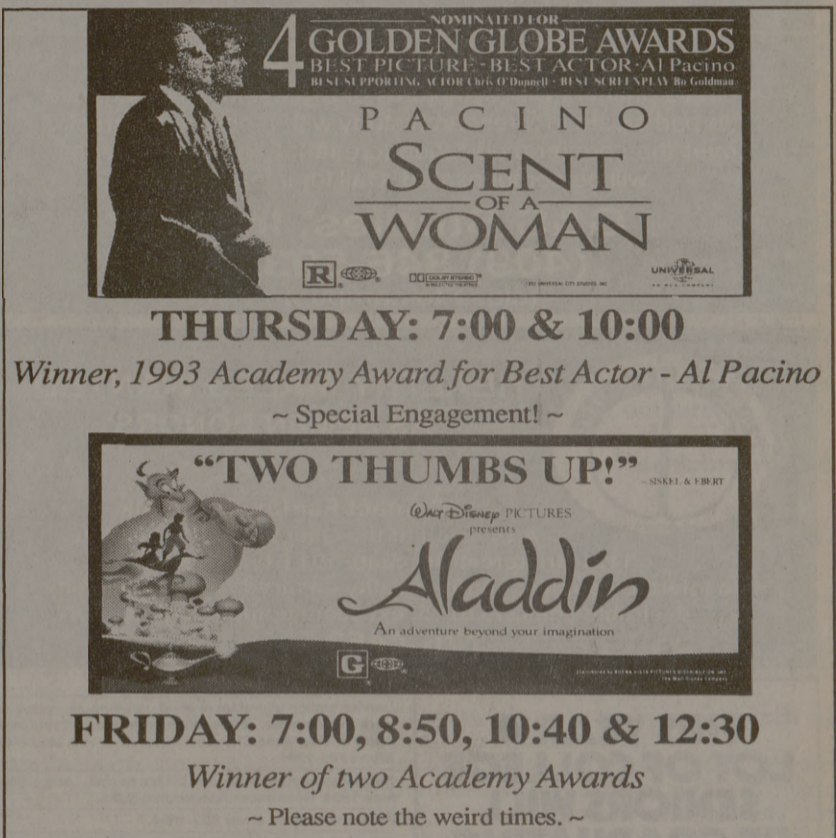
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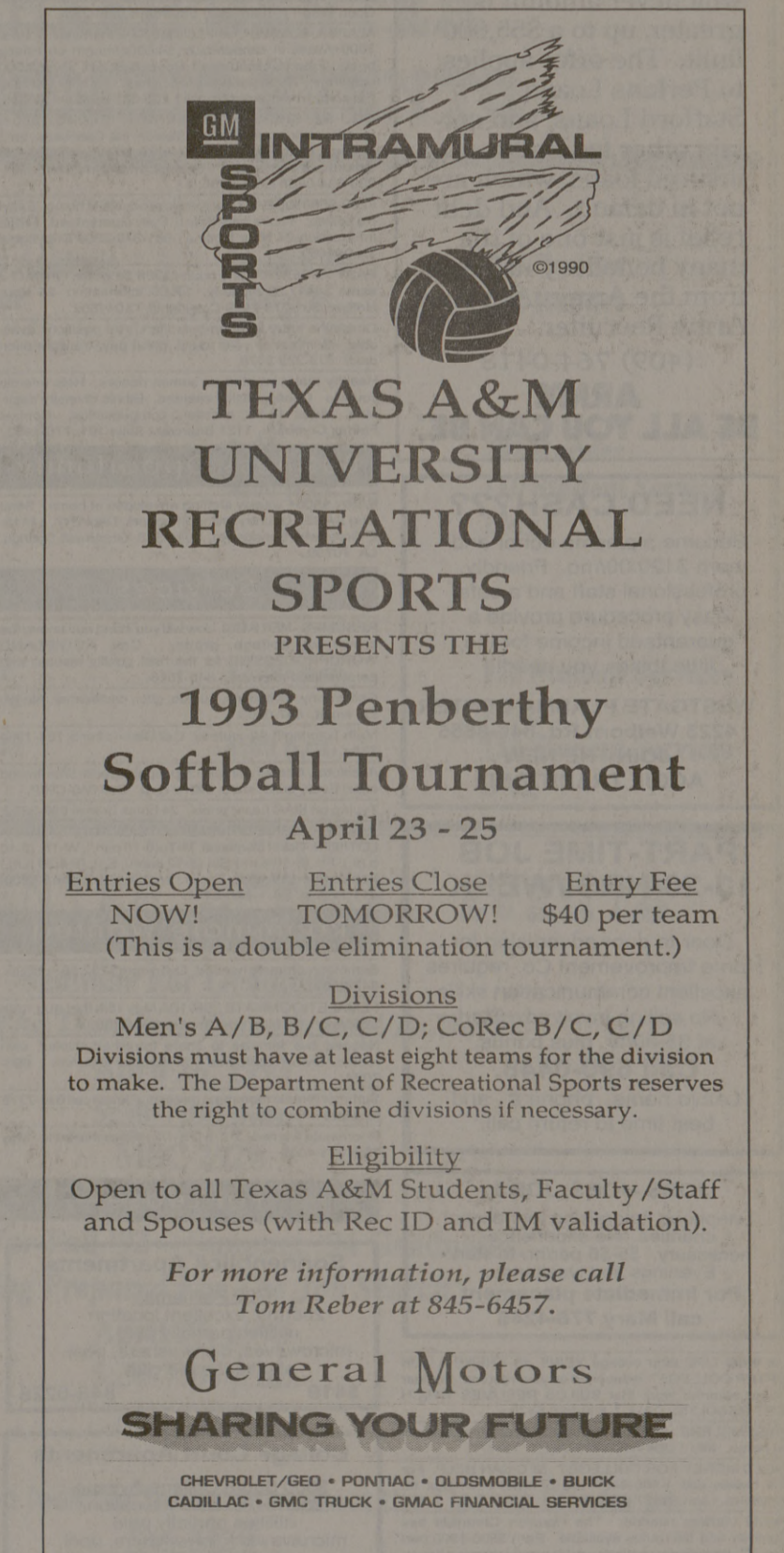
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