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Serbs shell base before negotiations

Fighting erupts despite peace accord

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Shells believed fired from Serb tanks slammed into a U.N. base Sunday just hours after an accord took effect to halt major military offensives before peace talks.

No one was injured when at least four shells hit the base, located near the main U.N. headquarters in Sarajevo.

"This was direct fire. It was not an accident," said the U.N. commander, Col. Roger Duburg of France, who blamed the attack on ethnic Serb forces.

Many other attempts to halt or control Bosnia's ethnic civil war have failed.

Earlier Sunday, shelling subsided around Sarajevo's outskirts.

But all three sides quickly claimed their foes in other parts of Bosnia had broken the accord, which seeks to halt shelling of civilian areas and attacks aimed at gaining territory. But it said isolated small arms fire would not be treated as violations.

Cmdr. Barry Frewer, a spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers, said Serb troops bombarded

western parts of the city Saturday and launched an infantry attack on Zuc, a mountain northwest of the city center. More than 3,000 rounds of artillery, tank and mortar fire were recorded.

Serb rebels punched through Bosnian government lines on Zuc before being turned back in very heavy fighting, Frewer said. There was no immediate word on casualties.

A Serb breakthrough on Zuc would enable Serbs to link up with their positions south of the city, cutting Sarajevo in two and giving Serbs control of the capital's western end.

Shells also fell Saturday on Mount Igman, another key position in the Muslim-dominated government's defense of Sarajevo, and heavy gunfire was exchanged in the suburbs surrounding the airport, Frewer said.

Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic, has said he will attend peace talks scheduled to start Tuesday in Geneva if the accord holds. The talks have been postponed twice because of fighting.

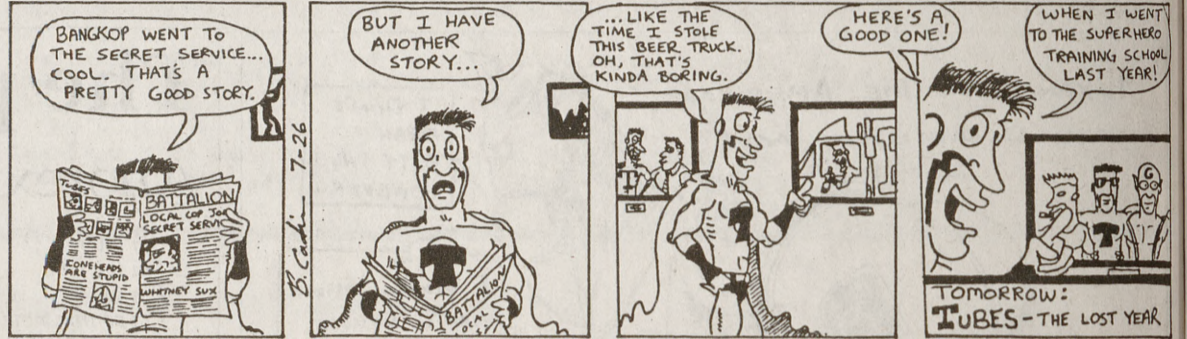
Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told The Associated Press on Saturday that Izetbegovic must accept the partition of Bosnia into three ethnic states or Serb forces would settle the question on the battlefield. Serbs control about 70 percent of Bosnia, and Croats hold much of the rest.

Bosnian radio accused Serbs of violating the new accord, which took effect at 10 a.m. Sunday (4 a.m. EDT), with shelling of government positions on Zuc. Low-level, sporadic shelling could be heard in the city coming from the hills ringing it, but the city was otherwise quiet.

Bosnian Serb commanders in the eastern town of Bratunac accused government forces of breaking the agreement by trying to infiltrate small groups of soldiers into the Muslim enclave of Zepa, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said.

Tubes-THE LOST YEAR

By Boomer Cardinale



ANGUS THE SERIES

By Paul Stroud



AGGIE MAN

By Sergio Rosas



Rubles flood market after bank notes invalidated

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — People rushed to unload their soon-to-be worthless rubles Sunday, but one former Soviet state and a Russian region said they would ignore the surprise plan to invalidate billions of old banknotes.

Starting at midnight, only banknotes printed this year will be valid. Russians will have two weeks to exchange old bills for new, but they will be limited to getting 35,000 rubles (\$35) in cash. Any amount above that will be credited to a savings account that cannot be touched for six months.

The Central Bank's politically explosive step is aimed at cooling inflation — now running about 2,500 percent a year — by forcing cash off the streets and combating counterfeiting.

It also will liquidate up to 20 percent of the ruble supply, which is outside Russia's control in other former Soviet republics. Armenia and Russia's rebellious Chechnya said they would defy the measure.

But most average Russians are bearing the burden. Most rely entirely on cash and have avoided putting money in banks because interest rates have rarely kept up with inflation during Russia's painful shift to a market economy.

"In any other country, that would have caused a revolution within one day," one elderly man told his wife while waiting outside a store Sunday.

Banks were closed and shoppers lined up to try to unload old rubles at stores on a day when business usually is slow. People crowded into subway stations to buy monthly passes with old rubles.

Private street vendors hung signs in their kiosks saying they would take old rubles at a 10 percent surcharge, meaning a pair of Chinese tennis shoes at one kiosk cost 10,000 new rubles but 11,000 old rubles.

In St. Petersburg, most stores were shuttered and most kiosk owners were refusing all rubles printed before 1993.

An instant black market trade in rubles sprang up. In the Far Eastern region of Birobidzhan, private money traders were paying 2,500 to 3,000 new rubles for 5,000 old rubles, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

The measure "is placing guilt on the whole population for the drawbacks of the government policy," said Grigory Yavlinsky, a radical economist and former adviser to President Boris Yeltsin.

Israelis bomb Arabs after border dispute

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MASHGARA, Lebanon — In the heaviest Israeli attack on Lebanon since its 1982 invasion, warplanes battered guerrilla targets Sunday and Arabs responded with rocket barrages in clashes that took lives on both sides of the border.

By nightfall, Lebanese survivors dug through rubble from attack sites from south Lebanon to near Beirut and Israeli officials planned evacuations from northern areas.

In Washington and other capitals, officials denounced the growing Arab-Israeli violence, which has seriously strained the Middle East peace process.

Nearly 12 hour of Israeli air strikes left at least eight Lebanese and six Syrian soldiers dead. At least 28 people were wounded, police sources said.

The warplanes reportedly drew fire from Lebanese and Syrian troops, but no casualties were reported. Syria is the major power broker in Lebanon and has about 40,000 troops in the nation.

Guerrillas retaliated by firing more than 50 Katyusha rockets at Israeli positions in southern Lebanon and settlements in northern Israel. At least five Israelis were killed and many more injured when a rocket hit an apartment building in the northern town of Qiryat Shimon, Is-

rael's army said. Mayors in northern Israeli towns laid plans to evacuate all children, elderly and handicapped. The military urged everyone in that region to spend the night in shelters.

The combat stepped up fighting that has been building since pro-Iranian and Syrian-backed guerrillas opposed to the peace talks escalated attacks on an Israeli-occupied buffer zone in southern Lebanon.

The Secretary of State Warren Christopher is scheduled to visit the region beginning Saturday in an attempt to revive the stalled peace talks.

In Singapore for a meeting of Asian foreign ministers, Christopher urged restraint on the only active Arab-Israeli war front.

"It's clearly counterproductive as far as the peace talks are concerned," he said, referring to recent attacks by both sides.

The Arab League condemned Israel and also warned it was jeopardizing the talks.

Lebanon's president, Elias Hrawi, summoned government and defense leaders for crisis talks and said Lebanon would lodge a complaint with the U.N. Security Council against "the Israeli aggression."

It was the first time this year that the Israeli air force used fighter-bombers to strike guerrilla bases. Helicopter gunships staged 20 earlier strikes this year.

What's Up

Monday

Floriculture Horticulture Society: is having a work party: anyone interested in plants is welcome. It is to be held at the Hensel Greenhouse (next to the KAMU transmitter off Hensel Dr.) at 5pm. For more information call Sam at 693-8790.

TAMU Roadrunners: all interested in group running (no matter what pace) are invited to meet in front of G. Rollie White at 7:15pm to run every Monday-Thursday. If you have any questions call Steve at 823-1334.

The Career Center: is holding a Placement Orientation at 2:30pm in 106 Blocker. For more information please contact the Career Center at 845-5139.

Tuesday

The Career Center: is welcoming all to a Job Search Strategies informational meeting at 3:30pm in 106 Blocker. For details call the Career Center at 845-5139.

What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Items for What's Up should be submitted no later than three days before the desired run date. Application deadlines and notices are not events and will not run in What's Up. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3313.