

Israel continuing siege of Arafat's compound

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL
JERUSALEM — Defending Israel's siege of Yasser Arafat's compound, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in an interview published today that wanted men holed up inside are "the biggest terrorists that exist" and played down the growing friction with the United States over the weeklong standoff.

The assault on Arafat's headquarters was launched last week in response to a Tel Aviv bus bombing that killed six people. Israel has drawn intense international criticism, including from the United States, for the operation.

About 200 aides and members of the security forces are with Arafat in the largely demolished compound. They are confined to a few rooms on two floors of a wing of the main office building. Arafat has said he would not turn anyone over.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem*

around the world

Post daily, Sharon said that "a great deal of thought" went into the assault — an apparent response to reports that senior military officials expressed reservations about the operation to Sharon before it was launched. Israel TV quoted the officers as saying Sharon insisted on quick action.

Sharon said in the interview that those with Arafat are "a group of murderers, the biggest terrorists that exist."

AHMADABAD, India — Hindu nationalists held angry protest marches and mobs stabbed two Muslim men today in western India as Muslims fled their homes to seek safety, fearing revenge riots after a bloody attack on a Hindu temple.

Paramilitary police deployed in several towns in Gujarat state.

Hindu nationalists, who had called for a national strike to protest the temple raid, were on the streets in the Gujarati town of Baroda, carrying sharp weapons and shouting anti-Pakistan slogans, police said.

In the town of Surat in Gujarat state, Hindu mobs stabbed a Muslim man as he got out of a three-wheeled auto rickshaw, and another Muslim as he came out of his house, said Police Commissioner V.K. Gupta. He said both men were hospitalized and two Hindus had been arrested.

The town is about 190 miles north of Gandhinagar, the state capital, where two gunmen attacked a popular Hindu temple on Tuesday, killing 30 people before police commandos shot them to death.

NATIONAL

CLAREMONT, Calif. — A fire raging in wilderness above Los Angeles' eastern foothills ballooned to 30,000 acres and threatened hundreds of homes Wednesday as it marched across the San Gabriel Mountains.

The blaze was about two miles from Mount Baldy Village, a small community 4,000 feet up its namesake mountain, and several miles from 700 suburban foothill homes, Los Angeles County Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman said.

The fire has incinerated 71 cabins and other buildings within Angeles National Forest since Sunday, but lack of strong wind was helping firefighters keep it out of the suburban sprawl abutting wildlands 30 to 45 miles east of Los Angeles.

Containment was estimated at just 10 percent as flames moved both east and west along a 15-mile-long line. About 2,700 firefighters worked the lines as 35 helicopters and airplanes

attacked the flames from the air.

HAZLETON, Pa. — Days after embarking on a desperate 1,000-mile bus journey to find his father, a 62-pound teen-ager who was found wandering a Florida town has died.

Chester Lee Miller, 18, died Wednesday, four days after he walked up to a woman's door in a Florida town and asked for help. Authorities said he was being starved by his mother and stepfather.

Miller's mother and stepfather, Lyda Miller, 37, and Paul Hoffman Sr., 38, were charged Tuesday with aggravated assault and recklessly endangering another person. Hazleton Police Chief Edward Harry said investigators plan to upgrade the charges to homicide within a week.

Prosecutors said the boy's mother and stepfather confined him to one room, beat him every day, fed him only scraps and didn't let him out of the

house to go to school or see friends.

The 5-foot-3 teen told police his stepfather in Hazleton, Pa., had put him on a bus to Florida and told him to go look for his real dad.

Investigators believed that the neglect started in May, Harry said. He said the couple admitted abusing the boy, but didn't explain why. The couple did not yet have attorneys.

Investigators said they had located the boy's birth father and planned to interview him.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — A U.S. envoy is expected to travel to North Korea in the days ahead to discuss U.S. concerns about Pyongyang's possession of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction.

The White House said Wednesday that agreement on the visit was reached after two rounds of talks this week with North Korean officials. The discussions will be the first with Pyongyang.

Flatlander Fall Festival Sept. 27th - 29th, 2002

Carnegie Arts Center, "A Day in the Life of Sherman County", Contest - Photo Display, Sept., 23-30.

NORTHWEST KANSAS BIKE SHOW, Saturday, Sept 28 - 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Show Main St., - 28 Classes, Games: 3:30 p.m., Bankwest Parking Lot, Awards Ceremony 6 p.m., Parade of Motorcycles 8 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 29 at 9 a.m., Sunday Service,

Breakfast 8 a.m., Poker Run 9 a.m. Punt, Pass & Kick, Competition at Cowboy Stadium, Registration 9 a.m. - begins at 9:30 a.m., Sept. 28. Boys & Girls from 8-15 years of age, For more information, call GAC, 785-899-7242.

Children's Theatre, "Jack & The Beanstalk," Sherman Theatre, 3 p.m., Tickets \$1/ Children under 12- FREE Admis-

sion. Sunflower Spinners Antique Tractor Show, 13th & Sherman - Chambers Park. FLATLANDER CHILI COOK -OFF, Team Entry \$10 — Prizes will be awarded, Begins 8:30 a.m. - Judging 12:30 p.m., Sept. 28. FREE FREE FREE !!!, STREET

DANCE — LIVE BAND, MAD COWS, 11th Street (West Side), 7:30 p.m. - 11 p.m., Sept. 28 OLD SCHOOL HOUSE DAY, Sunday, Sept. 29, 1-3 p.m., "Experience a One-Room School Setting", Program and Refreshments, Union School House (North of the Museum).

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In Conjunction with
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Serving 6 a.m. - 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 29

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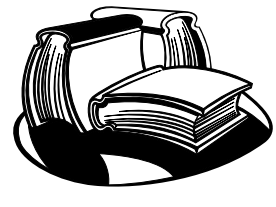



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The Sunflower Spinners Antique Tractor Pulling Club is offering a one-quarter beef bundle.
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