

INTERNATIONAL

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Peace talks continue, Sarajevo in jeopardy

■ **WAR:** The Bosnian capital's water supply is cut off, and peace is coming too slowly

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — A government minister warned of trouble Tuesday if Serbs don't restore water to Sarajevo, a threat apparently designed to move the Bosnian capital's fate to center stage in upcoming peace talks.

In Washington, top foreign affairs and defense officials said U.S. ground troops who would police a future peace settlement will use force or do "whatever is necessary" to operate freely in Bosnia.

Serbs want part of Sarajevo in any peace settlement, and have not fully lifted their siege of the capital. The Mus-

lim-led government says the city cannot be divided, and so far Western powers have backed that position.

President Alija Izetbegovic met with city officials Tuesday to "confirm our commitment for a unified ... city" in advance of Oct. 31 peace talks in the United States.

Meanwhile, a U.N. aid convoy rolled into the isolated government enclave of Gorazde without — for the first time in two years — the usual Serb harassment. An open route to Gorazde was one of the Bosnian government's main conditions in agreeing to a countrywide cease-fire.

Residents lined the streets of the shell-battered eastern city to greet the convoy, many expressing disbelief at

Hurricane Roxanne shipwrecks crew

■ **DISASTER:** A crew of 245 was tossed into the sea, causing five deaths

CIUDAD DEL CARMEN, Mexico (AP) — Hurricane Roxanne had passed, and the worst weather the crew of a pipe-laying barge expected was a "Norte," chill north winds that rake the Gulf of Mexico this time of year.

Instead, the hurricane doubled back and blindsided them 10 miles off shore Sunday night with whipping 80-mph winds and rolling 40-foot waves that looked big as mountains.

As the barge slowly sank, the crew of at least 245 began tossing life rafts overboard and jumped after them into the swirling waters. Heavy-duty tug boats battled the swells to reach them, and crewmen leaned overboard with outstretched hands or cast ropes to drag survivors aboard.

Five people died and four others remained missing Tuesday, but the rest were rescued.

"We just had sweet Jesus on

our side," survivor Kevin Dumont of New Orleans said Tuesday as he and other oil workers, all haggard and some bandaged, returned to Ciudad del Carmen.

Roxanne was downgraded to a tropical storm early Tuesday, the second downgrading on its erratic journey in which it has struck Mexico's Gulf coast twice since last week.

On Tuesday, Roxanne barely crawled northwest at 2 mph over the Gulf, its sustained winds down to 50 mph. At 8 p.m. EDT, the center was about 410 miles southeast of Brownsville, Texas.

The storm still pounded the Mexican coast Tuesday, driving seawater through the streets of Ciudad del Carmen that flooded homes and forced thousands into emergency shelters.

Five people died when the barge sank in the Bay of Campeche, including one American: James Vines, 47, of Winnsboro, La. Three bodies had been recovered, and rescue workers said they saw two others floating

in the water.

Rescue tugs on Tuesday pulled in 15 people who clung for more than a day to the A-frame of the barge's huge crane, which still juts above the water. But four people from the barge remained missing — three Mexicans and one Spaniard, according to U.S. Vice Consul Nathaniel Dean in Merida.

Dean said the remaining 29 Americans and the one Canadian aboard have all been accounted for as survivors.

The pipe-laying barge — known as the "269" — was on a regular offshore run Sunday, officials said. There was no immediate explanation why the barge was out in adverse weather.

Survivors said sea swells and winds had gradually grown stronger Saturday and Sunday as Roxanne approached from the northwest.

"It was a lot worse than any of us thought it would be," said Danny Miller, an electrician from Talladega, Ala. bama.

Electronics show fails to produce video CD

■ **TECHNOLOGY:** The new type of compact disk could store 20 times the data of current CD-ROMs and full-length movies

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — The Japanese electronics industry, which once changed lifestyles with products like the Walkman and the VCR, has had a long, painful dry spell since its last big hit — the audio CD.

Now, hopes are spreading that the drought may soon be broken with a new blockbuster product. But don't look for it at this year's Japan Electronics Show, which opens to the public Thursday.

That's because it's only been a month since two mammoth alliances of companies called a truce in what was shaping up to be a bruising, confusing format battle over video CDs — revolutionary storage devices the same size as audio CDs that can hold a full-length movie and theater-quality sound.

"We haven't even decided on the name for the new format," said Hiroaki Komatsu, a spokesman for Sony, a key player in developing the technology. "But if you consider all the applications this can be used for, the potential is amazing."

Engineers from the two sides, one of which was led by Sony Corp., the other by rivals Toshiba Corp. and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., hope to finish hammering out technical details for the new CD format by the end of the month. Allow time for product design and marketing studies, and

the first wave of video CD players should hit the market by next fall.

In the meantime, companies from the two former alliances are eagerly demonstrating their respective versions of the technology at the show. Elements of both versions are being forged together to create a two-sided disk that delivers crystal-clear images and five-channel sound in a durable, compact package. And no rewinding.

If the reasons for consumers to like video CDs are strong, the ones for industry liking them are even stronger. CDs are far cheaper and quicker to make than videotapes, and are less prone to damage from heat, moisture and magnetic fields.

"This is potentially a very big product," says electronics industry analyst Joe Osha of Merrill Lynch. "Once you hit the hot price point of \$200 to \$300 about two years from now, they should really start to move."

But the piece de resistance for video CDs will come a few years down the line, when they will be able to both record as well as play back. Until then, you'll still need your VCR to tape those late-night reruns of "Star Trek."

In addition to video, many are hoping that the new ultra-high density disks will find uses in other fields like personal computing. Thanks to new, more precise optical reading devices and dual layers of information on each side, the new CDs could hold more than 20 times as much data as current CD-ROM drives.

South Korean guards kill communist infiltrator

■ **CONFLICT:** Murder is latest of North and South Korea's desperate attempts to spy on each other

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — It was dark when the South Korean border guards spotted something in the water. They threw grenades and fired their rifles. When dawn broke, officials said, they found the body of a communist infiltrator.

The shooting Tuesday was the latest incident in a shadowy conflict of commando missions and high-tech espionage, infiltration and disguise, that has kept tensions high between the two Koreas for more than four decades.

The neighbors remain technically at war, and all the cross-border stealth reflects each side's desperate wish to know

more about the potential foe.

South Korea claims the North regularly tries to penetrate the South, using everything from tunnels to seaborne commandos. While South Korea has denied it, the North has accused its southern neighbor of using fishing boats to infiltrate communist waters.

In May, eight South Korean fishermen were captured after their boat wandered into the North's waters. North Korea has not kept its promise to return the group.

In the latest incident, two South Korean border guards shot and killed a North Korean intruder swimming in the Imjin River, which flows along the 155-mile frontier, authorities said.

North Korean authorities said he was wearing a South Korean uniform beneath a wetsuit and that he carried two assault rifles,

two pistols, hand grenades and food and medical kits.

Additional footprints were found at the scene, and a manhunt was launched for other communist agents.

"The incursion is typical of the North's non-conventional warfare strategy against South Korea," said Shin Dong-taek, a researcher at the Korea Institute of Defense Analysis, a Defense Ministry think-tank.

Shin and other South Korean security experts believe North Korea emphasizes guerrilla tactics to harass South Korea, rather than resorting to an all-out war that would be unbearably costly.

North Korea has a formidable military force with more than 1.2 million troops, the world's fifth largest army. But with its economy in shambles, the country has little money to replace its aging Russian weapons.

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