



EL OBSERVADOR

Argentina Jewish Bomb Trial Begins, Iran Claims Innocence

Twenty people accused of involvement in a car bomb attack on a Jewish center in Buenos Aires in 1994, which killed 86 people, is going on trial in the Argentine capital. Those on trial are not charged with carrying out the attack - Argentina, Israel and the United States have laid the blame on Middle Eastern guerrillas backed by Iran.

But Argentine prosecutors say five of those now going on trial, including four former police officers, provided the attackers with the stolen vehicle used in the bombing.

The defendants say they are not guilty, while Iran has rejected claims that it was in any way involved in the attack.

CROSS-BORDER PROBE

Lawyers on the case say that it could shed light on the little-known world of Islamic militants currently being investigated following the recent attacks in America.

The authorities have not said if their investigation is close to finding those actually carried out the attack, but have acknowledged the investigation extends beyond Argentina's borders.

For at least six months more than 1,200 witnesses will give evidence before a panel of three judges in a specially fortified court.

Standing trial are 15 former Argentine police officers and

five civilians allegedly involved in a stolen car ring.

The most serious charges are against five people who are accused of knowingly providing a van to the attackers, who then packed it with explosives before driving it into the community centre.

The blast completely destroyed the seven-story building of the Argentine Israeli Mutual Aid Association.

If found guilty of supplying the vehicle the four former Argentine police officers and a car salesman face life in prison.

Argentina's 300,000-strong Jewish community is the biggest in Latin America and the seventh largest in the world.

Venezuela's Last Dictator

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Gen. Marcos Perez Jimenez, Venezuela's last military dictator, died last Thursday. He was 87.

Perez Jimenez died of a heart attack in his home in Madrid, Spain, where he lived in self-imposed exile, his daughter, Flor Perez Jimenez, told local Globovision television. She said his body will be cremated in Spain on Friday, and that she hopes the remains will be brought back to Venezuela "some day."

Perez Jimenez ruled Venezuela from 1952 to 1958, when he was ousted by a bloodless coup. The coup ushered in 43 years of un-

interrupted democratic rule — the longest standing democracy in Latin America.

Born in 1914 in the western state of Tachira, Perez Jimenez participated in a military coup that ousted the dictatorship of Gen. Isaias Medina Angarita in 1945, helping to install the democratic government of President Romulo Gallegos. But in 1948, he led a coup that ousted Gallegos.

A junta of three military officers ruled Venezuela until 1952, when Perez Jimenez declared himself president. His regime was backed by a security force that silenced opposition leaders by jailing them and torturing them.

During his term he also created

grandiose public works, including a highway that connects Caracas to the northern coast, burrowing through the mountains that separate the city from the Caribbean.

In 1957, Perez Jimenez was elected for another five-year term in a vote widely considered fraudulent. But his regime had lost much public support and a clandestine movement to overthrow him, led by the Democratic Action party, was taking force.

On January 23, 1958, a popular uprising backed by the military forced Perez Jimenez and his family to flee to the Dominican Republic. He had lived in Madrid since 1968.

U.S. Navy Begins Shelling on Vieques Amid War Preparations

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico (AP) A U.S. destroyer fired shells at the Vieques bombing range in the first full-scale military exercises since the United States declared war on terrorism. Protesters cut through a Navy fence and threatened anti-war demonstrations.

Most protesters had pledged to stop their civil disobedience campaign of invading Navy lands in favor of peaceful vigils to show solidarity with the Sept. 11 terror attack victims, and to avoid raising tensions as Washington prepares for war.

But some hard-liners cut through about 60 feet of the Navy fence around the training ground, police on Vieques said. Opponents have for years protested the live bombing exercises on their island of 9,100 people.

The Navy said the exercises began Monday morning with non-explosive 5-inch shells. From a hill, reporters heard distant thuds and watched smoke rise from the guns of the USS The Sullivans.

Navy jets were expected to drop inert bombs on the firing range on the island's eastern tip later in the

exercises.

In recent years, groups opposed to the training have mobilized protesters to invade Navy lands and be arrested for trespassing. But since the attacks, most have decided to limit their opposition to peaceful anti-war vigils, protest leader Robert Rabin said.

The Navy has used the island to train for every major U.S. conflict over the last six decades.

Opponents say the exercises harm the environment and the health of the island's 9,100 people, accusations the Navy denies.

Juliette Becomes Major Hurricane

MEXICO CITY (AP) Hurricane Juliette was growing to enormous proportions, but was moving slowly away from Mexico's vulnerable Pacific coast and was unlikely to approach the United States.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami reported that Juliette had sustained winds of 145 mph, making it a very strong Category 4 hurricane. It was likely to gain even more

force later, forecasters said.

The storm was located 275 miles south of Manzanillo and was heading west-northwest at 3 mph. Forecasters said the storm could shift to a more northwest track running parallel to the coast.

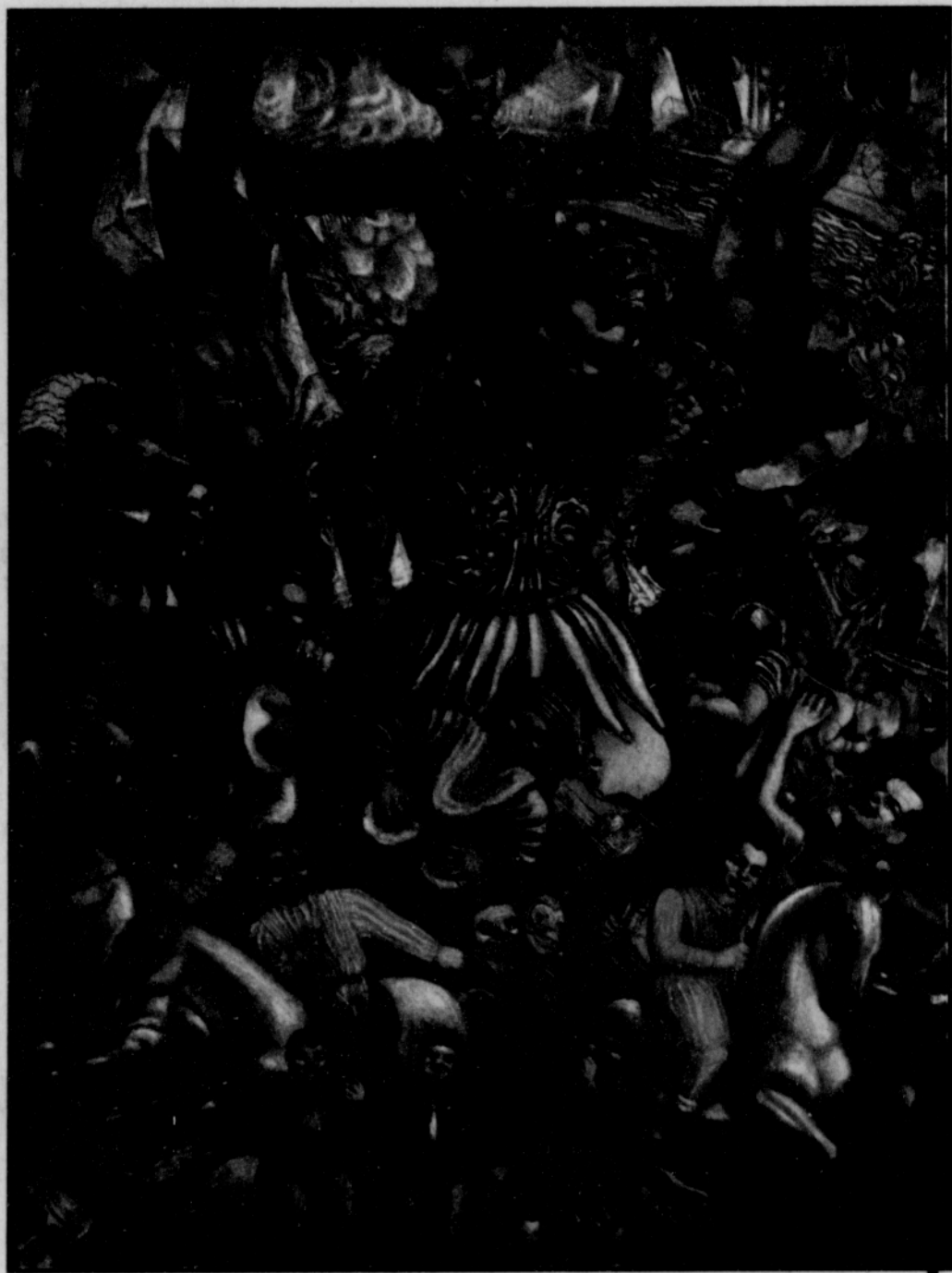
Hurricane-force winds extended outward up to 60 miles from the center, and tropical storm-force winds extended outward up to 160 miles.

A hurricane watch was in ef-

fect from Lazaro Cardenas to Cabo Corrientes, a 250-mile stretch of coastline beginning 155 miles north of the resort city of Acapulco.

A smaller hurricane, Kiko, was centered well out to sea, more than 1,200 miles west of Mexico's central Pacific coast. It had maximum sustained winds of 75 mph and was headed toward the west-northwest at about 9 mph.

Dos familias unidas en una sola celebración.



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Preserving Afro-Cuban Dance

Talented Afro-Cuban Dance Performer Shares Her Skills in an Effort to Perpetuate the Art Form

The Portland State University World Dance Office is hosting Teresita Perez, a principal dancer and educator for the world renowned folkloric group, Afro-Cuba de Matanza. She is the world's leading authority on Afro-Cuban folkloric forms.

Perez will be holding a workshop on dance forms from her native country, demonstrating the first as an aesthetic and spiritual source of inspiration for the second. Topics to be covered will include orisha song and dance, son, salsa, cha cha and mambo.

All classes will feature live percussion by some of Portland's hottest musicians. She will be at the Peter Stott Center Rm. 207 at PSU, from Oct. 2 - Nov. 22, Tuesday and Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Call 503-725-5670.



Teresita Perez is dedicated to preserving the integrity of Cuban dance as well as presenting a contemporary perspective.

PHOTO BY DONNA OELFINGER



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