

## INTERNATIONAL

## Moroccans mourn King Hassan

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — Moroccans mourned their king with mounting vigor Saturday, standing silently outside the old walled palace where Hassan II reigned for two generations as spiritual leader, chief executive officer and godfather.

"He meant much more to me than a father," said M'hamed Ibourachen, a 35-year-old karate teacher, who peered through an ochre-hued arched gate and wept. "He did everything for Morocco."

When news came late Friday that Hassan's ailing heart had stopped, Ibourachen quickly boarded a bus in his village near

Agadir and rode 500 miles through the night to join the vigil until burial after noon prayers on Sunday.

At the palace, the crowd of hundreds was relatively small but fervent early in the day. Stretcher-bearers carried off a steady stream of women who fainted from emotion in the hot sun. "God is great," one woman in robe and turban chanted before collapsing on the street.

By evening, the crowds at the palace swelled into many thousands, as groups of parading youths chanted the king's name and waved tree branches in his honor.

On a corner nearby, people

clustered around newspapers displayed on the sidewalk. Circulation of Arabic and French-language dailies doubled, but copies were quickly gone.

"He gave us grandeur, made us into a modern civilization, respected in the world," said Mohammed Ghazi, a lawyer. His wife, Larachi, a teacher, dabbed at red, swollen eyes and nodded her agreement.

More discreetly, other Moroccans expressed harsher judgments of the king's grip on power, which remained firm to the end despite relaxing some since he suffered a pulmonary

collapse in 1995 on a visit to the United States.

But few disputed Hassan's moderating impact on the complex diplomacy of his troubled part of the world.

Hassan ascended the throne at the death of his father, Mohamed V, in 1961, and he joked to his friend King Juan Carlos of Spain that most people did not expect him to stay on it more than six months. He stayed for 38 years.

His durable reign, friends and foes agree, owes much to the king's "Baraka," a mystical protective karma peculiar to some, thought to come from Allah.

## Envoy: Ethiopia-Eritrea peace nearing

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — An end to the costly, bloody 14-month border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea is in sight, a U.S. envoy said Saturday, citing progress in meetings in the past two days with leaders of both countries and an Algerian-led African delegation.

In his first interview after a year of often-frustrating shuttle diplomacy, Anthony Lake said he was optimistic but gave few details as to why.

"Each side has now made a decision to try to achieve peace, and those decisions have opened the door that I think each of them has decided to go through," said Lake, President Clinton's former national security adviser.

"There are a lot of details

to be worked out, but a process is now in place to work out those details," said Lake, who has been shuttling back and forth between the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa and the Eritrean capital of Asmara for the past two days.

He met first with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Salim A. Salim, secretary-general of the continental Organization of African Unity. Then he traveled to Asmara, where he met with President Isaias Afwerki before returning here for another round with Meles and Salim.

The two Horn of Africa nations have been at war since May 1998 over contested areas of their 620-mile border. Tens of thousands of soldiers and hundreds of civilians have died in the war, and

nearly half a million residents on both sides of the border have been driven from their homes.

Ethiopia and Eritrea both accepted the terms of an OAU plan drafted last year which requires both sides to pull back to the positions they were at before the war began "as a mark of goodwill" that would not "prejudge the final status of the area concerned." The two sides soon fell into disagreement over which areas were included and regional, and international mediation efforts have so far failed to bridge the gap.

It wasn't clear Saturday what change had brought the two sides to a compromise. However, a key to the breakthrough may lie in the fact that the Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika took over as

chairman of the OAU earlier this month.

Observers have predicted that OAU mediation efforts would be more dynamic under Bouteflika, who was his country's foreign minister for more than a decade, than they had been under the chairmanship of Burkina Faso.

## Jamaican police under attack

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Leroy Bailey was doing his job, taking passengers home in his taxi, when a jeep full of police officers pulled up behind him. Without warning, they opened fire.

Bailey, a 40-year-old ex-police officer, was shot twice in the head and killed instantly. Miriam Bailey, a passenger not related to him, tried to curl up under the dashboard but was shot in the hand she left exposed.

"The cops were aiming high, at our heads," said another passenger, Gary Tomlinson, 19, who escaped by ducking. "They don't even stop to look."

Police don't dispute his account: They say they mistook Bailey and his passengers for a posse of wanted gunmen. The June 16 incident sparked a riot in which hundreds of people burned police cars and blocked roads, and fueled public debate over a tide of police killings that has accompanied Jamaica's crackdown on violent crime.

Police are battling gangs that have terrorized several areas of Kingston. Gang violence has chased residents from homes,

stifled investment and scared away tourists from this capital city of 800,000 people.

So far this year, police, according to government figures has killed 92 civilians. That's about the same pace as last year, when 145 people were slain by officers.

In comparison, police in the Dominican Republic, a country with three times Jamaica's population of 2.6 million, killed 75 civilians last year, according to police records. The Dominican Republic lies in a major transit route for drugs and is also battling gang violence.

Police are investigating Bailey's death, but none of the officers involved in the shooting has been charged. Police officers are rarely charged in shootings in Jamaica.

There is "a real strong belief in combat policing among the top officers. They don't appear to have any major difficulty with the police taking out a few wanted men," said Hilaire Sobers, a human rights lawyer.

"But when they start to take out people who are visibly innocent, then they have a public relations problem," Sobers added.

## WORLD BRIEFS

## MT. KILIMANJARO NEWEST HOT SPOT TO VIEW THE MILLENNIUM

DAR ES SALAAM (AIA/GIN) — A controversy is shaking up the Tanzanian tourism industry following mass bookings by tourists who want to witness the birth of the new millennium atop Mount Kilimanjaro. Up to 7,000 tourists so far have made reservations to climb the mountain, also known as the Roof of Africa, during the millennium period, scheduled to start toward the end of this year. At 5,895 meters above sea level, Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa and is the product of one of the largest volcanoes ever to burst through the earth's crust. The park fee for the millennium climbing of 30 days has been pegged at \$50 per person as an entry fee, while camping and hut fees are set at \$80 and \$100 per night, per person, respectively. Normally, tourists climb Mount Kilimanjaro on specified trails, which allow a maximum of about 100 climbers per day. However, during the millennium celebrations, KINAPA has set a daily limit of between 200 and 470 hikers ascending and descending the mountain.

## HOUSING BACKLOG HITS ONE MILLION IN ZIMBABWE

HARARE (AIA/GIN) — The backlog for state housing in Zimbabwe has now reached the one million mark. According to a survey conducted by Dialogue on Shelter for the Homeless in Zimbabwe, which registers households rather than individuals, a third of all Zimbabweans rent cramped, shabby rooms or lack even basic housing. More than 40,000 live in the high-density Mbare hostels, where 40 people share a single toilet and up to 10 live in one room. It is estimated more than 50 percent of families in Mbare are on the council's housing waiting list, and have been for an average of nine years. Almost all those on the list first signed up between the ages of 28 and 33, meaning they have spent most of their adulthood waiting for a spot. One-third of all Zimbabweans are renters or homeless.

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