

Religious riots shake much of northern Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) - Bands of Muslims and Christians rioted Saturday in the streets of the northern city of Kano, burning places of worship and killing an unknown number of people, witnesses and police said.

The spark behind the latest outbreak of interreligious violence in northern Nigeria was not immediately clear. The rioting came a day after Muslim fundamentalists clashed with police during a street protest against the U.S.-led airstrikes on Afghanistan.

By late Saturday morning, witnesses counted at least eight bodies on the streets of Sabon Gari, a neighborhood in the northern part of the city, some 435 miles northeast of the commercial capital, Lagos. There were unconfirmed reports of many more dead.

Some residents were taking shelter in police stations while many others were holed up inside their homes. Local

Guyana —

(Continued from Page 12) tive service, which is scheduled four days after the actual anniversary.

The governments of Cuba and Barbados said they would mark the occasion. Barbados erected a memorial in 1999 near the west coast bay where the aircraft went down in 900 feet of water, leaving only a black oil slick for rescuers to see.

Castro was present at the unveiling and called the efforts of crew to save the plane and passengers heroic.

At the time, Barbadian officials said that the plane had crashed just about seven kilometers off its coast, in international waters.

That incensed Guyana and Cuba in particular, but Barbadian authorities said at the time they did not want the tourist-dependent island to get involved in the international row.

Annan —

(Continued from Page 12) before his first term expires on Dec. 31.

Former U.S. Senator Timothy Wirth, who heads the United Nations Foundation that dispenses media mogul Ted Turner's \$1 billion gift to U.N. causes, says there's "a saint-like sense about him." Former U.S. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke calls him "a rock star of international diplomacy."

The Nobel prize committee apparently agreed.

journalists said angry mobs had at least partially burned several churches and mosques.

Speaking in a telephone interview, Kano's police commissioner Yakubu Bello Uba said he had ordered his officers to shoot protesters and combatants "on sight."

On Friday, police fired tear gas to break up a protest by hundreds of angry Nigerian Muslim youths against the

airstrikes on Afghanistan. Several people were injured and three vehicles - including a police truck - were burned.

Chanting "Americans are infidels" and "Leave bin Laden alone," the marchers gathered after Friday afternoon Muslim prayers in Kano.

The U.S. began its military campaign against Afghanistan on Oct. 7 after the

ruling Taliban refused to hand over bin Laden and his lieutenants to the United States. Bin Laden is the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Protesters said Friday's rally was organized by the Muslim Revolutionaries, a group believed to be an offshoot of a fundamentalist movement led by Sheikh Ibrahim El-Zak Zaky, a well-known Islamic politician and

cleric who was jailed in the 1990s for calling for a fundamentalist Islamic state in Nigeria.

Police and military reinforcements had been deployed since Thursday in anticipation of anti-American protests by groups in the northern Nigerian cities of Kaduna, Gusau and Kano, where Muslims are a majority.

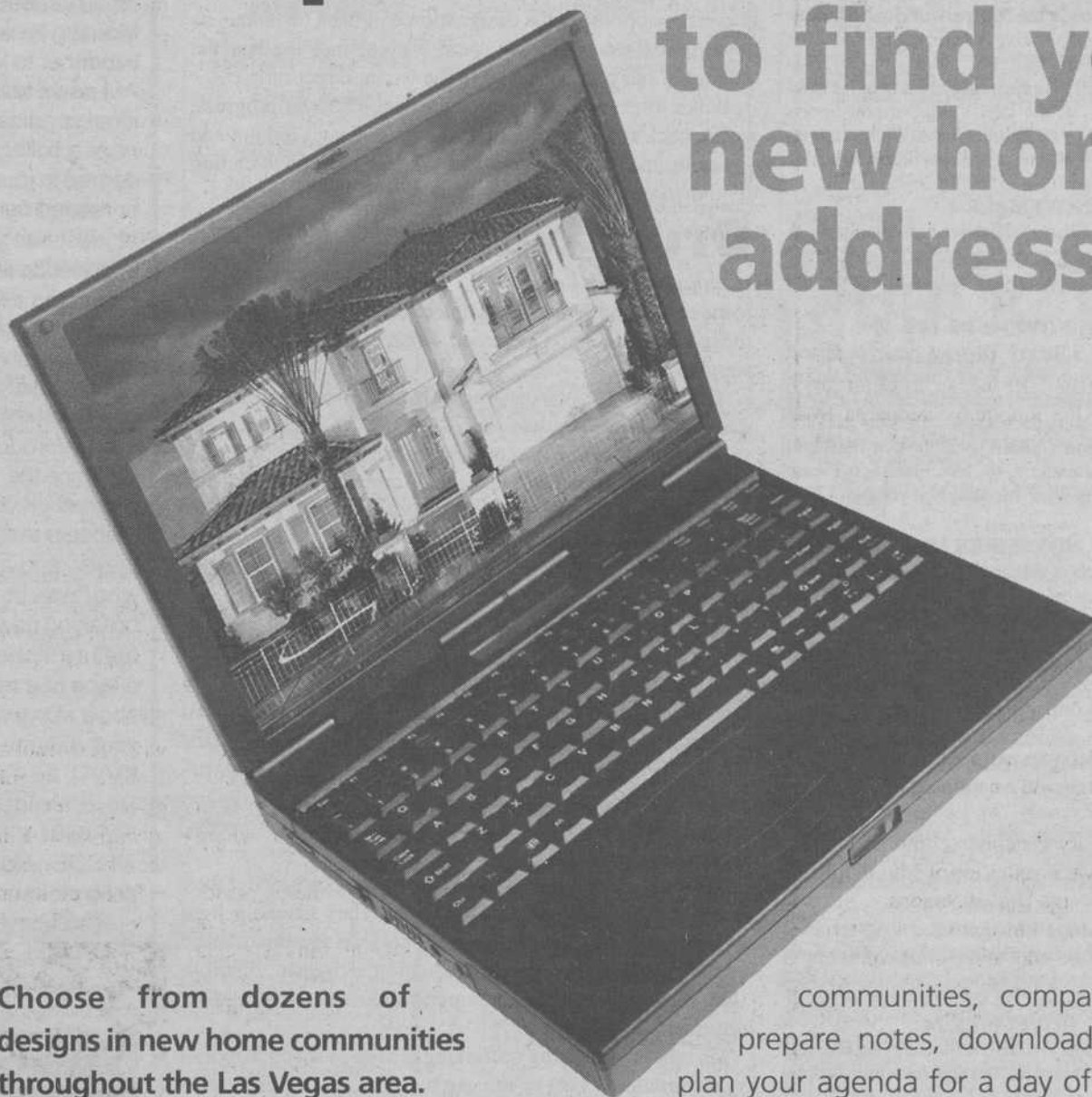
A few Nigerian Muslim

clerics have publicly condemned the military campaign in Afghanistan.

Muslim-Christian tensions have exploded in the north of Africa's most populous country, fueling violence that has killed thousands.

The latest outbreak of fighting in early September in the city of Jos left at least 165 confirmed dead, but observers say that three times as many may have died.

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