

50 more die in violence across Iran

Tehran (AP) — Two days of political and religious violence in provincial cities have claimed 50 or more lives in Iran, informed sources reported yesterday.

The worst turmoil occurred in the southern city of Shiraz, where orthodox Moslems clashed with members of the Bahai religious sect, which is linked with Iran's elite.

The latest round of clashes were between security forces and demonstrators and civilian supporters of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi and his civilian opponents. Thursday and yesterday were the bloodiest days of the battles, which began on Monday.

Deaths were reported in three cities, bringing the toll for the week close to 70.

In Shiraz on Thursday, Shiite Moslems attacked a Pepsi-Cola plant and other businesses and homes of Bahai sect members. More than 40 Shiites were killed and 50 wounded, informed sources said.

When the Shiites attacked the homes, Bahai sect members opened fire with automatic weapons, the sources said. The Bahai believers, an affluent minority with considerable political influence, are members of a sect that 150 years ago split from the mainstream of Islam, rejecting some precepts of the Koran, the Moslem holy book.

Most Iranians, including the Shah himself, are Shiites.

Government radio reported that five persons were slain yesterday in the northwestern city of Rezaiyeh.

Other sources said two adults and



UPI photo
Women in southern Tehran stop to pick up literature from man in graveyard set aside for those killed in demonstrations against the Shah.

two hospitalized boys were killed Thursday in the northeastern city of Mashad when 100 soldiers and their relatives attacked two hospitals, apparently because its staff, opponents of the shah, refused to treat the families of imperial soldiers.