

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Iraqi attacks continue

Warplanes raid Greek-owned ship in ninth attack this week

MANAMA, Bahrain — Iraqi warplanes raided a Greek-owned ship Monday, killing at least one crewman in their ninth attack in a week on tankers either leased by Iran or trading with it.

In Iran, the leader of that country's Revolutionary Guards said Iran now produces 70 percent of its own equipment for the 7-year-old war with Iraq, including advanced wire-guided missiles and multiple rocket launchers.

Four Kuwaiti tankers, flying the American flag and under U.S. Navy escort, meanwhile were reported to have reached Bahrain. The island sheikdom is the halfway point on the 550-mile route from the Persian Gulf entrance at the Strait of Hormuz to

Kuwait, Iraq's western neighbor at the head of the gulf.

In Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, a pro-Iranian group of Iraqi Kurds said it kidnapped three Iranian engineers in northern Iraq and demanded that Italy withdraw its warships from the gulf.

Iraq said its jets hit a "large naval target," its customary description for a tanker, at midday Monday.

Shipping sources identified it as the Greek-owned Marianthi M. a 21,166-ton oil products tanker that flies the Panamanian flag and is chartered by Iran.

Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence Unit in London reported an "air-and-sea" attack, by shipping executives based in the gulf who spoke on the condition

of anonymity — said they knew only of aircraft being involved.

The Marianthi M., said in one report to be ablaze, sent a distress call from 60 miles southeast of the Iranian port of Bushehr.

In Athens, the owners said one crewman was killed and one injured.

Iraqi jets have ranged the length of Iran's 600-mile Persian Gulf coast recently, trying to destroy the exports with which Iran finances its war effort. Iraq raids Iran's oil terminals and tankers shuttling between them.

At least nine ships were hit in the past week. Monday's raid raised the number of people killed to at least seven.



Christina Gelger/Daily Nebraskan

Floyd aims wind, rain at Florida coastline

MIAMI — Hurricane Floyd sprang to life in the Gulf of Mexico early Monday, taking aim on south Florida with 80 mph wind and heavy rain. Some coastal residents scurried for shelter, while others cleared stores of batteries, canned food and bottled water.

Floyd grew from a tropical storm to become the season's third hurricane at 8 a.m. and began heading up through the Florida Keys toward southern Dade County at the southern tip of the mainland, spawning at least two tornadoes.

"It's not a strong hurricane," said National Hurricane Center Director Bob Sheets, "we don't expect it to get much worse."

He said Floyd would maintain its strength as it passed just south of Miami during the evening and then would head out to sea.

The center posted hurricane warnings around Florida's southern peninsula from Stuart north of West Palm Beach on the condominium-studded east coast to Venice north of Fort Myers on the Gulf coast, roughly the area from Lake Okechobee south.

At 4 p.m. EDT, Floyd's poorly defined center was estimated at latitude 25 degrees north and longitude 80.9 degrees west, 70 miles southwest of Miami. The storm was heading east-northeast at 15 mph.

County officials in south Florida had shut down all schools by mid-morning, telephoning parents and sending the children home.

The storm's central eye passed directly over Key West between noon and 1 p.m., bringing a brief and eerie calm to the island, and began heading up the Overseas Highway that strings the islands together.

Soviets try to forge common market ties; receive wary response at Brussels talks

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The Soviet-led economic group, Comecon, has undertaken a "charm offensive" to establish relations with the European Economic Community after ignoring the world's largest trading block for 30 years.

But, the EEC, which was first to propose diplomatic ties 12 years ago, is in no hurry to welcome Comecon into its midst.

The president of the Supreme Soviet, Lev Tokunov, underscored the new East block attitude on his arrival in Brussels Oct. 6 for a weeklong series of talks with members of the European Parliament.

"There is not a moment to lose," he said.

Countered Niels-Peter Albertsen, a spokesman for the Danish government: "Relations with

Comecon are not on top of our agenda."

Denmark is currently president of the EEC.

When the Soviet delegation arrived in Brussels, at the invitation of the Socialist group in the European Parliament, there were no messages of welcome from either the EEC's governing Council of Ministers or its executive Commission.

Bush pledges hard fight

HOUSTON — Vice President George Bush on Monday officially began a "last hurrah" quest for the presidency, trying to become the first man in more than 150 years to win the White House while serving in the No. 2 job.

Returning to his hometown to formally kick off his second campaign for the Republican nomination, Bush told hundreds of cheering supporters that the key issue in 1988 will be who should follow Ronald Reagan in the Oval Office.

"For seven years now, I have been with a president, and I have seen what crosses that big desk," Bush said. Bush, surrounded by his wife,

Barbara, and other members of his family, said, "I mean to run hard, to fight hard, to stand on the issues. I mean to win."

Jackson enters race on unifying note

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential race posed a dilemma for black political leaders that was as stark in Alabama as anywhere in the nation.

That dilemma — whether to stand by the first black man to run for president or support a more electable, white candidate — literally split apart Alabama's black community.

As Jackson begins his 1988 campaign, he paces the Democratic field, at least in the public opinion polls, and the "new" Jesse is running a mainstream campaign and striking a more conciliatory tone.

"1984 is behind us. 1984 has nothing to do with tonight. 1988 can stand on its own legs," Jackson said Friday night at a reception in Montgomery

designed to heal some of the wounds left by his first campaign.

In 1984, Alabama's black political caucus, the Alabama Democratic Conference, endorsed Walter Mondale because Jackson was late entering the race and lacked a strong organization. Jackson ended up third in Alabama behind Mondale and Gary Hart.

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