

News Digest

By The Associated Press

U.S. destroys platforms after Iranian attack

MANAMA, Bahrain — U.S. warships destroyed two Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf on Monday and Navy commandos raided a third. Iran said the Americans had begun a "full-fledged war" to which it promised "a crushing response."

President Reagan called the 85-minute attack "a prudent yet restrained response" to Friday's missile strike on U.S.-flagged tanker off Kuwait. The missile was believed launched from the nearby Faw Peninsula, which Iran has conquered in its 7-year-old war with Iraq.

The Pentagon said no Americans were injured in Monday's operations. Tehran said the attack wounded some Iranian "civilian crewmen" but did not mention fatalities.

The White House said gunfire wiped out two platforms at one location and U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said the battle area was the Rostam oil platforms.

After some initial confusion, Tehran said the two platforms hit were at the Reshadat, or Rakhsh, field 75 miles east of Qatar and 60 miles from the Iranian coast. Rakhsh and Rostam are about 20 miles apart.

The discrepancy between the Iranian and U.S. reports could not be immediately resolved. On all except

very detailed maps of the gulf, the two fields appear to be very close.

The oil platforms, which have an underwater pipeline running to Iran's coastal Lavan island, are among many permanent drilling rigs in the central gulf. Iran is known to have used some for helicopter and armed speed boat attacks on commercial shipping.

At 1:30 p.m., four U.S. destroyers moved to within about 6,000 yards of the two platforms, said Fred S. Hoffman, the Pentagon's chief spokesman.

Ten minutes later, they broadcast a warning:

"Reshadat, Reshadat. This is the U.S. Navy. We will commence firing on your position at 1400 hours. You have 20 minutes to evacuate the platform."

Iranians on the platforms were then seen scrambling into a small boat and sailing away from the area, Weinberger said. An 85-minute barrage of 1,000 rounds of 5-inch gunfire destroyed the platforms.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei vowed that his country will "definitely take decisive retaliatory action," according to a broadcast report by the official Islamic Republic News Agency. "Reagan by this action, has made a big mistake."

Subway vigilante fined, sentenced

NEW YORK — Subway gunman, Bernhard Goetz was sentenced Monday to six months in jail, ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment and fined \$5,000 by a judge who rejected recommendation that he be allowed to go free.

Goetz, who shot four youths on a subway nearly three years ago, stood impassively as acting state Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Crane sentenced him on the single gun possession count on which he was convicted.

The crime carries a maximum penalty of seven years in prison, though first-time offenders like Goetz rarely go to jail.

Goetz also was sentenced to five years of probation and 280 hours of community service in New York University Medical Center.

"A non-jail sentence for Mr. Goetz would invite others to violate the gun law," Crane said. "Whether you agree with the law or not, it is the law and it was the law on Dec. 22, 1984, and it remains the

law." Asked if he wished to say anything before the judge pronounced sentence, Goetz said, "No, I have nothing to say." After the sentence was passed, Goetz stood silent, showing no emotion.

Crane said Goetz could choose his psychiatrist. In its pre-sentencing memo, the Probation Department had suggested "intensive supervision coupled with indefinite psychiatric intervention," but no jail time.

U. S. senator Stennis says he will retire after 7th term

JACKSON, Miss. — Sen. John C. Stennis, 86-year-old dean of the U.S. Senate and third in line to the presidency, announced Monday he will retire at the end of his seventh term next year because of old age.

The decision by the Democratic veteran of 40 years in the Senate touched off an immediate political scramble in Mississippi over a successor, and complicated his party's prospects of maintaining control over the Senate, where Democrats hold a 54-46 edge.

Stennis had reported as late as the summer months that he had not made

up his mind about a re-election race, and his announcement sounded a sad note:

"I greatly regret leaving the Senate where it is my high privilege to represent the people of Mississippi, whom I dearly love and respect," he said, "but my age and health control. My heart says 'yes,' run again, but my best judgment says, 'no.'"

Stennis, who was shot and wounded by robbers in 1973 and has been confined to a wheelchair since he lost his left leg to cancer in 1984, noted that he would be 93 at the end of an eighth term.

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A bookkeeper and a plasterer who live together turned in their winning \$46 million lottery ticket Monday and said they would use their record jackpot to travel, help their relatives, and perhaps even get married.

Donald R. Woomer and Linda K. Despot of Hollidaysburg, Pa.,

met with reporters at a suburban motel-convention center after they were handed a check for the first installment, \$1.4 million, by state Revenue Secretary Barton Fields.

The couple, who bought the ticket in the state's Super-7 game jointly, will receive similar payments annually for the next 25 years.

"I hope our lifestyle changes, but not us," Despot said.

The jackpot surpassed by \$5 million a prize of \$41 million won in New York state's lottery in August 1985, said Jim Scroggins, executive director of the Pennsylvania Lottery. The world's largest, about \$100 million, is offered in Spain, state lottery officials said.

Couple claims \$46 million lottery prize

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