

Arab hijackers kill second captive

LARNACA, Cyprus — Arab hijackers on Monday killed a second hostage, tossed his bloody body from a Kuwaiti jet and threatened to kill the rest of the nearly 50 captives if the plane wasn't refueled.

The gunmen said the dead man was a "Kuwaiti officer." He was the second of three Kuwaiti military men aboard Kuwait Airways jet that the hijackers have slain during the weeklong ordeal.

The hijackers have demanded that Kuwait release 17 pro-Iranian terrorists convicted in 1984 for bombing the U.S. and French embassies in December 1983.

Sources close to the negotiations said, however, that the hijackers on Monday demanded freedom only for

the three men among the 17 who have been sentenced to death. Kuwait apparently rejected the modified demand.

In Kuwait, Foreign Minister Sheik Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah said his country is prepared to lose more hostages rather than give in to terrorism.

"We will try our utmost to protect our dear ones aboard the plane, but we will not surrender to any blackmail, even if we lose more of them," he told a news conference.

There are 52 people aboard the Boeing 747, including three members of the Kuwaiti royal family, as well as the hijackers, who are masked by blue hoods fashioned from airline pillow cases and armed with grenades and handguns.

Sabah said there are at least eight hijackers, all of them Arabs, carrying forged passports.

He sidestepped a question about whether the jet would be stormed, saying that was a matter for the Cypriot authorities since the plane was on their territory.

The man killed Monday was pushed from the blue-and-white plane at 3:07 p.m. (8:07 a.m. EDT) after Cypriot officials ignored two deadlines to refuel the jet. An ambulance picked up the body 30 minutes later.

Doctors at Larnaca morgue said he had suffered injuries to the side of his face, apparently from a beating. They said he had been shot twice in the head at close range.

Democrats tackle policy

Michael Dukakis said Monday that Arab leaders are "responsible for the turmoil and the violence" in Israel's occupied territories as Democratic presidential candidates wrestled with Middle East policy, looking for the right moves for victory in New York.

Jesse Jackson, often attacked for what critics call pro-Arab stands, continued to distance himself from the Palestine Liberation Organization by saying that allowing extremists at the bargaining table would be a "formula for catastrophe."

Albert Gore Jr., who earlier exchanged sharp words with fellow Democrats on the Middle East, took a conciliatory line. He also admitted he has to do well in the April 19 New York primary to continue in the race.

Republican nominee-apparent George Bush got back on the trail Monday, visiting an IBM research facility in New York and proclaiming

his strong support for Israel as a reason for Jews to back his candidacy.

"I think everyone should vote for me. Besides that, I'm a good friend of Israel," Bush said.

The vice president brushed off concerns that the all-but-concluded GOP contest could drop him out of the voters' eyes as the Democrats continue to fight. "We don't have all the excitement that exists on the Democratic side of the aisle, but we have a lot more unity and fewer problems," he said.

For Pat Robertson, Bush's only remaining challenger, there were new problems. The Internal Revenue Service asked for a court hearing Tuesday on whether Robertson's campaign had complied with IRS demands for documents in a complicated investigation of the former television evangelist's organizations. The campaign said it has complied.

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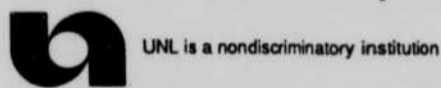
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In Brief

Experts begin clearing projectiles in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — U.S. and Pakistani bomb disposal experts Monday began defusing thousands of deadly missiles and grenades strewn around the capital after an explosion at an ammunition dump killed 93 people and injured 1,100.

Security forces and rescue teams also searched flattened buildings for hundreds of people still unaccounted for after Sunday's blast.

President Mohammad Zia Ul-haq, who cut short a visit to Kuwait, called the explosion an "extraordinary accident."

Zia refused to speculate on the cause of the fire which ignited the ammunition dump explosion at Ojeri camp between the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

Commenting on reports that some of the ordnance was earmarked for Moslem guerrillas in Afghanistan and that some empty casings bore Chinese labels, Zia said: "It's nothing but speculation — a high measure of speculation."

Ex-Mafia members says mob is now corrupt

WASHINGTON — A former member of the Sicilian Mafia told senators Monday that "money, drugs and greed" have corrupted the mob organization.

Testifying behind a screen in the Senate's most extensive organized-crime hearings in a quarter-century, Tommaso Buscetta said the Mafia has changed so much in Italy due to the drug trade that he no longer feels bound "by the code of 'omerta'" — or silence.

FBI officials, who also testified before the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, said the drug involvement of U.S. organized crime families is less extensive, although many individual mobsters are linked to narcotics.

"Before, the Mafia would have nothing to do with drugs," Buscetta testified. "Drugs brought too much attention from the authorities, too much heat. Now, drugs were the main part of the Mafia's business, and everyone in the Sicilian Mafia was rich because of it."

Israel deports 8 Palestinians from territories

JERUSALEM — Israel expelled eight Palestinians from the occupied lands Monday, accusing them of inciting the four months of violence there, and it issued deportation orders against 12 others.

Hospital officials said soldiers shot a 20-year-old Arab to death in the West Bank. That brought to 142 the number of Palestinians killed since riots began Dec. 8 in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which Israel captured Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

Six Palestinians from Beita, a West Bank village where an Israeli settler girl and two Arabs were killed in a clash last week, were among the 12 against whom the army issued deportation orders.

Correction

In an April 11 Daily Nebraskan headline, an ammunition dump explosion was incorrectly stated to have taken place in India. The explosion took place in Pakistan.

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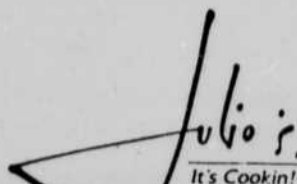
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