

President condemns Israel for violence

■ Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat told Clinton that his people did not start the fighting.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met for more than two hours Wednesday with President Clinton, then emerged with bitter condemnation of Israel for the wave of violence that has shattered already faint peace hopes.

After shaking hands with Clinton and giving him a goodbye salute at the White House door, Arafat told reporters standing on a rain-swept driveway: "I am not the one who initiated the violence."

"My tanks are not sieging Israeli towns," Arafat said, interrupting his interpreter to make sure his views were correctly relayed. "We are facing a very dangerous situation that is really injuring the peace process."

Despite his comments, however, the Palestinian leader said: "I reiterated my firm commitment to making peace" and said the outcome depends on the efforts that Clinton exerts.

Arafat raised with the president his proposal that the United Nations set up an international force to protect Palestinians from Israel. He did not say how Clinton reacted, but the State Department has dismissed the idea all week.

Resuming negotiations with Israel appeared a highly remote possibility.

"We're now in a very difficult cycle," Clinton's assistant for national security Sandy Berger said before the meeting. "The president is focused on what he can do in the next few months to try to reduce the violence and resume a political process."

Rejecting any notion Clinton's influence has waned with his term running out, Berger said "the busi-



Palestinian militia leader Houssein Akyat, 34, is transported after being killed Thursday by a missile fired from an Israeli helicopter into his car Wednesday in Beit Sahour near the West Bank town of Bethlehem. A local Palestinian woman also was killed, and more than 10 others were wounded.

Courtesy Kealy/NewsMakers

ness of the presidency goes on."

Once optimistic plans to mold a final settlement between Palestinian leader Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, who comes calling Sunday, are in disarray, shattered by their differences on Jerusalem and five weeks of violence on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and in Israel.

On Thursday, Israeli combat helicopters rocketed a pickup truck packed with Palestinian

guerrillas on West Bank, killing one and critically wounding another. The Israeli army said the assault implemented a new policy of targeting ringleaders.

Two passers-by were killed and 11 others were injured.

Berger declined to address the incident specifically, but said in a general way that "violence breeds violence and we must find a way to break this cycle."

"It's important for people on

both sides to do all they can to try to achieve that."

Barak said Wednesday on Israeli television that he would seek no resumption of peace talks.

"I go to Washington to ensure that the end of violence that was agreed on at Sharm el-Sheik is carried out, if that is possible. That is all," he said, referring to an Egyptian resort where Clinton mediated a truce last month.

"It's still the U.S.'s intention to

work with the parties to help them try to achieve what they are in a position to achieve, what they want to achieve," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Wednesday before Arafat arrived a little after midnight.

Arafat is requesting that the United Nations establish an international protective force to shield Palestinians from Israeli soldiers and police.

World/Nation

The Associated Press

■ Russia

Officials study crew's log found in sunken Kursk

MOSCOW - In the latest grim find from the sunken submarine Kursk, Russian officials said Thursday they were studying fragments of a ship's log recovered by the divers who pulled 12 bodies from the wreck.

"We recovered what we could - certain notes and the log book from the fourth compartment of the Kursk," the Interfax news agency quoted Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov as saying.

One note, from an as-yet unidentified sailor, described 23 crew members as suffering from carbon-monoxide poisoning from a fire and despairing of reaching the surface because of the crushing water pressure at a depth of more than 330 feet.

Klebanov's spokeswoman Oksana Onishchenko said the divers found only "unreadable" fragments of the log. "There was nothing related to the accident," Onishchenko said.

The log was retrieved by divers who cut holes in the hull in a risky 18-day operation on the bottom of the Barents Sea.

All 118 men aboard died. Most of the bodies were not recovered because they were either destroyed by the explosions or unreachable in the tangled wreckage.

■ Washington, D.C.

House to look into early calls by networks on election night

A House telecommunications panel will hold hearings as early as next week on the television networks' early calls of the presidential race in Florida and their possible impact on voters elsewhere.

Rep. Billy Tauzin, chairman of the House Commerce Committee's telecommunications subcommittee, planned Thursday to announce the panel's intention to invite TV network officials to testify. A spokesman said the hearings could be set as early as next week, when Congress must return for a lame-duck session to finish this year's budget.

Between 6:49 p.m. and 7 p.m. CDT Tuesday, NBC, CBS, CNN, Fox, ABC and The Associated Press all called Florida, with its decisive 25 electoral votes, for Vice President Al Gore. Polls were still open in several Western states.

At about 8:55 p.m. CST, the networks and AP began taking back those projections based on the actual Florida vote count that showed a tight race between Democrat Gore and Republican George W. Bush.

■ Kentucky

Governor, union leaders face reinstated campaign charges

FRANKFORT - Charges against two top aides to Gov. Paul Patton and two union leaders accused of conspiring to violate campaign finance laws were reinstated Thursday by an appeals court.

The charges, stemming from Patton's 1995 election, had been thrown out last year when a judge said the laws on spending limits were unconstitutionally vague.

But in a 2-1 decision, the state appeals court said the four were veteran politicians who knew the rules.

Prosecutors allege the union carried Ross on its payroll so the campaign would not have to pay his salary, and that Fields and Winstead were appointed to important state positions as a reward for their help.

■ Kuwait

Police arrest Kuwaitis in alleged bombing plot

Police on Thursday announced the arrests of three Kuwaitis and seizure of a large quantity of explosives in an alleged plot that a local newspaper said was directed at U.S. targets in other countries.

The newspaper, Al-Qabas, said the arrested men had links to terror mastermind Osama bin Laden.

A fourth suspect was still at large, the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry said.

The ministry's statement described him as "a citizen of a North African country."

A bite into the past: Dinosaur discovered

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROME - Italian paleontologists said Thursday they have identified a new species of dinosaur, which lived 200 million years ago and is one of the oldest meat-eating reptiles ever found.

According to fossil fragments found in a quarry in northern Italy, the dinosaur was 26.4 feet long, had a long neck and weighed over a ton. Giorgio Teruzzi, supervisor of paleontology at Milan's Museum of Natural History, told The Associated Press. Each of its sharp teeth measured 2.8 inches, he said.

It is believed to have lived in the early Jurassic era, usually associated with more primitive forms of carnivorous dinosaurs. The Jurassic era spanned from 208 to 140 million years ago.

"It is the world's oldest three-fingered dinosaur, and one of the oldest overall," researcher Cristiano Dal Sasso said in an interview.

The dinosaur, tentatively called *Saltriosaur* after the name of the quarry where the fossils were found, is very similar to another predator, the American *Allosaur*, but is believed to be 20 million years older.

"What's interesting about this dinosaur is that it is more specialized, it is closely related to the more advanced species," said Thomas R. Holtz, a paleontologist at the Department of Geology at the University of Maryland at

"This specimen will be helpful in terms of the reconstruction of the dinosaurs' history and interrelations between various groups."

Thomas R. Holtz
paleontologist

College Park.

The fossils were found entombed in a limestone block in a quarry in Saltrio, north of Milan near the Swiss border, in 1996. Researchers just started studying them last year.

They include more than a hundred bone fragments, the longest measuring 16 inches - altogether less than 10 percent of the entire skeleton. One tooth was also found.

Holtz said that 200 million years ago was a critical time for the evolution of meat-eating dinosaurs. It was then that they started evolving into truly fierce predators.

"This specimen will be helpful in terms of the reconstruction of the dinosaurs' history and interrelations between various groups," Holtz said.

The *Saltriosaur* fossils will go on display Friday at Natural History museums in both Milan and Besano, near the quarry.

Report: Cancer drug safe

■ The new medication may not be a full cure but may help some patients, doctors said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands - Eagerly awaited test results on a much-publicized new cancer drug designed to stop tumors by cutting off their blood supply indicate the medication is safe and shows promising signs it may help control the disease.

However, the results released Thursday suggest the drug endostatin is unlikely to be the kind of across-the-board cancer cure that many had hoped for.

The drug was tested on terminally ill cancer patients largely to assess its safety.

No dramatic recoveries have so far been seen among the 61 patients studied.

"Some patients benefited, but many did not," said one of the chief investigators, Dr. Roy Herbst, an assistant professor of medicine at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. "These patients were very sick. Most of their tumors are going to grow no matter what you do."

The best results were seen in a 50-year-old man with cancer in his jaw. His tumor shrank by 62 percent in eight weeks.

A tumor in the pancreas of another patient shrank by 19 percent after he had been taking the drug for a year.

In five other cases, the disease remained stable, with the tumor neither progressing nor shrinking. Despite the lack of cures, the

"Some patients benefited, but many did not. These patients were very sick. Most of their tumors are going to grow no matter what you do."

Dr. Roy Herbst

assistant professor of medicine at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

testing provided some evidence that the drug may cut off a tumor's blood supply, as intended, offering hope the approach could work better in patients who are less desperately ill.

Blood flow through the tumors became less robust and chemicals involved in blood vessel creation diminished as patients were given increasingly higher doses of endostatin.

No serious side effects were noticed in any of the patients, the scientists said.

While some experts considered the test results "tremendously promising," others were cautiously optimistic.

The recent discovery that angiogenesis, or the creation of new blood vessels, is vital to a tumor's survival has been the basis for the hottest area in cancer research.

Drugs that attack the process are called angiogenesis inhibitors. Endostatin is one of dozens of such drugs, which are at varying stages of development and attack blood vessel growth from different angles.

"Many of them have shown little toxicity, and this is not the first to show a response," said William Li, head of the Boston-

based Angiogenesis Foundation, a nonprofit information clearinghouse that tracks research in the field.

"But it's unprecedented at this stage of testing to have such a comprehensive measurement of markers that indicate there might be a benefit," he added.

Tracking the indirect indicators has allowed scientists to see more promising signs earlier in the research than normal, Li said.

Besides M.D. Anderson, the Dana-Farber Cancer Center in Boston and the University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center in Madison conducted the studies.

The Boston study was sponsored by the drug's maker, Entremed of Rockville, Md., while the other two were funded by the U.S. National Cancer Institute.

Some experts predict endostatin and the other drugs will in most cases halt cancer growth, turning the disease from an acute fatal illness to a low-level ongoing condition, like diabetes or arthritis.

In some cases, the cancer may be wiped out completely, while in others, the drugs may need to be used in combination with chemotherapy and radiation.

U.N.: Lift sanctions on Cuba

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS - The General Assembly resoundingly criticized the United States on Thursday for maintaining sanctions on Cuba for nearly four decades and urged Washington to lift them as soon as possible.

The nonbinding, Cuban-drafted resolution passed with 167 votes in favor - the widest margin in the nine years that Cuba

has brought the initiative to the United Nations. Only the United States, Israel and the Marshall Islands voted against it. Four countries abstained.

The resolution, introduced by Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque, was nearly identical to ones approved in years past, even though U.S. legislation approved last month allows sales of American food and medicine to the communist island.

Weather

TODAY
Partly cloudy
high 42, low 33

TOMORROW
Rain and snow
high 38, low 27

SUNDAY
Scattered snow
high 34, low 22

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World Wide Web: www.dailynebraskan.com

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year, weekly during the summer sessions. The public has access to the Publications Board. Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling (402) 472-2588.

Subscriptions are \$60 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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