

World and Nation

Panamanian employees demand pay

From Associated Press reports

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Work stoppages and violence broke out in the capital Monday as public employees learned they would not be paid by a government that has run out of money.

The government began selling sacks of food, called "dignity bags," to unpaid workers. Some school teachers, telephone company and dock workers demanded cash and struck to reinforce their demand.

Protesters erected flaming street barricades of trash and debris. Others yelled at security forces and were met by volleys of tear gas.

For the first time, the disturbances reached into the heart of the capital's central business district, which had been operating almost normally as the crisis deepened in the past several weeks.

Riot police used tear gas to disperse about 600 primary and secondary school teachers blocking traffic in

front of the Ministry of Education. "We want our pay!" shouted the teachers. "Books yes, arms no!"

As the police, armed with rubber truncheons and tear gas grenades, forcibly removed them, the teachers cried, "Noriega must go!" — a reference to the nation's military strongman, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The protest lasted about three hours. No arrests were reported.

Primary and secondary schools were to have reopened Monday following a three-month vacation, but they stayed closed.

Alberto Williams, a secretary of the Dock Workers Union, said about 700 employees walked off their jobs at 9 a.m. at the Port of Balboa, the Pacific Ocean entrance to the Panama Canal, after being told they would not be paid their semi-monthly salaries.

"The strike is not a political movement," said Williams, a forklift

operator who makes \$5.85 an hour. "All we want is that the workers get their money."

Albert Soto, the port administrator, said the strike would have "absolutely nothing" to do with the passage of ships through the vital, 50-mile waterway linking the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. About 30 ships normally make the transit each day.

U.S. officials in Washington have said President Reagan's decision to withhold a \$6.5 million payment owed to Panama on Tuesday was aimed at impairing the government's ability to pay Panama's 130,000 public workers this week.

Withholding the payment was one of a number of economic sanctions the United States has imposed against Panama to pressure Noriega to leave his post as chief of the defense forces.

Nearly one in every five working Panamanians is employed by the government. Until now, they have at least outwardly supported Noriega.

According to Panamanian figures, their payroll comes to about \$33 million every two weeks. Diplomatic sources and private economists, speaking on the condition of anonymity, say the nation's treasury is broke.

Noriega met with the nation's new civilian chief executive, Manuel Solis Palma, and other top government officials as an emergency economic conference was resumed Monday morning after recessing an earlier session at 2 a.m. without comment.

Noriega, who has ruled the country from his military post since 1983, was indicted by two federal grand juries in the United States last month on charges of drug trafficking and money laundering.

The "dignity bags" contained such staples of the Panamanian diet as rice, beans, flour, onions, cheese and lard. They were being sold for \$15-\$16, but the government apparently was not demanding immediate payment.

U.S., Soviet defense officials to discuss military doctrine

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci was to ask his Soviet counterpart at talks beginning Tuesday in Switzerland whether highly publicized changes in Kremlin military doctrine mean reductions in Soviet forces.

Carlucci, meeting Tuesday through Thursday with Soviet Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov, will also discuss arms control, human rights, the proposed Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and such dangerous military situations as a collision between U.S. and Soviet warships in the Black Sea last month, a senior Pentagon official told reporters Monday.

Carlucci has said he doesn't want the meeting to pre-empt talks on reducing nuclear and conventional forces, but he does want to ask Yazov about the emerging Soviet doctrine of "reasonable sufficiency."

"We will be asking them if this (new doctrine) is . . . truly a change in their policy and not just a public recitation," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

At the top of the American agenda, said the official, will be so-called dangerous incidents, such as the bumping incident in the Black Sea of Feb. 12, as well as the slaying of a U.S. Army officer in East Germany in 1985 and the wounding of another last September.

Officials prepare for peace talks

WASHINGTON — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir arrived here Monday with what he called new ideas for Mideast peace talks and said he would not give a yes-or-no reply to the U.S. blueprint for negotiations with the Arabs during his four-day stay.

Shamir did not disclose the

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revisions he will propose to Secretary of State George Shultz, who devised the plan and set this week as a deadline for a reply from the Israeli and Jordanian governments.

The State Department did not indicate whether Shultz would be willing to alter his formula for negotiations. Spokesman Charles Redman simply called it "a serious proposal" that was under "active consideration" in Israeli and Arab capitals.

Shultz is pushing for a three-year interim arrangement on the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip, with negotiations for an overall settlement to open by December. He is also prodding Israel to cede territory in exchange for Arab recognition.

Bakker returns to pulpit

CHARLOTTE — A year after he stepped down from his PTL television ministry because of a sex scandal, Jim Bakker returned to the pulpit at a trailer park in California.

Tammy Faye Bakker introduced her husband to 225 sun-tanned retirees at a service Sunday in Niland, Calif., according to a report in Monday's Charlotte Observer.

Bakker, who resigned after admitting having a sexual encounter with church secretary Jessica Hahn, preached about friendship for 30 minutes, then grinned and hugged members of the congregation.

"I've always said over the years if I could give you a gift, the most important gift would be a good friend," Bakker said.

Israeli army closes Arab produce market

From Associated Press reports

JERICHO, Occupied West Bank — Troops shut down one of the biggest produce markets in the West Bank on Monday, turning away 70 trucks of food grown by Arab farmers and tightening the economic noose on the occupied territories.

Soldiers also shot and wounded at least 11 Arabs, and a 3-year-old girl was in serious condition after she was hit in the right eye by a rubber bullet, hospital officials said.

The Israeli army also developed a new way to ferret out rock-hurling protesters, spraying them with paint from helicopters so they can be identified and arrested, the Daily Yeiot Ahronot reported.

The army imposed a nightly 10 p.m. curfew over the entire occupied Gaza Strip for the first time since unrest began in the territories Dec. 8. A spokesman said the curfew is

in effect indefinitely.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir arrived in Washington with what he said were new ideas for Mideast peace talks.

Also on Monday, another 150 Arab policemen in Gaza announced they would resign, joining 450 other officers in the occupied territories who quit earlier, according to an Arab reporter who watched many turn in their uniforms.

Israeli authorities acknowledged some police quit but gave no figures. About 1,000 Arab police worked in the occupied territories.

The resignations were ordered by the Palestine Liberation Organization two days after the slaying of a Jericho policeman accused of collaborating with the Israelis.

"It is clear their resignations were not handed in freshly but because they fear for their lives," Gaza Police

commander Shimon Levy said on Israeli radio. In apparent response to the PLO-backed protests and unrest, Israel stepped up economic sanctions, including a ban on the shipment of gasoline and other fuel to service stations in the West Bank.

Uri Hakak of the Israeli-owned Padeso Co., which supplies fuel to 50 West Bank gas stations, said drivers were afraid to make deliveries after two tank trucks were attacked and burned.

In Jericho, 22 miles northeast of Jerusalem, soldiers closed the regional fruit and vegetable markets, turning away 70 trucks carrying produce, Arab merchants said.

"We started to sell about 8 a.m. when the soldiers came and forced us to close," said one merchant who refused to give his name. He said Arab farmers tried to open informal markets elsewhere, but soldiers chased them away.

PLO leaflets have ordered Jericho shops to open only in the morning. But on Monday, merchants said troops told them they could operate only after noon.

Saeb Erakat, a political science professor from An Najah University

who lives in Jericho, said Israeli authorities wanted to break the back of the Palestinian strike with economic pressure.

"The military government is trying to tell the people here who is boss. Jericho is an agricultural city. To order the market closed in the morning amounts to killing it economically," Erakat said.

At least 91 Arabs have been killed during unrest in the occupied territories since rioting began, according to United Nations figures.

In Jenin and the nearby West Bank village of Yamoun, troops using live ammunition shot and wounded 11 Arabs.

Witnesses in Ramallah said troops also shot 3-year-old Rasha Youssef in the eye with a rubber bullet in a clash with Palestinians protesting alleged harassment by Jewish settlers.

Court upholds death sentence

From Associated Press reports

STARKE, Fla. — Legal options dwindled Monday for convicted killer Willie Jasper Darden, who was scheduled for execution Tuesday in Florida's electric chair after surviving an unprecedented six death warrants.

The Florida Supreme Court refused to grant a stay Monday for Darden, who became the focus of an international campaign against capital punishment. It was the eighth time the state's highest court had upheld either his conviction or death sentence.

Darden, who has steadfastly main-

tained his innocence in the September 1973 fatal shooting of a Lakeland furniture store owner, was scheduled to be electrocuted at 7 a.m. today at Florida State Prison near this North Florida town.

The Florida Supreme Court rejected Darden's claim of ineffective legal counsel and also the argument that the trial court's finding that the crime was "heinous, atrocious and cruel" was unsupported.

"We have papers already lodged in U.S. Supreme Court," Larry Spalding, chief of the Office of Capital Collateral Representative, a state-funded office of defense attorneys for death row inmates, said before the state ruling.

Darden's appeals had already gone to the U.S. Supreme Court four times. The last was rejected March 7 and Gov. Bob Martinez signed Darden's seventh death warrant the next day.

Darden, 54, was condemned for the shooting of James Turman, who interrupted a man robbing his wife

of \$15. Mrs. Turman later identified Darden as the assailant.

A neighbor, Philip Arnold, also identified Darden during the trial. Arnold, then 16, entered the store after apparently hearing Mrs. Turman's cries and was shot three times.

If executed, Darden will be the 18th man Florida has put to death since May 1979.

Death penalty opponents claim Darden was railroaded because he is black, and that he is innocent of murder and has an alibi to prove it. They claim there is evidence — statements from a minister and another person — that Darden could not have committed the murder.

The signing of the warrant last week gave defense attorneys only one week to prepare.

"A lot of people feel the primary reason for the seven-day warrant was to limit Amnesty International's ability to have sufficient time to mobilize a public opinion assault as they did very effectively for the sixth warrant," said Spalding.

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Come to Room 208 in the Student Union Thursday at 4:30 p.m. for a meeting and a chance to show off your natural flair for copy editing. Bring a dictionary and/or AP Stylebook if you want. Call Karen Bell or Kaarin Tisue at the DTH office if you cannot attend.

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