

World and Nation

Hijackers kill police border guard

From Associated Press reports

LARNACA, Cyprus — The hijackers of a Kuwaiti jumbo jet started to hurt passengers Sunday after authorities refused to refuel the plane and release pro-Iranian bombers imprisoned in Kuwait, the flight engineer said.

On Saturday, the hijackers killed a 24-year-old Kuwaiti police border guard aboard the plane. His body, hands tied behind his back, was tossed onto the tarmac after the Cypriots refused demands to refuel the jet.

Cyprus government spokesman Akis Fantis said Sunday that marks on the man's body indicated he had been badly beaten 18 to 24 hours before he was slain.

In a morning statement, one of the hijackers told the control tower: "We hereby re-announce our refueling

request due to our intention to (go to) Kuwait, the concerned country. And if Kuwait refuses us, a crash landing will take place on the . . . prince's palace."

In Lebanon on Sunday, a pro-Iranian group threatened to kill American and French hostages if any attempt was made to storm the plane.

The statement from the Islamic Jihad was delivered to the Reuters news agency in West Beirut, along with photographs of journalists Terry Anderson, an American, and Jean-Paul Kauffmann, of France.

"To the families of the hostages, we declare that we shall execute the Western captives in Lebanon if the plane and holy warriors (hijackers) aboard are subjected to any military foolishness," the statement said.

In Cyprus, the Arab hijackers, who

have killed one passenger since seizing the plane Tuesday, threatened to kill their captives in a "slow and quiet massacre."

A noon deadline passed without any slayings. But one minute before a second deadline expired four hours later, the engineer, relaying the hijackers' messages to Larnaca Airport control tower, said: "They've already started to hurt one of the passengers." He gave no details.

The hijackers also threatened to force the pilot to take off and crash into Kuwait's royal palace.

There are believed to be 53 people still aboard the Kuwait Airways Boeing 747, including three members of Kuwait's ruling al-Sabah family and at least six hijackers.

Senior Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) officials in Cyprus met with the hijackers four times Sunday.

The PLO is believed to be a key factor in negotiations to end the six-day ordeal.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Kuwait from a visit to Moscow. Informed Palestinian sources in Cyprus said he would be meeting Kuwaiti leaders about the hijacking.

The plane landed in Larnaca on Friday. Flight 422 was commandeered Tuesday en route to Kuwait from Bangkok with 112 people aboard and forced to land in Mashhad in northeastern Iran, where 57 people were released.

The jet left Iran and landed in Larnaca after being refused permission to land in Lebanon and Syria. Another captive, an ailing 32-year-old Kuwaiti, was freed in Larnaca, apparently after PLO intervention.

Weekend arrests increase in L.A. police drug crackdown

From Associated Press reports

LOS ANGELES — More than 1,000 people were arrested in a weekend police blitz against drug dealers and street gangs responsible for waves of violence that have been claiming hundreds of lives a year in the City of Angels.

A 1,000-officer task force flooded the streets in gang areas Friday night, and Police Chief Daryl Gates ordered the officers out again Saturday night.

Between Saturday evening and 1:30 a.m. Sunday, police reported 481 arrests, almost half of them on the gang-infested Southside. About 190 of those arrested were suspected gang members, Officer Joe Mariani said.

It was the department's biggest attack ever on gangs, which specialize in the cocaine trade and were blamed for 205 killings in the city of Los Angeles last year. Gang killings in all of Los Angeles County reached 387 last year.

Guerrillas shoot down plane

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Afghan guerrillas shot down a Soviet-built passenger plane near the Soviet border Sunday, and all 29 people aboard were killed, Afghanistan government radio reported.

Radio Kabul, monitored in Islamabad, said the Antonov-26 passenger plane was flying between Maimaneh, in Afghanistan's northwestern Faryab province, and Mazar Sharif, in the Balkh province.

The report did not say whether the plane was a Soviet transport or a civilian airliner of the domestic Bakhtar airline. Both fly the Antonov-26.

The Afghan airline also has been known to carry commercial passengers in planes with military markings.

The reported attack came three days after the United Nations announced an agreement to end the war between Moslem guerrillas and Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government and clear the way for the removal of Soviet troops.

The Afghan guerrillas have said

News in Brief

they will continue to fight the Communist government, despite the reported peace settlement, until it is deposed.

Panama hospitals cut services

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Doctors and pharmacists said Sunday a lack of dollars caused by U.S. economic sanctions is causing a shortage of medicines and broad cuts in hospital services.

An opposition party leader, meanwhile, said the foreign leaders who asked the Roman Catholic Church to mediate Panama's political crisis should consider organizing an international boycott to oust the nation's strongman, Gen. Manuel Noriega.

"By doing the first (asking for the mediation), there is an implicit responsibility to do the second," Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democrat Party, told journalists late Saturday.

Pharmacies and hospitals said they are cutting services, running short of some medicines, and have stopped elective surgery, X-rays and laboratory tests.

A pharmacist, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he could not reorder medicine because pharmaceutical companies want to be paid in dollars and the banks are closed.

Psychic healer treats horses

WADSWORTH, Ill. — The lush pastures of Illinois horse country may seem an unlikely setting for a psychic healer with a crystal wand, but some of the horse set swear by her special knack with their prized thoroughbreds.

Zandee Zbella combines conventional massage techniques with unconventional specialties like Japanese acupuncture and psychic readings to treat her equine clients.

"Horses are a life force, just like we are," said Zbella. "They are a mass of energy. In that sense you can treat them using psychic techniques."

Nixon predicts Bush as winner in November

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Richard Nixon predicted that likely Republican presidential nominee George Bush will edge the Democratic candidate in a November election that will be close despite peace and prosperity, in an NBC-TV "Meet the Press" interview broadcast Sunday. He also said that President Reagan should pardon former White House aides John Poindexter and Oliver North if he believes they served his administration.

The former president said a sound economy and a nation at peace normally means a landslide victory for the political party in power. But

as historian Alexis de Toqueville noted, one characteristic of American democracy is restlessness amid prosperity, according to Nixon.

"I think we have some of that today," Nixon said. "Jesse Jackson is appealing to those who are restless, despite prosperity. And that is what George Bush must overcome, and that's why I think it's going to be a close election rather than a landslide."

Bush is expected to win the GOP nomination easily. Jackson and Mass. Gov. Michael Dukakis are the front-running candidates for the Democratic nomination.

Nixon, asked if Dukakis was too dull to be an effective nominee,

responded: "I've often said . . . that the best politics is poetry rather than prose. Jesse Jackson is a poet, (New York Gov. Mario) Cuomo is a poet, and Dukakis is a word processor — that's what it gets down to."

"On the other hand, he's cool, he's intelligent, he's tough, he's good in debates. He's going to be a very formidable candidate," Nixon said.

The former president has said Jackson is the best candidate in either party. But if he were white, he would be out of the race, according to Nixon.

" . . . it isn't really the messenger, the fact that he is black, but it's the message: he is far to the left of the

Democrats, and they are already very far to the left with Dukakis," Nixon said. "So, under the circumstances, if he were white, he would have been out already as being too extreme to have a chance to win."

On the subject of presidential action with respect to the Iran-contra affair, Nixon said that if President Reagan believes that his former White House aides Poindexter and North were involved in the Iran-contra scandal under the impression of presidential approval, he should pardon them.

Nixon said when Reagan considers the pardons, he must ask himself, "Did these two men do what they did, believing, whether mistakenly or not, that they had the approval of the president, or were they acting in order to serve his interests and (think they) would get that approval?"

Reagan has not said he would pardon the former aides or others accused in the affair. But, after hearing a proposal for pardons in a meeting with Republican congressmen last week, he said, "I like the sound of those words."

Nixon has scheduled a series of television interviews prior to the release of his book, "1999: Victory Without War." It is the sixth he has written since he resigned in 1974 in the wake of the Watergate scandal.

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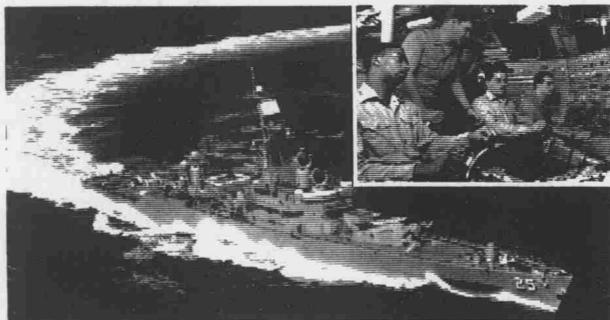
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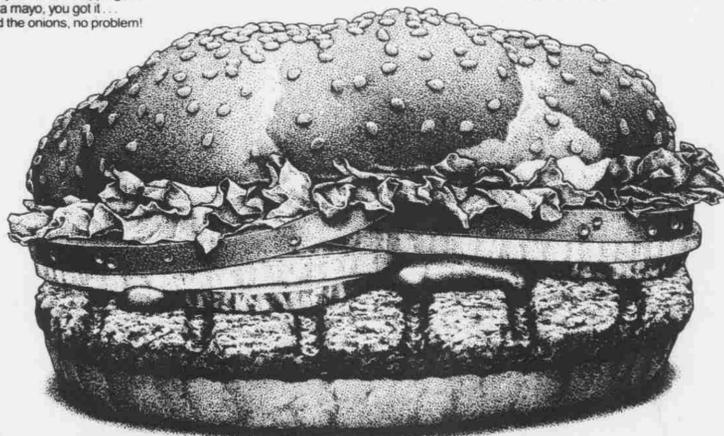
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