

World and Nation

Hurricane Joan kills 50 in Nicaragua

From Associated Press reports

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Hurricane Joan killed at least 50 people and left 300,000 homeless in its rampage across Nicaragua, officials said Sunday. Rain drenched the country while the government tried to organize rescue efforts and restore communications.

The storm left another 21 people dead in Costa Rica and four dead in Panama, bringing the death toll for its six-day trip across the Caribbean to at least 111. Twenty-five people died in Colombia and 11 were killed in Venezuela.

More than 150 people were missing.

Joan slowly weakened into a tropical storm over land but strengthened again when it reached the Pacific. No longer an Atlantic hurricane, it was given a new name in the sequence of this year's Pacific

storms — Tropical Storm Miriam. At 2 p.m.(EDT), Miriam was about 95 miles southeast of San Salvador, with maximum sustained winds of about 50 mph, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Hurricane Joan blasted into the east coast city of Bluefields with 125 mph winds early Saturday and marched across the low-lying country of 3 million, leaving a trail of death and destruction before reaching Managua about 10 p.m. Saturday.

Bluefields, Corn Island and the southeastern Atlantic coast region "practically disappeared from the map," the Managua daily El Nuevo Diario said Sunday.

The storm felled trees, electrical towers and telephone lines as it came through the capital.

Throughout the city Sunday, people were cleaning mud-covered homes

while others cut up fallen trees for fuel. Soldiers carrying picks and axes joined to clear the streets.

One death was reported in Managua, a man electrocuted by a downed power line.

Officials said there were nine dead in Bluefields, 180 miles east of Managua. The city of about 60,000 was reported 90 percent destroyed.

The city's mayor, Henningston Omeir, appealed for urgent aid during a visit to London.

"We are sending out an SOS to governments, agencies, to the people in general for urgently needed help . . . in whatever area, health, food, clothing, construction materials and practically everything," said Omeir, part of a Nicaraguan delegation on an official European visit.

A Cuban plane landed Sunday afternoon in Managua with the first batch of help for the country, state

radio reported. It carried 35 tons of rice, condensed milk, beans and tuna.

President Daniel Ortega, after touring the capital city of 1 million, reported that at least 50 people had died across Nicaragua and 300,000 others had been left homeless. He gave no details.

The capital's population has been swollen by refugees from the leftist Sandinista government's war with U.S.-supported contra rebels.

Reports said electric power was out throughout the country. Telephone service was spotty, and the only communication with the east coast was by radio.

Ortega, asked whether the United States should send aid, replied, "The best humanitarian aid the United States could give us would be to stop its terrorist policies against Nicaragua."

Zealots celebrate anniversary of U.S. Marine base bombing

From Associated Press reports

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Israeli troops and allied militiamen of the South Lebanon Army clashed Sunday with Palestinian guerrillas in eastern Lebanon, killing four guerrillas, police said. Israel radio said six guerrillas died.

In south Beirut's slums, pro-Iranian Moslem zealots held rallies to mark the suicide truck bombing of a U.S. Marine base at Beirut Airport that killed 241 American servicemen Oct. 23, 1983.

"This morning, exactly five years ago, the Marines and the French paratroopers were blown up," Hezbollah's spiritual guide, Sheik Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, told the crowd.

"Struggle to keep that panic alive. Struggle to keep this power going everywhere," he said.

A crowd of 3,000 at south Beirut's Bir el-Abed district also erupted in anti-American and anti-Israeli chants when a Hezbollah cleric identified the name of the suicide bomber who killed eight Israeli soldiers in a south Lebanon attack Wednesday.

Kidnappers announce demands

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Kidnappers holding American hostages announced five demands for their release Sunday and threatened to make the United States pay a price that "would reflect adversely" on the captives' fate if the demands were not met.

It was the second threatening statement in three days from the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad.

The threat came in a three-page typewritten statement in Arabic signed by Islamic Jihad, or holy war.

The statement's demands included release of all mujahedeen (holy warriors) from Arab and foreign jails, unconditional withdrawal of all Israeli forces from south Lebanon and war reparations to the Lebanese.

News in Brief

Hostage photos, letter found

MILAN, Italy — Police said Sunday that a Lebanese woman arrested in Milan planned to deliver photographs of American hostages to an Italian man who has been linked to arms scandals and the Italian secret service.

The man, Aldo Anghessa, was questioned by police after they found the photos and a letter from a hostage hidden in a false bottom of the woman's suitcase Thursday, authorities said. She said Anghessa was to receive them, they reported.

Fortunato Finoli, deputy director of Milan's police anti-terrorist unit, refused to say what Anghessa told police or whom he was representing. The Italian was released after questioning.

The Lebanese woman, identified as Aline Ibrahim Rizkallah, 36, was charged with carrying \$1,000 in counterfeit U.S. bills and 50 grams of heroin, police said. She was in jail in Milan.

Whales refuse escape route

BARROW, Alaska — Two young whales trapped by ice balked Sunday at following a narrow escape route to open water that was being carved with chain saws by Eskimos who ordinarily hunt whales.

A National Guard helicopter hammered at the ice with a five-ton chunk of concrete, but the whales were more than three miles from open water, with a massive ice ridge in between and a wind whiff threatening to push ice around them and trap them further.

Rescuers said that even if everything went as planned, it would be at least Wednesday night before they could get the whales as far as the ridge.

Democrats criticize Bush campaign ads

From Associated Press reports

Lloyd Bentsen and the Rev. Jesse Jackson accused Republican nominee George Bush's campaign Sunday of injecting racism into the presidential campaign by pounding Democrat Michael Dukakis over the Massachusetts prison furlough issue.

A Bush spokesman said the charge was "absolutely ridiculous and stems from desperation politics."

Dukakis attended a breakfast in Boston with Jackson and eight other black political leaders who pledged to support the Massachusetts governor's campaign in the remaining two weeks before the Nov. 8 election.

Then Dukakis flew via Wisconsin to California for a full day of campaigning Monday for that crucial state's 47 electoral votes. Bush and his running mate, Sen. Dan Quayle

of Indiana, took a respite from campaigning at their Washington homes.

The tenor and substance of the GOP ticket's campaign advertising on television dominated the political dialogue Sunday.

Bentsen, the Democratic vice presidential candidate, told a television interviewer he thought the Bush campaign was making a racist appeal by focusing on Willie Horton Jr., a black convicted murderer who escaped in 1986 from a Massachusetts prison furlough.

In 1987, Horton brutally stabbed a white Maryland man and twice raped the man's fiancée. Horton is currently imprisoned in Maryland.

Asked if use of the Horton case constituted "an element of Republican racism appeal," Bentsen replied:

"When you add it up, I think there is, and that's unfortunate, and I just don't want to see this election won on that kind of packaging and that kind of distortions."

In Boston, Jackson avoided the word "racist" but said the Horton case was one of several "rather ugly race-conscious signals" sent out by the Bush campaign.

"There have been a number of rather blatantly race-conscious signals that have had the impact of instilling ungrounded fear in whites and alienations from blacks," Jackson told reporters after the 90-minute breakfast with Dukakis.

"The use of the Willie Horton example is designed to create the most horrible psycho-sexual fear," Jackson said. "The furlough ad with black and brown faces rotating in and out of

jail, the use of the Jackson-Dukakis ticket symbolism, which is distortion, referring to me as a Chicago hustler . . . there have been a number of rather ugly race-conscious signals sent from that campaign."

Dukakis made no mention of the prison furlough issue in a short statement after the breakfast. He said only that it had been a "good, constructive meeting" and that he was pleased by the black leaders' commitment to his campaign.

But Bush campaign spokesman Mark Goodin said the GOP campaign's television commercials focused not on Horton but on "how he got out of prison." He said correctly that Massachusetts granted furloughs to convicted first-degree murderers serving life without the possibility of parole. That policy was rescinded last spring.

"To insinuate that racism is involved in the furlough issue operates from the ridiculous premise that black citizens care less about having a monster in their neighborhoods like Willie Horton than do white people," Goodin said.

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For the Record

The credits for the cover photographs of Friday's special section, "100 Years of Coming Home," were inadvertently omitted. The group picture from the 1800s came from the N.C. Collection, and the modern football picture was taken by Janet Jarman. The DTH regrets the omission.

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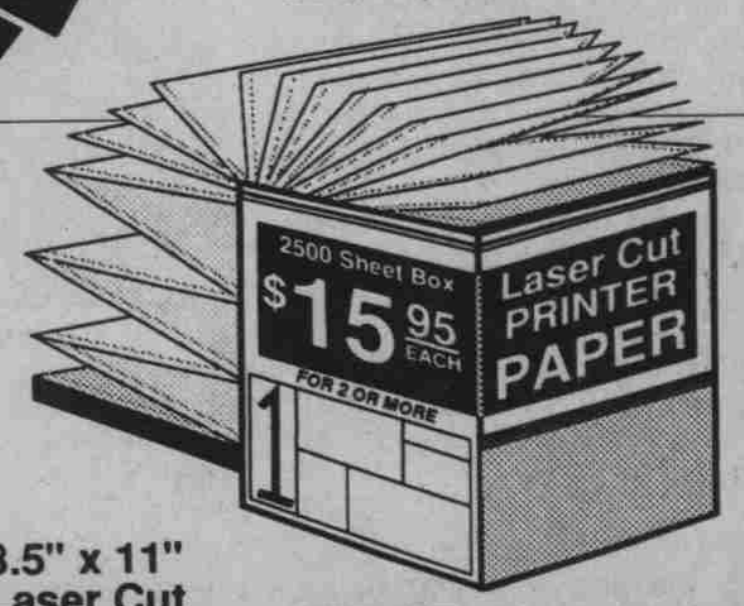
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