

World and Nation

Religious leaders arrive to talk peace

From Associated Press reports

KUWAIT — Lebanon's top Moslem and Christian religious leaders arrived in Kuwait on Sunday for talks aimed at ending the 14-year-old Lebanese civil war and avoiding permanent partition of the country.

The talks, to begin Monday, were organized by the seven-member Arab League committee charged with seeking a settlement of the political crisis that has left Lebanon without a president for the past 147 days.

The leaders arriving from Beirut Sunday were Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, Greek Catholic Patriarch Maximos Hakim, Sunni Moslem Grand Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled, the acting chairman of the Supreme Shiite Moslem Council, Sheikh Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddin, and the supreme religious judge of the Druse community,

Sheik Mursel Nasr.

The Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch Ignatius Hazim, spiritual leader of an estimated 300,000 Lebanese, flew from his home in the Syrian capital, Damascus.

They were met by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Ahmed, who heads the Arab League panel. Also on the panel are the foreign ministers of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Sudan and Algeria and the league's Secretary-General Cheddi Klifi.

Before his departure, Patriarch Sfeir appealed to Lebanese army commander Gen. Michel Aoun and Christian militia leader Samir Geagea to avoid a recurrence of the clash between their forces last week that shook Lebanon's Christian heartland. Aoun and Geagea are both

Maronites.

Police said 76 people were killed and 200 wounded during two days of fierce fighting between Aoun's 20,000 Christian regular soldiers and the 6,000 irregulars of Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia, the Christians' main force in the civil war with Moslems.

The first stage of the talks was held in Tunisia last month, when the committee probed the crisis separately with Aoun, who heads the Christian Cabinet in Lebanon's dual government, and with his Sunni rival, Acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss.

The two governments emerged when President Amin Gemayel appointed Aoun prime minister of a caretaker military cabinet on Sept. 22, minutes before his six-year term ended. Parliament was unable to convene to elect a successor.

Moslems rejected Aoun's appointment, contending it violated an unwritten national covenant dating to Lebanon's independence from France in 1943. This covenant gave the premiership to the Sunnis, the parliamentary speakership to the Shiites and the presidency to the Maronites.

Lebanon has been divided into Moslem and Christian de facto cantons since the 1975 outbreak of the civil war that has claimed more than 130,000 lives.

Each enclave has been rocked by internal power struggles.

Aoun, who makes no secret of his hopes to become Lebanon's next president, is pressing for an unconditional withdrawal of Geagea's militias from Christian east Beirut and all its suburbs as a precondition for peace.

Floods prompt Peru officials to increase rescue missions

From Associated Press reports

LIMA, Peru — Rescue operations were stepped up Sunday in a jungle-covered region in northern Peru where flooding has killed at least 40 people, officials said.

The National Civil Defense office in Lima said Prime Minister Armando Villanueva toured the flooded zone Sunday and reported afterward that 40 people had been killed and 30 others were missing. Officials said a layer of mud deposited by the receding waters could conceal other victims.

The rain-swollen Gera and Indochu rivers jumped their banks Friday and flooded a dozen small villages and settlements near Moyobamba, 450 miles northeast of Lima, city officials said.

Hundreds of farm families near Shucyacu, a tiny village 20 miles south of Moyobamba, were temporarily driven from their homes, which were damaged or destroyed by the flood waters, Civil Defense officials said.

Several Lima newspapers on Sunday gave death toll figures of up to 60, but Civil Defense authorities, speaking on condition of anonymity, declined to confirm the newspaper numbers.

Vietnam troops face late retreat

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Vietnam's foreign minister said Sunday that a delay in finding a settlement to the Cambodian conflict may delay withdrawal of his troops from the country.

"The best is a political solution, but we must prepare for the worst... If others don't want an early solution, then we must be prepared for the worst," Nguyen Co Thach told a news conference at the second round of multilateral peace talks.

He repeated earlier promises that Hanoi would pull out its forces by September if Cambodia's warring factions can reach a political settlement. Otherwise, the

News in Brief

withdrawal could be delayed until December 1990, he said.

Since 1970, Cambodia has suffered through a five-year war, a reign of terror by the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1978, the Vietnamese invasion on Christmas Day 1978, and a continuing guerrilla war.

Millions have died in the land also known as Kampuchea.

After years of deadlock, the warring parties and their neighbors met informally in July in the first tentative step toward peace.

Families seek airline safety

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, N.J. — Relatives of Pan Am Flight 103 victims organized a committee Sunday to push for a congressional investigation of the flight's bombing and to step up airline security.

"If we don't organize ourselves in an effective way... it will be very difficult to go forward," said Paul Hudson, an attorney and former counsel to the N.Y. State Crime Victims Compensation Board who started the network.

Hudson's daughter, Melina, 16, was aboard the jetliner when it blew up over Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec. 21, killing all 259 aboard — including 35 students enrolled in a Syracuse University program — and 11 residents of Lockerbie.

"We've come to assist each other in our grief," Hudson said. "We've come to try to ensure that there are no more Flight 103 disasters for the air and families."

Last week, officials announced that the terrorist's bomb which destroyed the Boeing 747 was traced to a portable radio stored among the luggage. The plane was en route from London to New York.

Earthquake rattles northern Japan; 1 dead

From Associated Press reports

TOKYO — A strong earthquake hit the capital and much of northern Japan on Sunday, killing one person and injuring another, shaking buildings and briefly halting some train and airline services, officials said.

The quake, registering 5.6 on the Richter scale, hit at 9:27 p.m. (7:37

a.m. EST), said a spokesman for the Meteorological Agency. The agency placed the epicenter about 36 miles underground near Utsunomiya, 60 miles north of Tokyo.

The quake also shook all of northern Honshu, Japan's main island, a stretch about 360 miles long, but it caused no tidal waves, the

spokesman said.

A local fire department official said Monday that Shigeo Ohikawa, 78, was taken to a hospital in Matsudo, east of Tokyo, after suffering shock. He later died of a heart attack, the Japan Broadcasting Corp. and Kyodo News Service said.

A 61-year-old man also was injured after a falling vase hit him on the head at his home in Ibaraki, 63 miles northeast of Tokyo, a National Police Agency official said. The man was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

About 300 households in Chiba state east of Tokyo were forced to go without electricity for about 70 minutes after a power supply line was cut in the wake of the tremor, the police official said.

Japan Railways officials said trains

in northern Japan were halted for about five minutes, while local train service near Utsunomiya was still suspended 90 minutes after the tremor.

Officials at the New Tokyo International Airport in Narita, 40 miles northeast of Tokyo, said they had closed the main runway to check for damage, but after 13 minutes the runway was reopened.

Subway trains in Tokyo also were stopped temporarily, including a two-minute shutdown of the Hibiya Line.

"We checked to see if there was any damage," said an official less than one hour after the quake, "but everything was all right, and the trains are running fine."

In central Tokyo, the quake rattled plate glass windows for about a half minute, shook clocks on the wall and made chairs wobble.

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