

Lebanon truce holds; Israel arms Christians

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — East Beirut's Christians emerged cautiously from their basement shelters for the first time in 10 days Sunday as a Syrian-Christian cease-fire appeared to be holding, except for an isolated outbreak of sniper fire.

"They just can't beat us," said a Christian militia commander. "They tried two ground assaults before the cease-fire and we pushed back both of them."

Political leaders in this half-Moslem,

half-Christian nation were skeptical about the chances for success of the truce, declared Saturday, unless the talks between President Elias Sarkis and Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus produce an overall agreement. The two were

scheduled to meet again Sunday.

Beirut police estimated that 1,300 Lebanese were killed and more than 2,000 wounded in the 10 days of fighting. The Syrians have not reported their casualties.

making the news

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — A proposal to cut federal taxes could face new roadblocks, including a possible filibuster, unless Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd is successful Monday in limiting debate on the tax-cutting bill.

The tax proposal, a version of which already has passed the House, has been bogged down in the Senate over debate on various amendments not directly involving the reduction of 1979 income taxes.

With adjournment scheduled on Saturday, the Senate also faces action this week on President Carter's long-delayed energy package and possible consideration of his proposal to contain hospital costs.

During the weekend, Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis., opened the way for new problems for the tax bill when he said he will try to add the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment measure to the bill. Opponents of the employment proposal said they would mount a filibuster if Nelson carries out his plan.

Supporters of the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, which would set a national goal of cutting the unemployment rate to 3 percent by 1981, have been unable to get it through the Senate on its own.

PARIS — Once again the call is going out to France to take up arms, but this time authorities wish it would be ignored. A rising crime rate is pushing many Frenchmen toward gun-toting vigilantism.

Three hundred concerned citizens gathered at a rally over the weekend and cheered as the speaker demanded "the death penalty for the hoodlums instead of the victims."

Crime in France went up 15 percent in 1977, and although the rate of violent crime is lower than that of the United States, Britain and West Germany, the cry for "law and order" is getting louder.

Fighting off burglars can be risky. French law strictly limits the defender to using a measure of force equal to the threat.

Palestinian self-rule menaces peace pact

JERUSALEM (AP) — The framework for a Mideast peace worked out at Camp David is running into serious trouble in the Israeli-occupied territories slated to become an autonomous Palestinian enclave under the accords.

The Palestinians do not seem to be interested in the limited autonomy offered by the agreements, fearing self-rule with a continued Israeli military presence will kill hopes for independence.

The vehement rejection in the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip has surprised many Israelis, who thought the Palestinians would be happy to see an end to 11 years of Israeli military government and the establishment of a local administration.

Suspensions are widespread in Israel that the autonomy plan may plant the seed of a future independent Palestinian state, and Is-

raelis are puzzled that the local Palestinians don't foresee the same result and accept the accords as a step in that direction.

The problem now seems so acute that Egyptian-Israeli negotiators, scheduled to meet Thursday in Washington to begin working on a bilateral peace treaty, also are likely to focus on the Palestinian issue, Israeli officials say.



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