

making the news

From Associated Press reports

NAIROBI, Kenya — Thousands of Somalians watched as a firing squad executed 17 army officers Thursday for their part in the unsuccessful attempt last spring to overthrow President Mohammed Siad Barre, Mogadishu radio reported.

"The executions were carried out by a firing squad formed by soldiers of the armed forces and were witnessed by thousands of people from all areas of Mogadishu," the broadcast said.

The National Security Court convicted the 17 on Sept. 12 for "offenses against the unity, independence and sovereignty of the state," the radio said.

OKLAHOMA CITY — Exactly nine months after a blizzard drove the inhabitants off the streets, Oklahoma City hospitals are bracing for a storm of a very different kind.

A check of local hospitals indicates the forced indoor-togetherness may have contributed to a baby blizzard.

But nowhere has the mini baby-bcom made more of an impression than at the obstetrics department of Deaconess Hospital where nine nurses are themselves pregnant.

TUCSON, Ariz. — One person was killed and at least one other injured Thursday when an Air Force jet fighter crashed, just missing a junior high school, at the edge of the downtown University of Arizona campus.

Police said the dead person was riding in a car that was hit by the plane and at least one other person from that car was severely burned.

Police said the pilot, Air Force Capt. Frederick Ashler, bailed out of the A-7-D Corsair as it passed over the university and parachuted to safety. He suffered minor injuries.

KATMANDU, Nepal — Two members of a 10-woman American expedition have been killed in a climbing accident on the 26,545-foot Annapurna main peak, officials said Thursday.

The Ministry of Tourism said it had no further details of the deaths that occurred more than a week ago. But a spokeswoman for the group in San Francisco, kickoff point for the expedition, identified the dead women as Vera Watson, 46, of Stanford, Calif., and Alison Chadwick-Onyszkiewicz, 36, of Leeds, England.

Spokeswoman Lorraine Rorke said all the women "had a great depth of experience in climbing."

"All we know is that they died in a climbing accident. There has been no further explanation."

Israel plans West Bank expansion

JERUSALEM (AP)—A defiant Israeli government, angered by U.S. statements on the Palestinian issue and trying to cool political dissent at home, disclosed plans Thursday to expand its settlements on the West Bank of the Jordan River. The move could raise a major new obstacle in the Israeli-Egyptian peace talks.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance reacted quickly and sharply to the unexpected Israeli decision, issuing a statement in Washington saying the Carter administration was "deeply disturbed" by the action and calling it a "very serious" matter.

The State Department said President Carter sent a personal cable to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin on the subject.

In Cairo, meanwhile, Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil said the Egyptian government was considering recalling its negotiators from the peace talks in Washington for consultations.

He described the possible recall as "purely routine" and said it was not related to the Israeli decision on West Bank settlements. But it might mean another interruption in the negotiations, which were scheduled to resume Friday.

Even Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan acknowledged that expansion of the settlements "may make it difficult" to reach a final agreement with Egypt on a treaty.

Begin's decision to strengthen the West Bank enclaves could help appease growing conservative opposition to Israeli concessions in a peace pact.

The decision apparently emerged from the Israeli Cabinet's three-day debate over the Egyptian-Israeli draft treaty. Though the meetings were secret, officials did not deny that Begin suggested "thickening" the settlements to win votes from reluctant Cabinet ministers.

Carter won't veto tax bill

MIAMI (AP) — President Carter, allaying fears he might veto the controversial tax cut bill, said Thursday he has decided to sign the \$18.7 billion measure.

Carter announced his decision on the tax bill in response to cheers from a crowd here at a Democratic Party rally.

"Do you want a government

that cuts your income taxes?" he asked. "O.K.!" he said as the crowd cheered.

"Last year we cut federal income taxes \$8 billion. This year Congress has already passed a bill to cut our income taxes about \$19 or \$20 billion more. When I get back to Washington and get that bill, do you think I ought to sign it?"

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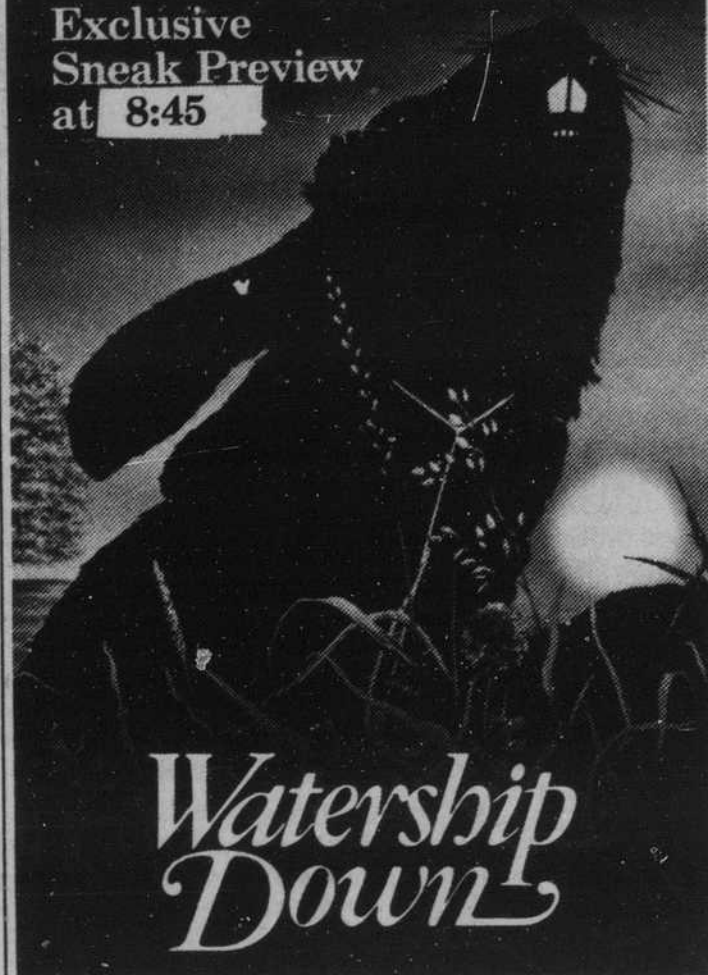
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