

inter/national news

From Associated Press reports

Explosion rips PLO headquarters

BEIRUT, Lebanon

A car-bomb explosion ripped through the nerve center of the Palestine Liberation Organization Thursday, killing at least 60 people and wounding about 300, a PLO spokesman said. The PLO said no ranking guerrilla was hurt, but another group reported a PLO Central Committee member was killed.

Witnesses said the blast set off fires, reduced 60 cars to scorched metal, splintered telephone poles and hurled bodies through the air as the explosives-packed auto blew up in front of PLO offices in Moslem West Beirut. Explosives experts estimated 220 pounds of TNT went off.

Lebanon's state-run television said an anonymous caller purporting to represent a right-wing organization claimed his group was responsible for the blast.

The group, the Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from Foreigners, has claimed responsibility for a series of bombings in the past two weeks. Fifty-four people died in the previous attacks, including 25 people killed Sept. 17 at the PLO's south Lebanon regional headquarters in Sidon.

Diablo runs into problems

LOS ANGELES

Fuel won't be loaded at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant until its owner shows that a design mistake affecting earthquake resistance is the only one it made, a federal official said Thursday.

"The question you have to ask is," said Darrell Eisenhut of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Is that the only mistake they made?"

"The utility is going to have to convince us (that) this is the only mistake. We're going to have to get a handle on that ...

before they go back to loading fuel."

Eisenhut is head of the licensing division of the NRC, which approved an interim license for the \$2.3 billion Pacific Gas and Electric plant less than two weeks ago.

Eisenhut said in an interview that it's too early to gauge the impact of the mistake and what will be needed to resolve it. The earthquake resistance of about a dozen systems is being re-examined to figure out how to correct the mistake, engineers said.

PG&E officials are to meet with the NRC Monday to review the problem.

Americans support Reagan cuts

NEW YORK

Despite growing pessimism toward the economy, the latest Associated Press-NBC News poll says Americans support Pres. Reagan's proposal for \$13 billion in additional budget cuts.

The poll, a scientific random sampling of 1,601 adults contacted by telephone Monday and Tuesday, said a majority of those who have heard or read of the president's latest proposed budget cuts approve of them.

Yet a majority also believes that their family finances will not improve in the next year and that the federal budget will not be balanced by 1984.

Reagan's overall job performance rating dipped to 53 percent good or excellent, down 10 percent from the AP-NBC News poll in August and the lowest during his presidency. The latest poll said 27 percent believe Reagan is doing an only fair job overall, while 16 percent said poor and 4 percent were not sure.

Standard Oil returns \$1 million

SALEM

Oregon will receive over \$1 million from Standard Oil Co. of California as the result of the firm allegedly overcharging for

gasoline from 1973 to 1981, the state said Thursday.

Denny Miles, press aide to Gov. Vic Atiyeh, said the governor wrote Standard, which is marketed as Chevron in Oregon, that the state would accept the money.

He said the \$1.06 million is part of \$25 million the company will pay to a number of states as a result of an agreement reached with the U.S. Department of Energy.

The payments are the result of a consent agreement between the oil company and the federal government and does not amount to an admission of guilt.

World's heaviest man hospitalized

SEATTLE

A man listed in the Guinness Book of Records as one of the heaviest humans in recorded history was reported in serious condition Thursday after he was hospitalized for edema — retention of body fluids — and suspected heart failure.

Jon B. Minnoch, 40, who lost 900 pounds after weighing more than 1,400 pounds in 1978, was admitted to University Hospital on Wednesday and may be losing his battle against obesity.

A spokesman for the Seattle Fire Department said Wed-

nesday that Minnoch reportedly gained 200 pounds within the last week, but hospital officials could not confirm that or estimate the Seattle man's current weight.

It took 10 men to carry Minnoch from his Seattle house to a waiting ambulance Wednesday. To extricate Minnoch, several doors had to be removed from the home.

Iran holds national vote

BEIRUT, Lebanon

Nearly 1 million Iranians chanted anti-American slogans mourning the victims of a military plane crash at a mass funeral rally Thursday. The clergy-led government meanwhile took extra precautions against renewed street violence during Friday's presidential elections.

Hojatoleslam Ali Khamenei, 42, secretary-general of the ruling Islamic Republican Party, was expected to sweep the contest against three token opponents to become the first clergyman head of state. He would succeed President Mohammad Ali Rajai, who was assassinated along with Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar in an Aug. 30 fire-bombing.

The election is a day after state funerals were held for four

of Iran's top military commanders, who died along with 37 others Tuesday when an American-built C-130 transport plane crashed south of Tehran.

Cancer therapy doubles survival

WASHINGTON

A quick-spreading cancer that frequently leads to limb amputation can be treated with a new approach that doubles the survival rate while sparing many arms and legs, government scientists said Thursday.

Researchers at the National Cancer Institute said the greatly improved results against soft tissue sarcoma are due to aggressive therapy combining surgery to remove the tumor with radiation and chemotherapy.

Dorothy's slippers sell for \$15,000

NEW YORK

An anonymous West Coast family paid \$12,000 Thursday for a pair of shoes that will probably never be worn.

The family bid via telephone during a spirited auction at Christie's East for the red-sequined shoes worn by Judy Garland in the 1939 MGM classic.



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