

International

Iran fires on tanker

MANAMA. Bahrain (AP) — An Iranian gunboat fired on a tanker Wednesday. shipping sources reported, and Iraq said its warplanes raided a ship near Iran's main oil-export terminal in the northern Persian Gulf.

It was the second Iranian attack on a tanker in two days. Iraq's report, if confirmed, would mark the 10th Iraqi raid on ships carrying Iranian oil in a little more than a week.

An Iraqi communique said warplanes raided a "large naval target," the customary term for a tanker, after dark east of the Kharg Island oil terminal and scored "an effective and accurate hit."

In Baghdad, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis marched in a 10-mile-long funeral procession for victims of an Iranian missile attack Tuesday. The long-range rocket exploded at a school, killing at least 32 people, according to official reports.

Nobel prizes given

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Two Americans shared the Nobel Prize in chemistry with a French researcher Wednesday, and a West German and a Swiss scientist won the prize in physics for a breakthrough in superconductors that could lead to faster computers and speedier trains.

West German Georg Bednorz and Swiss K. Alex Mueller won the physics prize for developing ceramic material that can act as a superconductor at a higher temperature than before.

Chemists Donald J. Cram of the University of California at Los Angeles; Charles J. Pedersen, retired from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: and Jean-Marie Lehn of the Universite Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, France, won the chemistry prize. Each Nobel carries a cash

prize of about \$340,000, which is divided if more than one laureate is named for each prize.

National

U.S. deficit declines

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's persistent trade deficit showed its first decline in five months as it narrowed slightly to \$15.7 billion in August, but an unexpected dip in U.S. overseas sales clouded the improvement, the government said Wednesday.

The Commerce Department said the merchandise trade deficit. the shortfall between imports and exports, was down from the record \$16.5 billion gap posted in July.

Despite the one-month improvement, acting Commerce Secretary Bruce Smart said the deficit "continues on an unacceptably high plateau." with the United States still buying nearly twice as much as its sells.

For the first eight months of 1987, the trade deficit has been running at an annual rate of \$171.1 billion. Short of a major turnaround in the months to come, the deficit appeared certain to exceed last year's record \$156.2 billion shortfall.

Reagan still for Bork

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan on Wednesday decried the battle over Robert H. Bork's Supreme Court nomination as an "ugly spectacle" of high-pressure politics and promised to keep fighting in the face of all but certain defeat for Bork.

"I am determined to fight right down to the last ballot on the Senate floor," Reagan said in a brief Oval Office address.

The speech was made available to the television networks, but only the Cable News Network carried it live, followed by a response in which Democratic Sen. Terry Sanford of North Carolina lashed back.

In the Senate, meanwhile, Democratic and Republican leaders continued arguing over the timing for a vote, with Democrats insisting on quick action and the GOP demanding enough time to make a case for the conservative appeals court judge.

Bill to tell job hazards

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House on Wednesday moved toward setting up a new program requiring the government to individually notify between 100,000 and 300,000 workers annually that they face a high risk of cancer and other diseases from job exposure to hazardous substances.

On a largely party-line vote, Democrats beat back a Republican substitute bill that would have required a two-year study first while giving the Occupational Safety and Health Administration more money to enforce new hazard-labeling requirements placed on employers in the past 15 months.

Despite the threat of a presidential veto, labor unions and health groups said legislation is necessary to address the nearly 100,000 deaths and some 350,000 disabling illnesses blamed on occupational hazards each year.

Labor secretary quits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Labor Secretary William E. Brock will announce Thursday he is resigning from President Reagan's Cabinet to head Sen. Robert Dole's Republican presidential campaign, Dole's campaign staff said Wednesday.

"We do not know the effective date," said Tim Archer, a spokesman for Dole's campaign. "But we are looking forward to have him start in time for the senator's announcement on Nov. 9."

Archer said Brock would specify the timetable at news conferences at the Labor Department at 10:30 a.m. and in Dole's office in the Capitol at noon formally announcing his resignation and his appointment to chair Dole's campaign.

At the Labor Department, spokeswoman Chriss Winston would say only "there will be a major announcement" by Brock Thursday morning. But officials in Dole's campaign and close associates of Brock had confirmed earlier that he was leaving the Cabinet to join the campaign.

Regional

Men plead innocent

EUGENE (AP) — Six of 10 men charged in connection with an alleged cocainesmuggling ring have pleaded innocent in federal court and are scheduled to stand trial Dec. 14.

Richard F. Aiello, 37, of Eugene and Christian T. Aiello, 35, of Port Orford pleaded innocent to two counts each of importing cocaine. The brothers are accused of using their commercial fishing boat to remove 1,500 pounds of pure cocaine base from a smuggling ship in January 1983.

Authorities say they believe the cocaine base was unloaded at Port Orford, on the southern Oregon Coast, and taken to a laboratory in the Grants Pass area. The laboratory was raided in April 1983.

Gerald A. Canavan, 46, a pilot from Tahoe City, Calif., and William K. Hildebrandt, 37, of Spartanburg, S.C., each pleaded innocent Tuesday to two counts of manufacturing cocaine.

Inmate files lawsuit

PORTLAND, (AP) — An inmate at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution and a friend have filed a lawsuit alleging the inmate's mail is being censored illegally.

The complaint seeks more than \$40,000 and an injunction that would prohibit the alleged censorship at the Pendleton prison.

The lawsuit was filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Portland on behalf of inmate Adam Knapp and James M. Trappe, who has corresponded with Knapp.

Named as defendants were R.L. Wright, prison superintendent; D.L Hickerson, program services manager; and an unidentified prison employee who allegedly censored Knapp's mail.

Wright said he had not seen a copy of the lawsuit Tuesday and could not comment on the specific allegations while the case was pending.

Fire fight continues

GRANTS PASS (AP) — Rough terrain in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness slowed work Wednesday on the last stretch of fire line being scratched around the south side of the Silver Complex forest fires.

U.S. Forest Service spokesman Ron DeHart said even after the fire line is completed some time this week, the fires will be a long way from being declared contained.

"Technically, it's not contained at all, because the fire hasn't challenged the fire lines," DeHart said. "That thing can still move."

Infrared photogtaphs taken from the air Tuesday night showed the fire had consumed 85,399 acres inside the Siskiyou National Forest, including 40,479 acres of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, where the front of the fire was located.



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