

# Israel shells Palestinian targets as retaliation

By The Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel shelled Palestinian targets by land, air and sea today in retaliation for a Palestinian rocket attack on an Israeli town. Five Palestinians, including three civilians, were killed in one of the most intense Israeli assaults on the Gaza Strip in 17 months of fighting.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's home in Gaza City and a U.N.-run school for the blind were severely damaged in the airstrikes.

In a West Bank village, three Palestinian school students were wounded when Israeli soldiers fired toward villagers throwing stones at an Israeli convoy, the principal said. Two of the students, ages 12 and 16, were seriously wounded, he said. The army said the Israeli convoy came under fire.

The Israeli strike against Gaza came several hours after Palestinians fired two unguided Qassam rockets late Tuesday, hitting an Israeli town for the first time.

One missile struck an apartment building in the Israeli town of Sderot near Gaza. An infant was moderately wounded and another child lightly hurt.

Israel's security Cabinet on Tuesday reaffirmed a decision to carry out re-

## ap news capsules

lentless military strikes against Palestinian targets in response to a sharp increase in Palestinian attacks on Israelis in recent days.

### NATIONAL

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Two astronauts stepped out into the vacuum of space today and performed the riskiest surgery yet on the Hubble Space Telescope, a power-unit replacement that has been likened to a heart transplant.

The spacewalk, the third in as many days for space shuttle Columbia's crew, got started late because of a leaky suit.

An unusual and unexplained water seepage from astronaut John Grunsfeld's spacewalking suit forced him to pull off his soaked top and get into a dry one. It pushed back the spacewalk by two hours.

NASA held off powering down Hubble until Grunsfeld and Richard Linnehan were ready to start disconnecting the old power control unit, an hour into their spacewalk. It was the first complete shutdown of the telescope in orbit.

"For the first time since its launch on April 24, 1990, Hubble is without a

heartbeat," Mission Control reported. This was the part of the mission that scientists had feared most. A failure could leave the \$2 billion-plus telescope crippled or even useless.

NASA said it had little choice but to replace Hubble's original power control unit. The 12-year-old unit has a loose screw that is hampering its ability to circulate electricity through the telescope.

CHICAGO — United Airlines mechanics and aircraft cleaners approved a new contract that will give them raises for the first time in eight years, ending a bitter two-year dispute that prompted presidential intervention.

The ratification — approved by 59 percent of the voting membership — averted a strike that could have started as soon as Thursday.

The company said the approval removes a key obstacle as it pursues a plan to stem its financial hemorrhaging.

"Today's ratification vote provides a foundation on which to build our strategic recovery efforts," UAL chief executive Jack Creighton said in a statement Tuesday night.

Under the new contract, senior mechanics' pay would go from the current \$25.60 an hour to \$35.14, or about \$73,000 a year. For top-scale aircraft cleaners, hourly pay would increase 19 percent to \$19.76 an hour, or about \$41,000 a year.

Those figures were unchanged from the previous offer, crafted by an emergency board established by President Bush. But United made other key changes in order to win the approval of negotiators from District 141-M of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

HOUSTON — Less than three weeks after Andrea Yates drowned her five children in a bathtub, she seemed

puzzled by a prophecy she had previously said drove her to kill, a jail psychiatrist testified in Yates' capital murder trial.

Dr. Debra Osterman, who began treating Yates in early July, said at the Houston woman's murder trial Tuesday that she saw Yates' confusion as a sign the defendant was emerging from her psychosis.

Other psychiatrists have testified that Yates was delusional, believing that she could save her children from hell by killing them, and that she would eliminate Satan from the world when she was executed by the state of Texas.

Yates, 37, has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity to capital murder charges in the June 20 drownings of 7-year-old Noah, 5-year-old John and 6-month-old Mary. Charges could be filed later in the deaths of Paul, 3, and Luke, 2.

Defense lawyers are trying to show Yates didn't know right from wrong at the time of the killings because she was psychotic.

Osterman said she first saw a glimmer of life in Yates' eyes on July 20, exactly a month after the drownings. By Aug. 3, the psychosis had lifted, she said.

CHICAGO — A new study published today presents the strongest evidence yet linking air pollution in many U.S. cities with fatal lung cancer, scientists say.

The risks are comparable to those faced by nonsmokers who live with smokers and are exposed to second-hand cigarette smoke, said George Thurston, who co-authored the study.

Such risks have been estimated at 16 percent to 24 percent higher than those faced by people living with nonsmokers, said Thurston, a New York University scientist.

The study involved 500,000 adults who enrolled in an American Cancer

Society survey on cancer prevention in 1982.

The researchers examined participants' health records through 1998 and analyzed data on annual air pollution averages in the more than 100 cities in which participants lived. Results appear in today's Journal of the American Medical Association.

The JAMA study did not list data from individual cities in which the participants lived. Researchers said the study was designed to examine the overall health risk posed by fine particulate matter in the United States — not compare pollution levels in various cities.

### WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — Steelworkers and their employers say the hefty tariffs President Bush will impose on cheap steel imports give the feeble industry some breathing room but won't provide the protection needed for recovery.

Bush's plan, announced Tuesday, drew sharp criticism from U.S. trading partners and industries that rely on low-cost foreign steel. They said the tariffs will cost jobs and raise prices for American shoppers for such things as cars and appliances.

The decision required Bush to walk a tightrope between his commitment to free markets and a political promise to steel unions that could pay off big in coming elections.

"We're a free-trading nation, and in order to remain a free-trading nation, we must enforce law," Bush said Tuesday. "And that's exactly what I did. I decided that imports were severely affecting ... an important industry."

His decision denied the unions 40

percent across-the-board tariffs they had sought. He also rejected an industry-proposed \$10 billion bailout of pension and health care benefits for retired steelworkers whose companies have gone bankrupt.

Still, his three-year package of tariffs of 8 percent to 30 percent generally was applauded by both the steel industry and its workers.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress' top fiscal analyst sees modest surpluses as the starting point for this year's budget fight between President Bush and Congress, rather than the small deficits it envisioned in January, congressional officials say.

The Congressional Budget Office is expected to project today that there will be small surpluses this year and next, assuming no tax cuts or spending increases are enacted, said the officials. Lawmakers will use the numbers not as a prediction but to define a starting point for budget work in this year's session of Congress.

Dan Crippen, director of the nonpartisan CBO, planned to reveal the figures today in testimony to the Senate Budget Committee. The numbers were described by two officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

In January, CBO foresaw deficits of \$21 billion this year and \$14 billion in fiscal 2003, which starts next Oct. 1. Compared to the overall budget and the \$10 trillion economy, most analysts consider deficits or surpluses of that size to be small.

The new surplus numbers have emerged largely because of recent data indicating that the recession is fading or over, the officials said.

## Former Enron chair shares table with Dole

HOUSTON (AP) — Kenneth and Linda Lay shared a table with former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole in Houston Tuesday night as the decorated World War II veteran accepted a moral courage award named for former President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Among the main underwriters for the annual benefit held by the Museum of the Holocaust in Houston, the Lays were expected to attend, but they skipped a pre-dinner reception and arrived after the more than 1,000 guests were seated. Lay, former chairman and chief executive of bankrupt Enron Corp., and his wife rushed to their seats after the crowd sang the National Anthem. They answered no questions.

"We thank the Linda and Ken Lay family for serving as principal underwriters for this annual event," dinner chairwoman Punkin Hecht said, generating applause for the smiling couple, who made a rare public appearance since the downfall of the once-mighty energy giant.

Dole, the former Kansas senator who was the Republican nominee for president in 1996, was the guest of

honor for the sixth annual presenting of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Moral Courage Award.

In an interview before the reception, Dole called Enron's collapse, which left thousands jobless and more with depleted 401(k)s loaded with now near-worthless company stock, a tragedy for employees, shareholders and investors.

"It's a terrible thing that happened — particularly to people who lost everything and lost their savings for which they worked all their lives," he said. "I don't think there's much hope for them. I don't know where to put the blame, whether it's Enron, accountants, somewhere in between."

He said congressional hearings held so far featuring Enron executives, including Lay, have given members of Congress a chance to verbally pummel those blamed for alleged accounting abuses and others for failing to intervene.

"Everybody tries to make a point and there's obviously some posturing going on," Dole said. "But that's sort of over with, that stage of the hearings."

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