

Israel attacks factory with missiles

around the world

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel attacked a factory in the Gaza Strip with missiles fired from helicopters early today after Palestinians destroyed a tank and killed two soldiers. Reflecting a rapidly deteriorating situation, Israel's defense minister said Israeli would not complete a promised handover of security duties in Gaza because of repeated Palestinian attacks.

In Jerusalem, police said they would destroy the homes of four Jerusalem Palestinians suspected in deadly bombings, a measure the Israelis say can deter other Palestinians from carrying out attacks. Palestinians denounce the measure as collective punishment.

workshop in the central Gaza city of Khan Younis just after midnight Friday was the first of its kind since Israel and the Palestinians agreed on Aug. 18 to start returning the West Bank town of Bethlehem and the Gaza Strip to Palestinian security control.

The handovers were to be a test case for the rest of the West Bank. Israeli forces withdrew from Bethlehem on Aug. 20, but there has been no movement in Gaza, and each side blames the other.

Israel said the factory was used to produce weapons. There were no casualties in the airstrike, hospital officials said.

RIODEJANEIRO, Brazil — OPEC

and an organization of oil-consuming nations steered clear of historic antagonisms and pledged cooperation to keep oil prices stable amid worries about tensions with Iraq.

OPEC Secretary-General Alvaro Silva Calderon, a Venezuelan among the founders of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and Robert Priddle, executive director of the International Energy Agency, agreed that "oil is not a weapon."

They vowed to work together to keep oil markets steady at a time of volatility over the Bush administration's public relations offensive against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Bush has said repeatedly that Saddam is a menace to world security and

must be removed. Iraq was a major oil exporter before its 1990 invasion of Kuwait; it now exports under a U.N.-controlled program.

The four-day summit, which ended Thursday, was attended by 3,100 delegates from 59 countries.

NATIONAL

DONNA, Texas — Police were searching for three possible suspects in a bloody ambush on six women who were driving home from a local nightclub. Four women died in the attack.

Hidalgo County deputies described the early Thursday shootings as "revenge/rage" oriented, saying the primary suspect was a man who, according to witnesses, told the women in Spanish they would "pay for" their decision not to leave Garcia's Place nightclub with him.

Two friends of the man who were at the bar also are considered suspects, authorities said.

Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department spokesman Capt. Roy Quintanilla said the four women "were killed in the most gruesome manner imaginable," shot with one or more semiautomatic pistols or assault-type rifles.

Police said the women were attacked as their car pulled up to their trailer home. Four of the women died, and a fifth woman was in stable condition at Valley Baptist Medical Center.

A sixth woman was apparently shielded by one of the victims who had collapsed on top of her.

Their names were not released pending notification of family.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — President Bush is using telephone diplomacy today to try to persuade three skeptical nations — China, Russia and France — that action against Iraq is urgently needed.

The stakes are huge: Each could use their clout in the United Nations to veto resolutions aimed at Saddam Hussein.

Bush, who has been accused of maintaining a go-it-alone foreign policy, is trying to build a global coalition for action against Iraq.

Opening the international phase in his campaign to win backing, Bush targeted three of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. The United States and Britain are the other two permanent members.

Sunflowers won't be cut

HARVEST, from Page 1

a cell phone north of Greeley, Colo.

Bretz estimated 80 to 90 percent of the dryland sunflower crop in eastern Colorado and northwest Kansas won't be harvested. There are areas in Nebraska, he said, where the dryland crop is decent because it got some rain.

The number of acres to be harvested will be down this year, Bretz said, partially because many farmers didn't bother planting in the parched ground. He said yields will be down on all varieties of sunflowers, but not as low as other fall crops.

Bretz said the irrigated sunflower crop has performed better than other plants in this drought year.

"The sunflowers definitely didn't need as much water," he said, adding that yields should be between 1,500 to 2,000 pounds per acre, which is a little under average.

Sunflower harvest usually starts around the last week of September, Bretz said, but many farmers will likely start cutting later this year in mid- to late October.

"There's a lot of late crop out there," he said, explaining that many farmers planted late because they were waiting for some rain.

Ken Ketter, manager of the Kanorado Co-op elevator, said the elevator hasn't taken a load of fall crop yet, and he's not expecting much.

The elevator typically takes in 1.5 million bushels of grain during fall harvest, Ketter said, but he's only ex-

pecting half a million bushels this year. He said farmers will probably start cutting around Oct. 1.

Ketter said the mood surrounding the fall harvest is about as low as yields are expected to be.

"It's just a big disappointment," he said. "I've talked to a lot of people across Kansas and everyone is just feeling pretty glum."

Farmers aren't going to be the only ones with money troubles, Ketter said.

"It takes bushels for us to survive," he said. "We don't have any crop insurance; we have to make due with what we get."

Ketter said the business will have to do what it takes to survive. That could include laying off workers or cutting hours.

"It's one of those bridges you cross when you get to it," he said.

Without disaster assistance, Belshe said, farmers won't get as much money from the government this year.

He said the farm bill assistance programs are tied to production and prices, which means in a time of lower yields and higher prices, farmers don't get as much.

The whole process is starting all over again, Belshe said, as farmers are preparing to drill next year's wheat next week. There has been enough moisture lately to make decent planting conditions, he said, but without more this winter, the wheat crop will be in dire straits.

"There's not enough to supply the crop through the winter," he said.

matters of record

Sherman County Sheriff's Office crime reports from August

The Sherman County Sheriff's Department took five reports of crimes during the last half of August, including theft, aggravated battery, criminal damage to property and smuggling drugs into the jail.

Deputy Burton Pinalto reported at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 20, that someone smuggled .6 grams of marijuana into the Sherman County jail.

Lyle Hooker, Kanorado, reported on Wednesday, Aug. 28, someone stole his cell phone worth \$200 out of his pick-up.

Amanda Ronquillo, Burlington, 20, reported battery, aggravated battery and intentional bodily harm in Kanorado on Thursday, Aug. 15.

Larry Williams, Kanorado, reported on Saturday, Aug. 24, that someone stole a two-seat go cart worth \$300 from his house.

Stanley Cebula, Goodland, reported on Wednesday, Aug. 21, that a fence post worth \$1,000 was damaged near his home at 220 Road 65.

Sheriff's accident reports

The wind, a deer and sleepiness caused three car accidents in Sherman County during the last half of August.

The Sherman County Sheriff's Department reported that at 11:40 p.m. on

Tuesday, Aug. 27, Michael Lyon, 18, Imperial, Neb., was southbound on K-27 about three miles south of Goodland when he fell asleep and his 1984 Dodge ran off the road, hitting a Midwest Energy utility pole. Lyon was not injured, but the pole was snapped and his car was totaled.

At 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 23, Kenneth Teets, 32, Morgantown, W. Va., was eastbound on I-70 about five miles west of Goodland when a strong wind blew over the semi-trailer rig he was driving.

The semi fell across the two east-bound lanes, blocking traffic, but Teets was not injured.

At 10:10 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 21, Charles Hutchison, 61, Craig, Colo., was westbound on I-70 about three miles east of Goodland when he hit a deer that ran out of the south ditch with the 1995 Dodge Ram he was driving. The air bag reportedly deployed and Hutchison's wife Judy, 58, drove him to the hospital because he thought he had broken his nose.

Sheriff's arrest reports

An Oklahoma City man was arrested on I-70 early Saturday morning for driving drunk, driving with a suspended license and having an open container in the car.

The Sherman County Sheriff's Department reported that Kelton Powers, also known as Tony Murry, was arrested at 3:02 a.m. three miles east of Goodland.

The 39-year-old reportedly was drunk and had a black eye. He was charged with driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, driving while suspended, transporting an open container, no proof of insurance, obstructing the legal process in a misdemeanor case and failure to maintain a single lane.

Powers was taken to jail in Sherman County and his 1988 Toyota was towed. Bond was set at \$1,319.

In separate cases, Charles Baker, 36, Goodland, was arrested last Tuesday at the Kansas Department of Transportation office on Business U.S. 24 on a warrant for a worthless check written on Aug. 9. His bond was set at \$100 and a court date was scheduled for Oct. 17.

On Monday, Aug. 19, Kevin McCullough, 47, Goodland, was arrested at 813 Broadway for violating probation.

On Wednesday, Aug. 14, Dale May, 59, Goodland, was arrested at 10:17 p.m. at his home for causing over \$500 worth of damage, criminal trespass and criminal threat.

West Nile found in 55 counties

TOPEKA (AP) — Cases of the West Nile Virus have been confirmed in 55 Kansas counties, the Department of Health and Environment said Thursday.

The increase includes 34 new cases of the virus in horses and 20 in birds.

The health department said it has added 14 counties to its list of counties where the virus has been found. They are: Butler, Decatur, Harvey, Hodgeman, Labette, Logan, Lyon, Nemaha, Osborne, Pottawatomie, Riley, Sumner, Thomas and Wabaunsee.

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