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25 killed by Beirut car bomb

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A car bomb exploded with terrifying effect in Moslem west Beirut Tuesday, killing 25 people and wounding 170, police said, as a mass funeral was being held for victims of an even deadlier car bomb in the Christian sector.

No one claimed responsibility for either explosion.

On Monday, the detonation of a white Mercedes-Benz sedan packed with a quarter-ton of explosives killed 32 people and wounded 140 in east Beirut's Ein Rummaneh residential district.

At 11 a.m. on Tuesday, a gray Volkswagen Golf laden with 165 pounds of explosives, the charge bolstered by mortar rounds to intensify the force of the blast, erupted 20 yards from Barbir Hospital.

The Barbir area, which takes its name from the 220-bed hospital, was jammed with vegetable vendors, taxicabs and pedestrians.

The blast hurled bodies into the air and devastated 20 shops on the ground floor of a 13-story business building, in front of which the car bomb was parked.

More than 30 cars were set ablaze. Broken glass and twisted metal littered the streets, which were awash with water from fire engine hoses.

Smoke billowed from burning stores and cars.

Barbir Hospital, 300 yards west of the Green Line that divides the capital into sectarian halves, had been hit frequently in shelling duels between Moslem and Christian militia gunners during Lebanon's 11-year-old civil war. People inside the hospital thought it was being shelled again.

Syrian and Lebanese troops and Shiite Moslem Amal militiamen quickly cordoned off the site, firing submachine guns into the air to clear a path for ambulances and fire engines.

The Syrians have an estimated 500 soldiers in west Beirut, helping the Lebanese army enforce a month-old security plan aimed at ending the chaotic reign of feuding militias.

The two car bomb explosions in two days raised fears of retaliatory attacks like the three car bomb blasts within four days that rocked Beirut's Moslem and Christian sectors in August 1985, killing 66 people and wounding 301.

At the time of the Barbir car bomb explosion, the 32 victims of Ein Rummaneh were being buried in a mass grave.

The Voice of the Mountain radio station of Druse chief Walid Jumblatt accused the Lebanese army's Christian-officered intelligence department of engineering the Barbir bombing. But it cited no evidence to back up the charge.

Barbir Hospital, Makassed Moslem Hospital and the medical center of the American University of Beirut appealed urgently for blood donors.

Escape of shuttle crew called possible

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Some of Challenger's astronauts may have lived until their cabin hit the ocean, but experts said Tuesday it was unlikely they could have parachuted to safety even if they had an escape system.

"I doubt very seriously that a bail-out system would have had any chance of working," said Tommy W. Holloway, chief of the flight directors office at the Johnson Space System.

A report released Monday by NASA said some of the space shuttle's seven astronauts may have been

alive and perhaps even conscious while their cabin fell from a height of 12 miles on Jan. 28.

The report, by astronaut-physician Joseph Kerwin, said an examination of recovered wreckage and bodily remains suggested the astronauts survived the explosion that separated their crew compartment from the rest of the shuttle.

At the time of the blast, he said, the crew endured about two seconds of 12 to 20 times the force of gravity.

"Analysis indicates that these accelerations are survivable, and that the probability of major injury to the

crew members is low," Kerwin's report said.

Kerwin said the intact cabin fell for 2 minutes, 45 seconds and then shattered when it smashed into the ocean at 207 mph. He said the explosion was at 45,000 feet and the cabin was thrown upward an additional 20,000 feet.

During at least part of the fall, said Kerwin, some of the crew members were alert enough to turn on emergency air packs. Three of four recovered air packs had been activated, he said, and gauges on two of them showed that three-fourths to

seven-eighths of the five minutes of air had been expended in what Kerwin called "normal breathing."

NASA offered no explanation for the difference between the amount of air gone and the amount of time it took for the compartment to hit the water.

In order for any of the seven crew members to have used a bail-out system, Holloway and others said they would have to have been alert, but most experts believe this is unlikely because the cabin probably lost pressure.

Kerwin said a loss of pressure

would quickly have brought unconsciousness.

He said investigators were unable to determine conclusively if pressure was lost.

"If the cabin did not depressurize," said former shuttle commander Robert Overmeyer, "they rode that way (alive and conscious) all the way to the water."

In addition to the need for the astronauts to be alert to use an escape system, "you would need to have a stable vehicle and I can't imagine

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Peace Protest

Jenny Stark, 16, a high-school student from Houston, "dies" from nuclear contamination as, from left, Jimi Clark, Charles Perez, Angelica Flores and

Bob Henschen look on. The skit was part of a disarmament protest held Tuesday at Rudder Fountain. (See story, page 3).

Photo by Anthony S. Casper

Hobby says tax hike needed to lessen projected deficit

DALLAS (AP) — Patching up a projected \$3 billion gap in the state budget will require raising tax revenues, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby reiterated to a group of executives Tuesday as he kicked off a statewide swing to popularize his proposal.

Hobby dismissed budget cutting without more taxes as a "Band-Aid" approach and not a real solution.

Using a pointer and a series of overhead projector charts, the lieutenant governor showed a group of about 250 executives meeting in downtown Dallas his solution to the state's financial crunch, which was precipitated by the ailing energy industry.

"The only rational way to solve this problem is to do it with some very significant budget cuts and some significant revenue raises," he said.

The Legislature meets Aug. 6 in a special session to consider the deficit.

Hobby's plan involves a \$2.25 billion tax bill and \$650 million in budget cuts, including rolling back a promised 3 percent raise for state employees.

The state no longer can rely on the tax revenue mainstays of oil and gas, Hobby said.

"What we need to do is restructure the tax base to reflect the realities of the economy," he said.

About \$2.25 billion could be gained by raising the state sales tax from 4.125 percent to 5 percent and expanding it to cover many services not now covered, Hobby said.

However, food and medicine still would be exempt, he said.

Hobby's tour, which targets state business executives, will continue with stops in Lubbock, Amarillo, El Paso, Midland and San Antonio.

Executives at Tuesday's meeting in Dallas said they preferred a sales tax increase to cutting funding for such vital services as education, highways and the state's prisons.

And Dallas lawyer Tom Timmons said he thinks most people will agree to the tax increase, faced with the alternative.

Hobby admits that selling a tax increase in an election year is a tough job, but said the reaction so far has been unexpectedly positive.

Comptroller Bob Bullock, who estimates the shortfall could be as large as \$3.5 billion, said in Austin on Tuesday that state officials should not wait for new economic forecasts before offering solutions to the financial problems.

Hospital devoted solely to AIDS planned

HOUSTON (AP) — The nation's first hospital dedicated solely to research and treatment of AIDS became a reality Tuesday, and officials said the facility's "almost limitless" opportunities should advance the search for a drug to combat the dreaded disease.

Officials of American Medical International Inc. signed a working agreement Tuesday with the University of Texas to create the hospital, to be known as the Institute for Immunological Disorders.

"What we're embarking on here is an exciting journey into the unknown," said Roger Bulger, president of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

The 150-bed Citizens General Hospital is being converted from a general care facility to a research and treatment center for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, better known as AIDS.

"A year from now, I'd like to be in a position of developing an anti-viral drug," said Peter Mansell, medical director of the new center. "Then I'd like to start looking at syn-

thesizing drugs. The opportunities this facility offers for advancement in AIDS research, diagnosis and treatment are almost limitless."

Under the agreement, American Medical International is providing the hospital, management and staff of 100 to 150 people, while the University of Texas System supplies faculty staffing and direction for the medical and research activities.

AIDS cripples the body's disease-fighting immune system, leaving its victims vulnerable to life-threatening infections and certain cancers.

AIDS is caused by a virus believed to be passed through the blood and semen, but not through casual contact. Groups at highest risk for getting AIDS are male homosexuals, intravenous drug users and recipients of contaminated blood products.

As of July 21, 1986, AIDS had struck 22,815 in the United States and killed 12,530

of them, according to the National Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

The number of victims is expected to double again by the end of next year, Mansell said.

"Treating AIDS is like trying to fill up a bucket with a hole in it," he said. "Until we can plug up the hole, it's not going to work."

Mansell, who will direct an initial research team of seven, is professor of medicine in the Department of Clinical Immunology and Biological Therapy at the University of Texas Cancer Center. He also has worked at an AIDS Treatment and Evaluation Unit at Houston's M.D. Anderson Hospital, which this week treated its 1,000th AIDS patient, he said.

In San Francisco, where in 1983 the city's Department of Public Health opened the first ward exclusively for AIDS patients at San Francisco General Hospital, spokesman Paul

Varnes said the opening of a new center certainly would help.

"It will open more opportunities to treat AIDS patients . . ." he said. "Occasionally a drug comes up for experimentation that is not available to the public and is used in AIDS patients."

But Benjamin Schatz, director of the AIDS Civil Rights Project of the National Gay Rights Advocates, had mixed feelings about the Houston center.

"It is important for AIDS to get more attention," he said. "But there wouldn't be a need for facilities of this nature if the federal government was taking care of the problems instead of relying on the private sector."

The first AIDS patients will be accepted Sept. 2, with about 50 patients anticipated after three months and then a gradual filling of the beds, officials said.

Ortega: U.S. policy to bring new Vietnam

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said Tuesday that President Reagan's policies will lead "to another Vietnam in Central America."

"President Reagan must recognize that the state terrorism he is practicing against the people of Nicaragua is immoral," Ortega told the Security Council, meeting at Nicaragua's request.

"President Reagan must recognize that through that route he is promoting another Vietnam in Central America where he will send American youth to die," he said.

Ortega asked the United States to abide by a World Court decision which declared U.S. support for the Contra rebels in violation of international law. He asked the Security Council to support the World Court's decision.

U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters attacked Ortega's government, saying Nicaragua had misused the World Court.

Walters said that in its decision, the court "has fundamentally misperceived the situation in Central

America. It is simply wrong on many of the facts."

He said the cause of the conflict in Nicaragua was that the Sandinistas betrayed the revolution which overthrew Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

"While they were promising pluralism they were laying the groundwork for a one-party state," Walters said.

While proclaiming commitment to a mixed economy, he said, they secretly expressed determination to crush the private sector.

In his speech, Ortega said, "We do not want confrontation. We have not come to the council to cast insults against the U.S. government, but to seek peace and respect for international law."

The World Court ruled June 27 that the United States should stop supporting the Contras and should pay reparations to Nicaragua.

The U.S. government rejected the ruling, saying the court has no jurisdiction over the Central American dispute.

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Shiite message to be given

Jenco to meet with pope

ROME (AP) — The Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, wearing a "Free the Hostages" pin on his lapel, said Tuesday he was given a message for Pope John Paul II by the Shiite Moslem extremists who held him captive for nearly 19 months.

Jenco, who was released last Saturday, was flown here in a U.S. Air Force jet from Frankfurt, West Germany, with 12 members of his family.

Reporters at Ciampino Airport asked whether the Roman Catholic priest, 51, would speak to the pope about the three other Americans held with him in Lebanon.

"I am sure that is one of the items I will speak to him about," he said. "Before I left Lebanon . . . my captors asked me to speak to him." Jenco, who has a history of heart problems, appeared weary and spoke in a soft voice.

He added that it would be up

to the pope to decide whether to disclose the contents of the kidnapers' message. U.S. Embassy officials said the priest was to have a private audience with John Paul at noon Wednesday.

"It's just nice to be present in the Holy City," said Jenco, who was director of Catholic Relief Services in Lebanon when he was kidnapped Jan. 8, 1985. The agency served both Christians and Moslems.

Terry Waite, a special envoy of Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, also was on the plane. Jenco is scheduled to fly to London on this evening to meet with the Anglican spiritual leader, who has sent Waite on several missions to Lebanon seeking the release of Western hostages.

On hand at Ciampino as a well-wishing party were U.S. Ambassador Maxwell Rabb; the acting U.S. charge d'affaires to the Vatican, Peter Murphy, and the Rev.

Michael Sincerny, head of the Servites of Maria religious order to which Jenco belongs.

Jenco, a native of Joliet, Ill., underwent two days of checkups at the U.S. military hospital in Wiesbaden, near Frankfurt, after his release from captivity.

In a 10-minute statement at U.S. Air Force's Rhein-Main base before departing for Rome, Jenco addressed remarks to captors he knew as Haj, Said and Ahab.

"After going through hours of diverse physical examinations, your concern for my health was well founded," he said. "Thanks again for that caring concern."

The captors said they released Jenco because of his health.

Jenco spoke of his relief in delivering a videotape made by hostage David Jacobsen of Huntington Beach, Calif., to The

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Candidates for governor to debate

AUSTIN (AP) — A debate between Gov. Mark White and Republican challenger Bill Clements will be televised statewide on Oct. 6, officials said.

The one-hour debate, starting at 7 p.m., will be co-produced by the League of Women Voters and KPRC-TV of Houston.

After the announcement Tuesday, White said he is looking forward to the confrontation.

"This is a critical juncture in the history of Texas," he said. "I believe the people of Texas deserve to be fully exposed to the ideas and issues in this campaign, and this debate will offer such an opportunity."

Clements also said he is looking forward to the debate.

"The differences between us are clear," he said. "This televised debate . . . is one forum where all Texans will again see those differences."