

World and Nation

Iran attacks Japanese tanker in Persian Gulf, wounding three

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — An Iranian vessel attacked a Japanese tanker Thursday in the Persian Gulf, wounding three crewmen and starting a fire in the engine room.

The Tomoe 8, a 9,400-ton chemical tanker flying the Panamanian flag, was hit by what the captain called a "gunboat missile." The attack came the day after Japanese ship owners lifted a suspension that kept their tankers from operating in the gulf for a week.

Iraq reported its seventh air strike on Iranian coastal shipping in four days. There was no immediate confirmation from maritime executives based in the gulf, where Iran and

Iraq have been at war since September 1980.

France said its mine-hunting ships found two more mines in the Gulf of Oman, just south of the Persian Gulf on the other side of the narrow Strait of Hormuz. Iran has been blamed for laying mines in both bodies of water.

In response to the French report, some companies ordered their ships away from the area, a major coastal anchorage for ships bound to and from the Persian Gulf, shipping sources in the United Arab Emirates said. A U.S.-operated supertanker hit a mine there in August.

Iran said an American warship tried to force one of its patrol planes to change course, which the Iranians called a violation of international law. Prime Minister Hussein Musavi said Iran was "quite prepared to confront a U.S. aggression." He repeated the frequent threat that continued Iraqi attacks on Iranian oil targets would expose all ships and petroleum installations in the Persian Gulf to possible retaliation.

Both Iran and Iraq have attacked foreign ships during their seven-year war. The U.S. Navy began escorting 11 Kuwaiti tankers in July to protect them from Iran, which con-

siders Kuwait an ally of Iraq. Shipping agents said the Tomoe 8 reported that it was attacked after being stopped by the Iranians and questioned about its destination.

Salvage executives said the captain sent a distress signal and a report that an Iranian boat fired a "gunboat missile" at 9:25 a.m., setting the engine room afire and wounding three members of the 23-man Burmese crew. A salvage tug reached the damaged ship, about 60 miles east of the Saudi port of Jubail, in late afternoon, the shipping sources said. All spoke on condition of anonymity.

Group says deadly chemical carried across U.S. threatens to spark disaster

WASHINGTON (AP) — A toxic rocket fuel component that the Air Force is shipping by truck around the country threatens a "Bhopal on our highways," an environmental group charged Thursday.

The chemical, nitrogen tetroxide, is as toxic as methyl isocyanate, the pesticide raw material that killed more than 2,000 people and injured about 100,000 in a leak from a Union Carbide Co. plant in Bhopal, India, in December 1984, Fred Millar of the Environmental Policy Institute said.

Transport of the chemical along the routes now being used is endangering an estimated 11 million people in 41 cities, he said. In Texas, major cities on or near the routes used in the rocket fuel component, according to the Environmental

Policy Institute, include Longview, Mesquite, Dallas, Fort Worth, Abilene, Midland, Odessa and El Paso.

"We're trying to deal with this before we have a Bhopal on our highways," Millar said, adding, "This stuff is extraordinarily dangerous."

Millar said the institute, a Washington-based advocacy group that lobbies on behalf of environmental causes, has urged the Air Force to change routes to avoid populated areas, consider relocating the manufacturing plant and ship the chemical in the form of a non-volatile gel.

Fifty parts per million of nitrogen tetroxide is "immediately dangerous to life and health," and

lethal doses can be inhaled without much irritation, he said.

"You could be exposed to it right now and not know it and then go home and die tonight or next week," he said.

The Air Force "thinks they're handling this with adequate care," Millar said. "Frankly, they don't want the public attention. They just want it to be shipped through like it's peanut butter."

The institute's efforts alone haven't solved the problem, so the institute has written the mayors, city councils and fire authorities in the 41 cities, mostly in the Southeast, the South, the Southwest and California, urging them to take action against accidents involving the chemical.

Reagan taps deputy to step into Dole's job

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan on Thursday nominated James H. Burnley IV, a federal transportation official who has clashed with senators about aviation safety, to succeed Elizabeth Dole as secretary of transportation.

Reagan also announced that he is nominating Mimi Dawson, a former congressional staff member who has been a member of the Federal Communications Commission since 1981, to succeed Burnley as deputy secretary of transportation.

Both nominations must be approved by the Senate.

Drew Lewis, Reagan's first secretary of transportation and now chairman and chief executive officer of Union Pacific Corp., praised the nomination of Burnley, who has been deputy secretary since 1983.

Chinese authorities order reporters out within 48 hours

CHENGDU, China (AP) — Chinese authorities Thursday ordered Western reporters out of the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, where police reinforcements prevented independence protests that have left at least 14 people dead.

Telex and telephone communications remained cut for the second day and journalists' reports were carried out to Chengdu, in Sichuan province.

The journalists arrived in Lhasa after violent demonstrations Sept. 27 and Oct. 1 that were led by Buddhist monks loyal to Tibet's exiled spiritual and former temporal leader, the Dalai Lama.

Yu Wuzhen, director of Tibet's Foreign Affairs Office, told the reporters to leave within 48 hours for violating a little-publicized reporting regulation, according to reports reaching Chengdu.

The Chinese government said six Chinese policemen were killed in

street battles Oct. 1, and Western doctors traveling in Lhasa said at least eight Tibetans also were killed.

Yu, who called the reporters together in a hotel room in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, said the 14 journalists from the United States, Britain, Italy, West Germany, Canada and Australia failed to apply 10 days in advance for permission to cover news there.

A statement from the Dalai Lama's office in New Delhi called on world leaders to try to stop "Chinese suppressive measures" against Tibetans.

Wall Street Journal correspondent Adi Ignatius said reporters at the meeting with Yu argued they had never seen the regulation he cited. He said they asked why Yu and others in his office earlier gave interviews to some of them if their presence was illegal.

"That's secret," he quoted Yu as saying.

An Associated Press report carried from Lhasa on Thursday by a Western tourist said the city was quiet Wednesday, the 37th anniversary of the Chinese Red Army's advance into Tibet.

Tibetan monks had said they hoped to hold a protest on Wednesday, but authorities bolstered security forces with more than 1,000 armed police from other cities and put road blocks around the monasteries.

A pool report carried out of Lhasa by Ignatius said many shops in the city were closed Wednesday. At one point, a 20-truck convoy, including 13 vehicles packed with more than 300 heavily armed police, drove through the city in a dramatic show of force.

Ortega criticizes U.S., demands direct talks

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua accused the United States on Thursday of having no regard for justice in his country and repeated his demand for direct peace negotiations with Washington.

The six-member U.S. delegation walked out of the General Assembly hall early in a harshly critical speech during which Ortega said, to hearty applause: "Let President Reagan recall that 'Rambo' exists only in the movies."

Ortega repeatedly attacked Reagan for asking Congress to vote more aid for rebels fighting Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government, claiming the request defies a peace accord signed by the five Central American presidents Aug. 7.

Reagan said in a speech Wednesday to the Organization of American States that he was asking for \$270 million in new aid to the U.S.-backed rebels, known as Contras, to make sure the Sandinistas honor the peace plan.

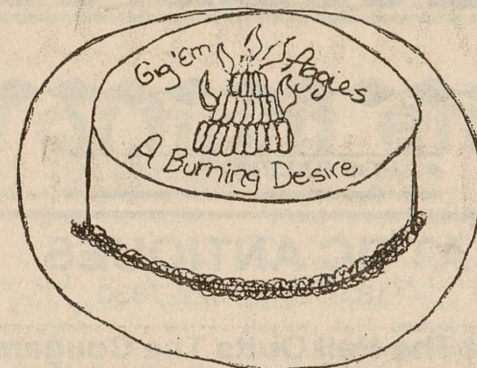
When Ambassador Vernon A. Walters led the U.S. delegation out of the chamber, Ortega declared: "Some people find their ears hurt when the truth is spoken and they are incapable of listening." Again, there was a round of applause.

The Nicaraguan president spoke from notes, not a prepared text. Much of what he said concerned Reagan's speech to the Organization of American States, in which he urged the Sandinistas to negotiate a

cease-fire with the Contras, expel all Cuban and Soviet forces, establish "full democracy" and restore freedom of the press.

At a news conference after his speech, Ortega said *La Prensa*, which is Nicaragua's only opposition newspaper and has been allowed to resume publishing, might be closed again if it supports Reagan's request for more Contra aid. It was shut down last year for criticizing the government.

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