

Battalion Classifieds

World and Nation

Explosion in Gulf causes injury to U.S. sailors, ship

WASHINGTON (AP) — An underwater explosion tore open the hull of an American guided-missile frigate in the central Persian Gulf and injured 10 crewmen Thursday, Pentagon sources said it appeared the warship hit a mine.

The injured sailors — six with slight burns, one with second-degree burns, one with a hernia and two with back injuries — were evacuated from the USS Samuel B. Roberts, the Defense Department said.

The Roberts then began steaming slowly under its own power toward port in Bahrain.

The sailor with the second-degree burns was flown to Bahrain, the Pentagon said late Thursday. The other nine were transferred to the USS San Jose, a combat stores ship operating in the central gulf.

Defense sources said the crew of the Roberts had

spotted "some mine-like objects" in the water immediately before the explosion.

The sources, who insisted on anonymity, said the frigate was "making only about two knots" on its power Thursday afternoon and would probably have been taken under tow by the cruiser Wainwright.

The Roberts and Wainwright are two of 14 ships assigned to the Persian Gulf force to provide protection to commercial ships flying the American flag. The San Jose was in the area only because it was resupply mission.

The Reagan administration increased the U.S. presence in the region last summer in response to a request from Kuwait, whose oil tankers come under attack as a course of the Iran-Iraq war.

Senate places aid sanctions against Mexico

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted Thursday to slap aid and trade sanctions on Mexico for failing to do enough in the war on drugs, ignoring a plea from President Reagan and warnings that sanctions would do more harm than good.

The move, on a 63 to 27 vote, came after backers of the legislation said it would shock Mexico into doing more to combat the growing drug flow coming across the United States' southwestern border.

Earlier, the lawmakers had voted 54 to 40 against taking the same action against the Bahamas.

Similar bills were pending in the House, but the measures were given little chance of being finally enacted into law because of remaining procedural hurdles in the House and a threat that Reagan would veto any such measure to reach his desk.

Sen. Pete Wilson, R-Calif., sponsor of the Mexico resolution, conceded that point, but said passage in the Senate would "send a message to the government of Mexico" and added, "We are compelled to face reality."

Opponents of the anti-drug sanctions protested that both Mexico and the Bahamas, while they can be faulted for shortcomings, are making good-faith efforts to halt the flow of drugs through their countries into the United States.

World Briefs

Mexico officials promote condom use

MEXICO CITY (AP) — With the number of AIDS cases on the rise, federal health authorities this week launched a slick public-ity campaign with prominent entertainers to promote the use of condoms and of disposable syringes.

Health Secretary Guillermo Soberon, who launched the campaign at a news conference Tuesday, said the government will use paid advertisements on radio, television and newspaper, film clips and short video features to deliver the message.

Singer-actress Lucia Méndez will feature in the propaganda blitz for the first four weeks.

The messages will be sharply pitched, Méndez said: Make love responsibly.

The campaign endorses the use of condoms and disposable syringes, which are available without prescription in Mexico.

Movie actor Ignacio López Tarso, president of the National Association of Actors, told the news conference his group supports Soberon's campaign.

Protein substance kills bacteria, virus

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Scientists have developed three protein-based substances that can destroy certain bacteria, cancerous cells and virus-infected cells, Louisiana State University announced Wednesday.

However, the researchers said the tests have been limited to mostly test-tube experiments, and the substances are very expensive to produce and far from being ready for testing on humans.

Jesse Jaynes, a biochemist looking for ways to make food plants more resistant to bacteria,

found the three compounds killed cells from mammals that were infected with any of about 30 disease-causing viruses, the university said.

The compounds, named SB-37, Modified SB-37 and SB-38, have proven effective in laboratory tests against cells infected by viruses that cause herpes, influenza, malaria, and other diseases.

Researchers said scientists do not yet know whether the compounds kill the virus itself.

U.S. trade deficit jumps to \$13.8 billion

WASHINGTON (AP) — The monthly U.S. trade deficit widened by more than 11 percent in February to \$13.8 billion, the government said Thursday, creating turmoil on world financial markets.

The gap between the nation's imports and exports expanded by \$1.4 billion from January's imbalance of \$12.4 billion — its second straight jump after having fallen from a record \$17.6 billion deficit last October.

Stock prices tumbled and the

value of the dollar against Japanese yen and the German mark dropped 2 percent on foreign exchange markets in action to the announcement.

Concerted intervention by Federal Reserve Bank and central banks in Europe in buying large volumes of dollars to support both the U.S. currency and stocks from losing further value.

"We've stumbled here a bit," Jay Goldinger, an analyst for Capital Insight, said.

Finance officials try to stabilize dollar

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top finance officials of the world's seven major industrial powers, putting on a show of unity to reassure financial markets, agreed Wednesday to continue efforts to stabilize the value of the dollar.

The group, consisting of finance ministers and central bank leaders from the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy, issued a statement announcing the extension of a Dec. 22 agreement

that has so far successfully held the greenback's three-year decline.

The two-page joint statement followed a full day of private meetings hosted by Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III at the Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan.

The statement also announced the adoption of an interim suggestion made by Baker in September to use gold and commodities as a way of managing inflation pressures.

Senate approves \$1.1 trillion budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Thursday approved a \$1.1 trillion budget that calls for bypassing last fall's deficit-reduction pact with President Reagan to expand the war on drugs.

The fiscal 1989 spending blueprint, passed 69-26, also includes increases for education, the space program and AIDS research while freezing or cutting back transportation, housing and development grants to local governments.

"We made tough choices," Sen.

Lawton Chiles, D-Fla., chairman of the Budget Committee, defended his plan by conceding that the deficit remains unsolved. "We can't consume more than we produce and live on credit," he said.

Sen. J. James Exon, D-Ohio, called the budget a "lost opportunity" that resulted from "a decision to coast rather than deal with the deficit" in an election year.

"The next president will see next Congress will be left with enormous problems," he said.

Israelis kill 1 Palestinian, wound 4

JERUSALEM (AP) — Soldiers shot an Arab to death and wounded four, and a Palestinian youth wrote an open letter to a Jewish child saying the violence kills "innocents like me and you."

A strike called to protest mass arrests by the Israeli army virtually shut down the occupied lands and Arab east Jerusalem, but some Palestinians have begun complaining about the economic pinch caused by repeated strikes.

At least 145 Palestinians have been killed since riots began Dec. 8 in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to U.N. figures, and hundreds have been wounded. An Israeli soldier and a 15-year-old Jewish settler also have been slain.

U.N. officials in Vienna accused Israeli soldiers of using gas improperly, sometimes causing deadly effects by turning canisters into small gas clouds, and also indicated they might be using another type of toxic gas. The army denied the allegations.

Officials said a 70-year-old Arab woman suffocated to death three a tear gas canister.

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