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lis struggles Vizards' fall

off the bench.

nembers' tees, a magazine reco cores Nicklaus home course,



aeli troops and their armored vehicles wait to enter the Palestinian town of Bethlehem.

West Bank's largest city falls to Israelis on sixth day

BETHLEHEM, West Bank) — Israeli tanks rolled into West Bank's largest city, ablus, on Wednesday and sewhere laid siege to a igee camp, battling alestinians who barricaded trances and fought back with mbs and guns. Troops also rircled Palestinian gunmen ed up in the church marking us' birthplace

Twelve Palestinians and an aeli soldier were killed on the xth day of Israel's offensive med at crushing Palestinian militias and stopping terror n 1985-86, when attacks on Israeli civilians. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel

aron convened Cabinet isters to approve the next ge of the open-ended Operation Protective Wall.' Only two major West Bank wns — Hebron and Jericho were under Palestinian control late Wednesday. In the town of Ramallah,

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat med a prisoner of Israel, ined to a few rooms in his mer headquarters. Raanan sin, a Sharon adviser, said afat "won't communicate with the outside world) until ... see he is no longer a threat nd not instigating terrorism." Arafat, who is accompanied about 300 people, including ides, security guards and seval dozen foreign volunteers, has use of a mobile phone. melatively comfortable.

e said he could On Wednesday, the Israeli litary released a detailed list supplies shipped to Arafat and sentourage that day, including packages of yellow cheese, Scans of sardines, 34 cases of mineral water, 145 pounds of offee and pain killers.

In Jordan, Arafat's neurolo-

licap index was pust said his medical checkup is till plans to g bur months overdue, but that onal next week the 72-year-old leader seemed in s Dinner, and good spirits when the two spoke aying the Ms by phone over the weekend. President Bush repeated his

Palestinians sought refuge inside the Christian holy site West Bank

ISRAEL

support for the Israeli assault. "He understands and respects Israel's right to defend herself," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said.

But daily anti-Israeli protests in the Arab world grew more violent. Thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians clashed with security forces Wednesday outside the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, with at least 25 reported injured as protesters threw stones and security forces used tear gas and water cannons.

Under pressure to cut off ties completely with Israel, Egypt took a more limited step Wednesday, announcing it would suspend all diplomatic contacts with Israel except those aimed at helping the Palestinians.

In five major Palestinian

towns under full Israeli control Ramallah, Qalqiliya, Jenin, Tulkarem and Bethlehem tanks patrolled streets, enforcing strict curfews that confined hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to their homes. In Ramallah, residents were without water after city officials said Israeli troops destroyed the main pumping station when shelling a Palestinian security compound.

The incursion into Nablus — a city of more than 100,000 people in the northern West Bank — began Wednesday evening. Shellfire thundered as tanks began rolling into the city. Gunmen and Palestinian police were moving in the streets, closing roads with sandbags and planting mines.

A Palestinian woman was killed and five people wounded, apparently when shells hit two apartments in downtown Nablus.

Fighting was heaviest Wednesday in Jenin, a militant stronghold north of Nablus that Israel has invaded six times before in the past 18 months of fighting.

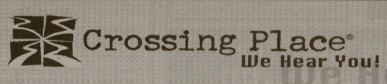
Dozens of tanks entered Jenin and surrounded the adjacent refugee camp early Wednesday. Helicopters and tanks fired machine guns at gunmen who hurled grenades and fired assault rifles. Five people, including a militia leader, a nurse and a 13-year-old boy, were killed in the fighting. An Israeli officer was also killed.

Armed men in the camp had prepared large amounts of homemade grenades and bombs and built barricades to make it harder for Israeli tanks to enter. Militiamen claimed they damaged tracks of six tanks.

Ali Safouri, a militia leader, said he and his men felt that, judging by Israel's tough sweep through Ramallah, this was their last stand. He said they were trying to make every bullet count. "We use it for sniping only, we

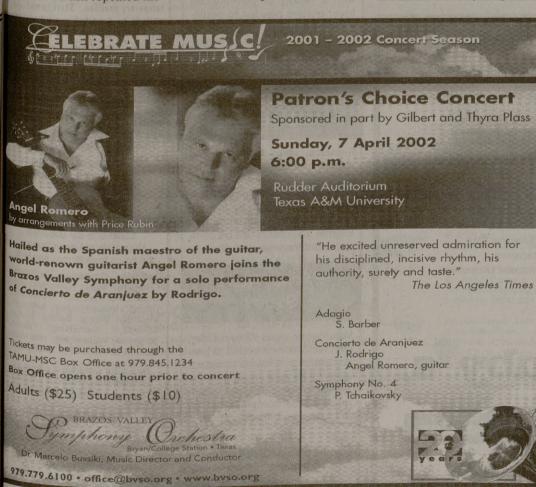
are not shooting in all directions," Safouri said by telephone.





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