He said the battle broke out about 4:30 p.m. when a joint Marine-Lebanese army checkpoint in the Hayy es-Sulum section of south Beirut came under attack.

"The outpost received two rpgs (rocket-propelled grenades) and some small arms fire, and the Marines returned the fire." the spokesman said. "He said about 30 Marines were manning the outpost

along with a smaller number of Lebanese soldiers. There were no casualties among the defenders, the

Marine officers assumed the attackers were from the Shiite Moslem militia group, Amal, which had fought Lebanese army troops in Beirut's southern districts and near the international airport south of the capital yester-

That fighting forced the closure of the airport — the second time this month that the country's only international, commercial airport has been shut down because of sectarian fighting.

In Santa Barbara, Calif., where President Reagan is vacationing, assistant White House press secretary C. Anson Franklin issued a statement saying, "There was small arms fire in the area of the Marine emplacement. At one point, they returned fire briefly. There were no American casualties. The president was informed and will continue to be informed."

Three mortar rounds fell earlier in the area of the

airport held by the 1,200-man U.S. Marine contingent of favor of the Christian militias that fought against the the multinational peacekeeping force, but no Americans were injured, U.S. Marine spokesman Maj. Robert

The radio broadcast said passengers in the airport rushed to underground shelters to avoid ricochets from the fighting in the Hay Es-Sullum, Bourj el Barajneh and One civilian was killed and scores were wounded, the

station reported. It said one Lebanese army officer was wounded and five Lebanese soldiers were kidnapped in the fighting that tapered off in the evening. The three poor neighborhoods near the airport are inhabited by Shiite Moslems and were the strongholds of

pro-Iranian gunmen before the Lebanese army moved into the area last October. The Shiites have been critical of Christian President Amin Gemayel's government, saying it was biased in

group of Shiites were fired on by gunmen as they pasted up posters of their missing spiritual leader, Imam Mussa Sadr, on storefronts in Hay Es-Sullum. Lebanese soldiers rushed to the scene but were fired

Moslems and their Palestinian allies during the coun-

starting Aug. 10 during fierce fighting between the

rightist Christians and leftist Druse militiamen in the

The fighting broke out yesterday morning when a

Israeli-occupied hills overlooking Beirut.

Beirut's international airport was closed for six days

try's civil war in 1975-76.

on by inhabitants of the area. Imam Sadr disappeared in August 1978 while on a trip to Libya. The Libyan government claims he left the country safely but many Lebanese Shiites believe he is still being held by the regime of Col. Moammar Khadafy.

# Begin's resignation announcement was sudden but not unexpected

By MARCUS ELIASON **Associated Press Writer** 

Begin's resignation announcement yesterday was startling, but many Israelis had seen hints of change for months. The prime minister has not ited man he once was. Although Begin gave his col-

leagues time to try to change his mind, he looks very much like a man who has had enough Throughout 1983, he has seemed a pallid shadow of the man the world has learned to love or abhor. The flame of his oratory is down to a

dent over the death of his wife, Aliza, leled the shifting fortunes of the dent Carter looking on, Begin and

Last summer, with Israeli forces pounding the Palestine Liberation Organization, Begin was in his element — thundering at his enemies, castigating his enemies as anti-Semitic, mocking Yasser Arafat, and Itelling President Reagan that his troops were besieging "Hitler and his henchmen.'

But as the Israeli army became mired down and the dreams of peace with Lebanon evaporated, Begin seemed to recede physically from

"The fact that Mr. Begin is in a grave personal crisis cries out to high heaven," columnist Yoel Marcus wrote recently in the daily Haa-

Begin's standing in the polls has waned, with a survey in mid-July showing 30.9 percent of the public a drop of 15 percent in six weeks choosing him as best suited for the

For the past month, his coalition has been threatened by a small splinter faction which says it will pull out unless the economy marked by an inflation rate that may reach 160 percent this year was rescued by increasing taxation of the rich. Should the faction withdraw, Begin would be left with a virtually unmanageable one-mem-

parliament Thus Begin's move could be a ploy to force the minority TAMI Party into line. If it is, as some analysts have speculated, it is the kind of bold stroke at which Begin has always

ber majority in the Knesset, Israel's

Born Aug. 16, 1913, in Poland, Begin was arrested by the Nazis during World War II for his Zionist activities. He was released in a 1942 amnesty but learned, after emigrating to Palestine, that his parents had

been killed by the Nazis. In Palestine, he quickly rose to lead an extremist guerrilla group, the Irgun Zvai Leumi, which in its fight for Israeli nationhood blew up police stations, executed British soldiers, and dynamited the King David Hotel, killing more than 100

For the first 29 years of Israeli statehood he was the perenniel outsider, losing seven elections to the Labor Party. But his fellow outsiders — the Sephardis, or Middle Eastern Jews of Israel - gradually became a majority and swept Begin to victory in the 1977 election.

Most thought that Begin, the firebrand nationalist ideologue, would quickly plunge the nation into war for the sake of his dream of a greater Israel sprawling to its distant bibli-Begin proved his critics wrong. Six months after he became pre-

mier, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat made his momentous decision flicker. He is known to be desponto go to Jerusalem to talk peace. Begin seized the moment and 16 Begin's mood has closely paralmonths later, with a beaming Presi-Begin shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Sadat but then embarked

> was denounced as a warmaker. He pursued an ambitious design to populate the occupied West Bank He annexed the occupied Golan Heights it had captured from Syria.

> Then, in June 1982, he sent his army into Lebanon in what became Israel's most unpopular war. Soon after his election in 1977, he said he would retire at 70 and write his memoirs. He later said he had

changed his mind and would serve his term. Begin's resignation announcement came just weeks after

on a series of moves for which he

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, right, sits with President Jimmy - the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt on March 26, 1979. Begin Carter, center, and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat following the signing of announced yesterday he intended to resign.

# expects no major policy change if Begin leaves

**Associated Press Writer** 

WASHINGTON - State Department officials believe Prime Minister Menachem Begin is serious about wanting to resign, an action that should lead to smoother U.S.-Israeli relations but probably little change in Israel's basic policies.

Although officials questioned yesterday didn't rule out that Begin might be threatening a resignation as a ploy to rally support for his policies, they thought it more likely the 70year-old prime minister intended to resign, if not immediately then in the near future. "My own feeling is he has just had enough,

and he is hanging it up," said one Mideast expert who insisted he not be identified.

But officials here and with the president in Santa Barbara, Calif., said they were not informed in advance of Begin's announcement of his intention to resign, made to a meeting of his Cabinet Sunday. Larry Speakes, the White House deputy press secretary, said U.S. offi-

Begin canceled a trip to Washington to meet with President Reagan in July, citing personal reasons. That led some State Department experts to conclude a resignation might not be

cials first learned of the development through

cal matter and it would not be appropriate for us to comment on this issue." Begin is thought here to have been in a weakened physical and mental state since the death of his wife last year. There also is informed speculation that he has been de-

pressed by the outcome of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, which he supported, and the large number of Israeli casualties, the criticism of the invasion in Israel and Israel's difficulty in extricating itself from Lebanon with its goals

only partly realized. Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne said yesterday he thought there would be "a final attempt" by the Israeli Cabinet to try and talk Begin out of resigning at a meeting today.

Rosenne said on ABC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley" that even if there is a resignation, the government becomes a transitional government until there are elections or someone else forms a new government. He said Begin's Likud coalition would try to name a successor if Begin resigns. The other major party is the Labor party, headed by Shimon

"I think in foreign policy there isn't much difference between the two parties," Rosenne said, an obvious reference to the feeling. among many U.S. officials that Labor party would be more reasonable in trying to work State Department spokesman Sondra Mc- out an agreement to end the Israeli occupation

But a State Department official said Peres might be given the first chance to form a new government since Labor has more members in the Knesset, 50, than the Likud party, which

has 48. The Likud rules through a coalition "I don't think Peres will be able to form a new government," said the official. "But he may be given an opportunity.' Several State Department officials, all of whom insisted on anonymity, agreed there

would probably be little change in policy regarding the West Bank if Begin resigns, particularly since they expect Begin's Likud bloc would remain in power. "Unless it begins to splinter from its more radical fringe elements, I think it (Likud) will be able to come together and maintain its

control," said one. President Reagan on Saturday criticized the Begin government's persistence in building settlements on the West Bank as harmful to the propsects for a negotiated Arab-Israeli

The most likely successors to Begin in the opinion of several officials here are David Levy, the deputy prime minister, and Moshe Arens, the defense minister and former ambassador to Washington. Yitzhak Shamir, the foreign minister, also is considered a leading candidate. However,

head a coalition government until new elections could be held, after which either Levy or Arens would become prime minister.

There is considerable sentiment here in favor of Arens, since he is well-known from the period when he was ambassador to the United States. He succeeded the controversial Ariel Sharon as defense minister and is credited in working closely with Secretary of State George P. Shultz to help smooth over U.S.-Israeli relations after serious frictions developed in the aftermath of the invasion of

While less is known about Levy, it is thought Washington also could work well with him. Levy, however, has little foreign policy experience and has never served in the Israeli military, which could hurt his chances. Several US officials, insisting they not be

identified by name, said any of the likely successors to Begin would be easier to deal with than the prime minister, who was regarded here as difficult to deal with because of what was felt to be his combative, argumenta tive and stubborn personality.

It was once thought here that Finance Minister Yoram Aridor also would be a candidate to succeed Begin. But his economic policies have proved so unpopular in recent months in Israel, he is thought to have lost

# Barry sputters out in sparsely populated area

BROWNSVILLE, Texas - Hurri- 10 days after Hurricane Alicia cane Barry taunted coastal resorts struck the Texas coast, killing 21 with gusty winds and a foreboding people and more than \$1 billion in sky before it slapped into Mexico at 80 mph yesterday, tearing through fishing village before spinning itself out in sparsely populated range and marsh country. The center of the hurricane moved onto the Mexican coast, 30

miles south of Brownsville, about 12:30 p.m. CDT, but by 5 p.m. the strongest winds had dropped to 45 discontinued from Brownsville to Port Mansfield, Texas. The warnings stayed in effect along the extreme southern Texas coast from Port Mansfield, the National

Barry, the second major storm of Lopez said the storm first hit Puerthe 1983 season, swept ashore just to el Mezquital, crossed the Lagua- Matamoros.

Barry was upgraded to a hurricane before dawn yesterday, growing into a 350-mile-wide whorl of thunderheads and rain clouds after hopscotching across Florida to the Gulf of Mexico last week without causing major damage. At 5 p.m. CDT, Barry was cen-

tered at latitude 25.4 north and longitude 98.3 west, in extreme northeastern Mexico about 65 miles southeast of Brownsville, Texas. Across the Rio Grande from Brownsville, in the Mexican city of Matamoros, Capt. Manuel Leon



Houston • ๙९

a small fishing village south of

# Shuttle set for first night launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) - A cloudless sky was forecast as a backdrop to the moonlight liftoff of the space shuttle Challenger early tomorrow. The countdown toward launch was equally flawless. A tropical disturbance was 400 to 500 miles away over

the Atlantic, but it was barely moving. Launch director Al O'Hara said forecasters were predicting "the best weather we've ever had" for a shuttle liftoff. Officials gave a pro-forma go-ahead for the launch. The pilot and commander of the shuttle, their hours topsy-turvy, flew two hours of landing practice in the

middle of the night and were to repeat the procedure early today. Their day began with a 10 p.m. wakeup call: lunch was at 4:30 a.m. "We've had minimum problems," project engineer Robert Sieck said. The five-man crew on the eighth flight in the shuttle

series includes America's first black astronaut, Lt. Col.

Guion Bluford, Jr., and the world's oldest space travel-

er. Bluford graduated with an aerospace engineering

degree from Penn State in 1964.

Commander of the mission, making his second flight, is Richard Truly, 45, a Mississippi-born Navy captain. Truly and the pilot, Navy Cmdr. Daniel Brandenstein, took the controls of Grumman Gulfstream planes, fitted out to handle like the shuttle, to practice emergency landings on the Kennedy Space Center airstrip. Bluford flew as a passenger with Brandenstein. It was nearly midnight when they began; it was 2 a.m. yesterday when they finished. Because of the unusual departure time, required to launch a communications satellite for India, the astronauts have been going to bed in midmorning each day, arising in early evening. They'll continue to retire at midday throughout the flight.

The satellite launch, on Wednesday, will be handled mostly by Bluford. He is a veteran of 144 combat missions in Vietnam and holder of a doctorate in aerospace engineering with a minor in laser physics. Among other goals of Flight Eight: To work on an experiment that may lead to a new drug for treating diabetics and to test a life-support cage with six rats.

### state news briefs

### Turnpike pileup kills 4, injures 11

MOUNT PLEASANT, Pa. (AP) — Four people were killed and at least 11 others were injured when a tractor-trailer failed to slow down at a construction site along the Pennsylvania Turnpike and plowed into 10 vehicles, authorities said. The truck ignited after hitting an embankment, engulfing the hillside in fire and sending flames through the wreckage and more than 100 feet into the air. The four victims were burned beyond recognition, police said.

The accident occurred at 5:40 p.m. Friday along the turnpike's westbound lanes about 5 miles from the Donegal interchange. where traffic had been reduced to one lane because of construction. Douglas Greer. 29. of Parsons, Tenn., failed to slow his rig for the construction, then rounded a curve and spotted the traffic ahead. police said. He began braking but was unable to stop in time, police

The rig, loaded with 41,000 pounds of sodium nitrate, slammed into another tractor-trailer, then crashed into a motor home. The rig smashed into seven cars and a motorcycle before running into an embankment and bursting into flames, which were fed by the

### Unemployed steel workers get aid

WHEELING, W.Va. (AP) — Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel has agreed to pay about 6,300 workers bonuses to resolve a dispute over the company's assistance fund for the unemployed, a United Steelworkers official said

Paul Rusen, director of Wheeling-based USW District 23, said the workers will receive an average of \$300 from the Laid-Off Employees Assistance Program. The union official said Wheeling-Pitt officials agreed to the

settlement at a meeting Friday in Washington, Pa. Wheeling-Pitt spokesman Ken Maxcy on Saturday declined to comment on the meeting or Rusen's report of the agreement. Workers put some of their pay into the assistance fund for use when their government unemployment benefits run out. But Rusen said some workers received extensions of their government benefits, and they did not receive the proper amount from the company's unemployment assistance fund

#### nation news briefs

#### Spreading VD now a crime in Texas HOUSTON (AP) — As of today, Texans who know they have gonorrhea or syphilis and expose someone else to their disease are committing a crime, punishable by up to one year in prison and a

The new law, which makes the offense a misdemeanor, comes from a revision of the state law governing the reporting and control of venereal diseases.

Dr. Charles Alexander, an administrator for Houston's venereal disease control program, said the law makes it more likely that patients will follow their doctors' instructions and refrain from sexual contacts. Alexander said he foresees few arrests and fewer convictions

under the law, but "we might get a flagrant case or two." The state's syphilis rate in 1982 was the highest in the country, at 74.8 cases per 100,000 people, or more than 11,000 cases. The state's gonorrhea rate was 546 cases per 100,000 people

## Women mark suffrage anniversary

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the 63rd anniversary of women's suffrage, feminist protesters stalled lunch hour traffic in front of the White House to make it clear they will vote against President

Taking issue with Reagan for his stands on the Equal Rights Amendment, nuclear arms and foreign policy, about 125 demonstrators blocked Pennsylvania Avenue for 25 minutes on Friday. Police made no arrests in that incident, but yesterday they arrested five women a police spokesman said had camped illegally in Lafayette Park, across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, during the night. The women were not identified. The protest was staged on Women's Equality Day, 63 years after adoption of the 19th Amendment which wrote women's right to vote

# world news briefs

## Hijackers want French out of Chad BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) - An Air France jetliner comman-

deered over Europe by four Arab gunmen landed in Tehran yesterday, and Iranian radio broadcasts said the hijackers threatened to blow up the plane and 17 hostages within 48 hours unless France met political their demands. They reported the hijackers also called on Iran to endorse its demands, including an end to French support for Chad's govern-

ment in the civil war there and a halt to French arms sales to Iraq. But Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Sheikholeslam condemned the hijacking as an "inhuman act," and said his government would not agree to the demands "under any circumstances." Tehran Radio said in a broadcast monitored here. Tehran Radio said the gunmen also were demanding freedom for

several Lebanese held in French jails and a change in French

policy in Lebanon, where France has wn army contingent in the

multinational peacekeeping force. French to stay out of civil war N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP) — French Defense Minister Charles Hernu on Saturday pledged support to the government of President

Hissene Habre but said France refuses to become involved in what he called Chad's "civil war." Hernu then flew back to Paris to report to President Francois Mitterrand following a two-day visit to Chad to inspect French troops and confer with Habre. He had a second meeting with the Chad leader shortly before taking off in a French military jetliner. In a radio interview shortly before his departure, Hernu said France would stand by its commitment to help defend Chad against the Libyan military incursion, but "will not allow itself to be drawn

into the Chad civil war.' Libyan troops and Chadian rebels loyal to former President Goukouni Oueddei have stretched their control over the northern half of Chad in battles since July but an undeclared truce has been in effect for two weeks, apparently largely as a result of the deployment of French forces on the fringe of the northern desert. Hernu said he found the 3,000 French paratroopers sent to Chad had a "morale of iron" and constitued an effective "arm of dissuasion against any internationalization of the conflict provoked

## Soviet calls U.S. relations poor

MOSCOW (AP) — A leading Soviet commentator on Saturday warned Americans against having "illusions" that relations between the Soviet Union and the United States were improving. "The tension in Soviet-American relations is not decreasing," said Alexander Bovin, a senior commentator with the government newspaper Izvestia

He dimissed any American comment about a thaw in relations between the superpowers as "another hypocritical move" by the Reagan administration to influence presidential elections in 1984. Boyin noted the two nations were far apart on arms control talks and the conflicts in Central America, the Middle East and Africa. "There is no need for illusions, there is no need for rosy spectacles, even when they are put on with the kindest of intentions," he said. "There is too much broken glass. The prestige of

Washington fell too low in the sense of a reliable partner for talks



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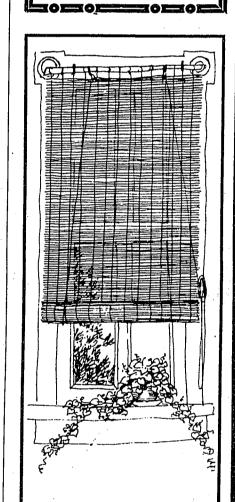
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