

News Digest

By the Associated Press

Syrians undercover

Newspaper: Syria had agent in British Embassy

LONDON — A newspaper reported Sunday that an undercover Syrian agent worked as a clerk for 20 years in the British Embassy in Damascus and tricked a diplomat there into signing a visa for Nezar Hindawi.

Hindawi was convicted Friday of planting a bomb in luggage his girlfriend tried to bring aboard an Israeli airliner April 17. Britain accused Syria's government of aiding him and broke diplomatic relations.

The Sunday Times said Syrian intelligence placed a Palestinian man in the British Embassy's visa section, and that he persuaded embassy second secretary Anthony Arnold to sign Hindawi's visa "as a matter of routine."

It said the man's role was revealed by a Foreign Office investigative team that went to the British Embassy in Damascus after Hindawi's arrest. The report did not identify

its sources.

In Tel Aviv, meanwhile, as Israeli expert on Syria said Hindawi was under orders from Syrian air force intelligence chief Gen. Mohammed el-Khouli to blow up the Israeli El Al plane. El-Khouli reports to Syrian President Hafez Assad.

The Sunday Times did not identify the Palestine clerk who allegedly worked for Syria, but said he was a senior assistant in the visa section. It said he was about 50 and had gone to Syria as a child.

After Hindawi was arrested in April, the Palestinian disappeared from his job and may now be in the United States, the newspaper said. When he disappeared, so did the embassy's records of Hindawi's visa applications and those of several Syrians who were given British visas, the paper said.

In Brief

Lawman shoots pet in self-defense

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A policeman assigned to the canine unit was forced to shoot his pet Doberman pinscher when the animal turned on him during a fight with his police dog, police said.

Sgt. James Harmon told authorities he was putting his police dog, Thor, into a kennel behind his home Friday when the doberman, Jet, bolted from the house and attacked the police dog.

After trying to break up the fight by throwing water on the dogs, Harmon tried to pull them apart and was attacked by the Doberman, said Sgt. Mike Chase.

"His personal Doberman ate him up," Chase said. "He had deep penetrating wounds into his right arm."

Harmon shot the dog twice with his .38-caliber service revolver, Chase said, and the dog died a short time later. Harmon was treated at a hospital and released.

Train derails

EXETER — Thirty-three cars of a Burlington Northern freight train derailed east of here Saturday night, authorities said.

There were no injuries in the derailment, which occurred about 11 p.m. Saturday, Burlington Northern spokesman Gary Telfer said Sunday.

Telfer said railroad officials have not determined what caused the 16th car in the 81-car westbound train to derail.

Telfer said there were no hazardous materials in the train, which carried mostly trailers on flat cars. Eleven of the train cars were empty, he said.

The tracks were open for train traffic Sunday, he said.

Dog keeps abandoned baby warm

DETROIT — A newborn abandoned in an alley whose life was saved by a German shepherd dog that kept him warm was in stable condition Sunday, a hospital spokeswoman said.

The baby, suffering from hypothermia, was in "good shape, stable condition," said Sinai Hospital spokeswoman Paula Friedman.

A preliminary custody hearing is scheduled on Monday in probate court for the infant, son of 20-year-old Greta Davis.

Davis, of Detroit, was admitted to Sinai Hospital for treatment a few hours after giving birth.

Battlefield bones identified as those of Custer's scout

BILLINGS, Mont. — Facial bones found at Custer Battlefield in 1983 have been positively identified by archeologists as those of Michel "Mitch" Boyer, Custer's half-Sioux scout and interpreter.

Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and elements of the 7th Cavalry died in the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876.

Using standard forensic techniques, archeologists were able to determine that bones and teeth found at the southeast Montana battlefield were those of a mixed-blood individual who was between 35 and 40 years old and smoked a pipe. Boyer was the only one in Cus-

ter's command who fit the description.

To further substantiate the identification, archeologists using television cameras superimposed a picture of the bones onto the only known picture of the famous scout.

"It was an almost perfect fit," said Doug Scott, the National Park Service archeologist in charge of the Custer project.

The first piece of the puzzle, part of an upper jaw bone, was found by a tourist, who brought it to the attention of battlefield Chief Historian Neil Mangum.

Eventually the pieces came together as a portion of the upper jaw,

some teeth, the bones outlining the nose and part of the left eye orbit.

When the site was excavated in 1984 as part of a battlefield archeological survey, more bone fragments, a bullet and buttons from civilian clothing were found. Boyer would have been wearing civilian clothes.

The bones could be identified as belonging to a racially-mixed individual because of a number of features in the face and teeth. The backs of teeth belonging to American Indians are curved and "shovel-like," Scott said.

The bones displayed a broad face characteristic of Indian heritage.

Dyslexic student sues high school to pay for special education tuition

BOSTON — Karen Morse was voted president of her senior class and student council president and was elected to the National Honor Society.

But for nine years neither her teachers nor her friends knew she couldn't read.

Now the young woman voted the student with the "most school spirit" is suing her high school in Henniker, N.H., to cover bills at a special school where she caught up on learning.

Karen says she was labeled "learning disabled" in the ninth grade. But not until the end of her junior year in 1983 was she diagnosed as dyslexic, meaning that her brain jumbled the

order of words and letters. "Was" becomes "saw" to Karen, whose intelligence is unaffected by dyslexia.

"I did a lot of taking other kids' papers, erasing their names. Just cheating mostly. I really didn't think about it. It was a question of survival," said Karen, now a 20-year-old college freshman.

After school authorities discovered her reading problem, she complains, they did little more than assure her she wasn't stupid. She was shunted to a corner three times a week and sat before a workbook, she recalled. "There was no remedial work at all."

Karen agreed not to accept her diploma or formally graduate so Henniker High School would pay her tuition at the Landmark School of Beverly, which specializes in helping dyslexics.

After a year at Landmark, the special school recommended she spend another year there to prepare for college. However, Henniker's school district, under a new superintendent, refused to pay for it and mailed Karen her diploma last spring.

Her family is suing the school for the \$17,000 they paid in Landmark tuition during the second year, which she completed this summer.

Daily Nebraskan

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday in the fall and spring semesters and Tuesdays and Fridays in the summer sessions, except during vacations.

Subscription price is \$35 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE. ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1986 DAILY NEBRASKAN

Mint fears coin shortage

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Mint, caught off guard last week by the public clamor for its new American Eagle gold coin, expects to suffer a shortage Monday when dealers scramble for the limited supply.

The first general-circulation U.S. gold coin in more than a half-century has proven to be a winner with the public. Government officials hope to capitalize on that interest by unveiling a sister

silver bullion coin on Wednesday.

The gold coin went on sale Oct. 20 and by the next day officials at the Mint had to announce sales were being suspended because the supply of 800,000 coins had been snapped up.

The Mint hastily put into operation a back-up plan in which it will hold sales each Monday and will allocate the available coins among the 25 primary dealers worldwide.

Poll: Few people would vote for woman president

WASHINGTON — A nationwide poll says that 36 percent of Americans would not vote for a woman presidential candidate even though only 12 percent said they thought women were less qualified for political office than men.

The telephone poll conducted by the Roper Organization for U.S. News and World Report said 71 percent of those polled considered women as qualified for political office as men and 13 percent thought women are better qualified.

Men were given higher percentages for demonstrating toughness, being well-informed, dealing with crises, showing decisiveness, backing arms control, having knowledge of taxes, and dealing with the Soviets. Nine percent said women could deal better with Soviets compared with 63 percent who said men would be better.



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