

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Poland's voters reject economic reform plan

WARSAW, Poland — Voters rejected economic and political reforms, including painful price increases, that Poland's communist leaders said were needed to revitalize an ailing, debt-ridden economy, the government said Monday.

The results of Sunday's bold and unique referendum dealt a stunning blow to the government of Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, which strongly campaigned for passage of the two questions put to the voters.

It was Poland's first referendum in 41 years and the first time in the nation's communist history that the authorities suffered a loss in nationwide elections.

Government spokesman Jerzy Urban put a positive face on the outcome, noting that many more people voted in favor of the questions than against them. By law, a majority of eligible voters had to approve for them to pass.

He said the voters' failure to approve the questions was "an answer to all who maintained our democratic institutions are a facade and that the democratic transformations are not true."

Leaders of the outlawed Solidarity free trade union movement

had called the plebiscite a charade and urged Poles to ignore it. The powerful Roman Catholic church did not take a stance.

"I want to confirm the determination of the authorities to continue reforms and the democratic procedure of consulting the opinions of voters on issues vital to everyone," Urban said.

The government has, however, previously said that if it lost the referendum, reforms would continue, but at a slower rate. It has already made moves to streamline its economic planning.

Urban gave these results: To the first question, on economic reform, 64 percent of those voting said "yes" and 27.7 percent said "no," with the remainder of the ballots blank or otherwise invalid. To the second question, on political reform, 69 percent said "yes," 24.6 percent said "no."

Final figures showed that 67.2 percent of the eligible voters participated. The government said it was the lowest percentage turnout of any election in the nation's post-war history.

Solidarity leaders have disputed turnout figures in past general elections when only government-sanctioned candidates have run.

Couple, children slain by rebels

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Mozambique rebels axed to death a couple and five of their six children in a northeast Zimbabwe border village, the national news agency said Monday.

The Ziana news agency said the seven were killed Thursday, the same day anti-government rebels hacked to death 16 whites, including two Americans, on two mission farms in southwest Zimbabwe's Matabeleland province.

The Matabeleland attack was blamed on Zimbabwe's notorious rebel leader, Gayigusu, who is accused of hundreds of slayings in Matabeleland province.

The Matabeleland attack was blamed on Zimbabwe's notorious rebel leader, Gayigusu, who is accused of hundreds of slayings in Matabeleland province. His real name is Morgan Sango. The band of 20 killers remained at large.

The Mozambique National Resistance was responsible for the attack Thursday in Joromani village in the Mudzi district, Ziana quoted police as saying. The area is 6 miles from the Mozambique border.

Fifteen men hacked the victims to death and burned the bodies, Ziana

quoted police as saying.

Police said the victims were Jim and Agnes Mwanawambane and children ranging in age from 1 to 4, Ziana said. It described the man and woman as peasants.

Their deaths raised to 48 the number of Zimbabweans allegedly slain in cross-border raids in the past two months by the Mozambique Resistance, known by its Portuguese acronym Renamo.

Renamo has been fighting Mozambique's Marxist government for 10 years and declared war on Zimbabwe because its prime minister, Robert Mugabe, supports the Mozambique government.

About 20 civilians have been wounded in recent Renamo attacks, and 50 have been abducted and marched at gunpoint into Mozambique.

On Nov. 21, Renamo guerrillas in the far southeast of Zimbabwe axed to



Christina Geiger/Daily Nebraskan

death five children after abducting a group of 20 from a school. Seven other children were taken across the border and freed after the guerrillas hacked an ear off each of them.

U.S. is unprepared for Soviet 'breakout' president says

WASHINGTON — President Reagan said Monday the Soviet Union may be planning "a breakout" from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty that the United States would be "totally and dangerously unprepared for" without his Star Wars missile defense plan.

Reagan made his statement in a speech to conservatives a week before his summit meeting with Soviet leaders Mikhail Gorbachev in Washington. His remarks underscored Reagan's determination to push ahead with the Star Wars program despite objections from Moscow and congressional attempts to restrict it.

Meanwhile, the White House said it was unlikely the summit will produce any breakthrough in U.S.-Soviet negotiations for a 50 percent reduction in strategic nuclear arms, the most potent weapons in the superpowers' arsenals.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said, "The progress of the START talks (strategic arms) is at such a state that it seems unlikely that we would want to extend (the summit) for any reason."

Beginning next Tuesday, Reagan and Gorbachev will hold three days of talks in Washington. Their meeting will open with the signing of a treaty to ban intermediate-range nuclear missiles — the first accord ever to eliminate an entire class of atomic weapons.

In Brief

Major earthquake hits offshore from Alaska

PALMER, Alaska — A major earthquake jolted south-central Alaska on Monday, knocking out power to one community and prompting authorities to urge the evacuation of low-lying coastal areas because of a possible sea wave.

The quake struck at 10:23 a.m. Alaska Standard Time and measured 7.4 on the Richter scale. It was centered 300 miles southeast of Anchorage in the Gulf of Alaska.

Mary Beth Whitehead weds for second time

RAHWAY, N.J. — Mary Beth Whitehead, fighting to regain custody of the child she bore under a \$10,000 surrogate contract, has remarried in a private, civil ceremony.

Whitehead is fighting a March 31 decision by Superior Court Judge Harvey R. Sorkow that awarded custody of a 20-month-old girl to William and Elizabeth Stern. She sparked the emotional legal battle when she reneged on an agreement to bear the Sterns a child by being artificially inseminated with Stern's sperm.

France, Iran swap diplomats for normalization

PARIS — France and Iran ended their 4 1/2 month embassy standoff by trading a pair of diplomats on Monday, days after pro-Iranian captors in Lebanon freed two Frenchmen.

Officials called the events a coordinated effort to mend a rift between the two nations.

Several inmates prevent settlement, officials say

ATLANTA — A "small but aggressive minority" of Cuban inmates blocked the release of 90 hostages from a federal penitentiary Monday, officials said, while hundreds of Cubans who surrendered in Louisiana were sent to other federal prisons.

The same 100 Cubans, out of a total population of 1,118, earlier blocked the release of 50 hostages in Atlanta, said Patrick Korten, of the Justice Department. Riots by Cuban detainees in both states followed a government announcement that 2,500 Cubans — mostly criminals or mentally ill — would be returned to their homeland.

Broderick Thomas fined after no contest plea

University of Nebraska football player Broderick Thomas pleaded no contest in Lancaster County Court to one count of hindering arrest and was fined \$100.

Thomas was booked into the Lancaster County jail and then released on Aug. 24 after he fought with four officers who were trying to arrest him on a bench warrant for failure to pay a traffic fine. After he entered his no-contest plea Monday, Judge Jim Foster found him guilty of the charge and ordered him to pay the fine.

Frightened Haitians clear streets

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Haitians stayed home in fear Monday, deserting the deadly streets where men with machine guns and machetes killed at least 34 people in a weekend of terror that destroyed the first free elections in 30 years.

Most presidential candidates could not be reached at their homes or offices. The independent Electoral Council's nine members were in hiding.

Most businesses were closed. Few cars or public minibuses could be seen, and the city's industrial park was

virtually deserted. Small groups of men could be seen in some neighborhoods.

Scores of people were wounded Sunday by roving bands who attacked voting stations and people at random in the streets, while the army did nothing to stop it. Gunmen shot up the Electoral Council headquarters.

The military-dominated National Governing Council postponed the first election of a president and legislature since 1957, when Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier began the family dictatorship that ended Feb. 7, 1986.

Chicago mourns Washington

CHICAGO — The city bade a tearful farewell Monday to Mayor Harold Washington with prayers and praise as dignitaries, family and friends gathered at his funeral and thousands mourned outside under wet, gray skies.

Ministers, politicians and relatives eulogized the city's first black mayor before his flag-draped casket as a scrappy political fighter with a warm sense of humor. He died Wednesday of a heart attack at the age of 65.

Several speakers vowed to carry on Washington's self-proclaimed reform

administration and surmount the political struggle now swirling around who will be chosen acting mayor.

"The death angel can make the very important irrelevant in the twinkling of an eye," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, his eyes misty with tears. "How could he take Harold, we ask? We are hurt, we need him so much."

"We'll miss you, buddy ... we will not let you down," Jackson pledged, drawing applause inside the non-denominational Christ Universal Temple.

FAA plans tighter plane maintenance rules

WASHINGTON — The Federal Aviation Administration is planning tighter rules on when airlines may postpone maintenance amid finding that work at Eastern Airlines — and possibly other carriers — often has been delayed to keep planes to their schedules, FAA officials said Monday.

They said the agency has been looking at 10 airlines to determine

whether federal maintenance requirements are being abused. Except for Eastern, none of the other airlines was named, but sources said the review included virtually all the major carriers.

The broader investigation was prompted by the findings last summer at Eastern. An FAA report made public this week concluded that Eastern had interpreted FAA maintenance

requirements so broadly that it amounted to a "misuse" of the latitude given to air carriers on repairing items that do not in themselves pose a danger to flight.

Such items are allowed to go unrepaired until a proper repair station is available because their failure normally does not affect the airworthiness of the aircraft. But aviation safety experts have said an accu-

mulation of a large number of such unrepaired items on a plane could pose a hazard.

FAA regulations require such repairs to be made when an adequate repair station is available. In the case of Eastern, the repairs routinely were delayed even at airports with major repair stations because the airline said it did not have enough "ground time" to make the repairs.

Plane crashes on freeway

LONG BEACH, Calif. — A light plane crashed onto a freeway crowded with holiday travelers, killing a passenger, critically injuring the pilot and causing a five-car pileup, authorities said.

Traffic was backed up for 10 miles after the single-engine plane smashed into the concrete center divider on Interstate 405 at 6:43 p.m. Sunday. But authorities

marveled that the plane missed cars and there weren't any serious injuries reported among the motorists involved in accidents.

"I knew we were going to get hit," said Beth Kuecker, 35, of Laguna Beach, who was a passenger in a car damaged either by bits of wreckage or the force of the fireball that erupted from the

plane.

"I looked up to the right and saw the plane turn sideways," Kuecker said. "...I put my hand up in front of my eyes. I thought we were going to die."

Kuecker and the driver, Sandra Sisson, 46, escaped unharmed, and another driver doused the flames with a fire extinguisher.

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