

## Afghan ruler overthrown

### President tried to leave country

KABUL, Afghanistan — President Najibullah tried to flee the country early Thursday as rebels advanced toward the capital, but he was stopped and then stripped of power, a senior government official said.

There were unconfirmed reports that he had been arrested and another that he had escaped the country.

It was not immediately clear who was running the government. It appeared some generals and at least one rebel leader might be in charge, but officials provided conflicting details on the size and composition of the leadership coalition.

The toppling of the Soviet-installed dictator had appeared increasingly likely in recent days. It also raised fears that Afghanistan could collapse in chaos and a bloodbath unprecedented in the 13-year-old civil war.

Pakistan called for an immediate cease-fire by the numerous and often antagonistic Muslim guerrilla groups. The United States and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali also urged restraint, and said the rebels should work to implement a U.N. peace plan.

"Fighting is violence, fighting is death," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret D. Tutwiler.

Some rebel groups declared the U.N. plan dead, and one radical organization vowed to continue fighting the government and rivals unless a strict Islamic fundamentalist government was installed.

If Najibullah's fall provokes fighting among the guerrilla factions, Iran could find an opening to try to spread its brand of fundamentalism in Af-

### Afghanistan Chronology

1978

April: Afghan government overthrown by pro-Soviet Marxist party. Armed, non-communist resistance begins.

1979

December: The Soviets launch a massive airlift of forces to save the Kabul government. Babrak Karmal installed as president.

1986

May: Karmal is replaced by Najibullah, chief of the secret service. Fighting escalates toward the end of the year when the Pakistan-based guerrillas receive U.S. weapons.

1988

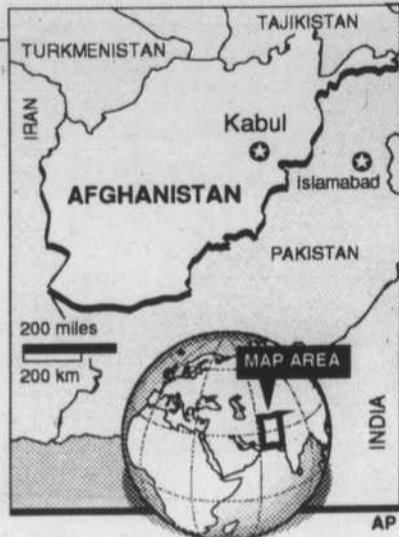
April 15: Afghanistan and Pakistan sign an accord clearing the way for the Red Army's departure, but the guerrillas continue fighting.

1989

Feb. 15: The last of an estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers departs.

1990

June: Najibullah makes sweeping constitutional reforms.



1991

April: Guerrillas capture the southern city of Khost, Najibullah's biggest military setback.

1992

March 18: Najibullah offers to transfer power to an interim government established under a U.N. peace plan. The guerrillas say they will keep fighting.

1992

April 15: Muslim rebels claim control of the country's main military base, 35 miles from Kabul.

1992

April 16: Najibullah reportedly resigns.

ghanistan. A few of the smaller guerrilla groups have ties to Iran, but the largest factions do not.

Kabul was calm despite several days of rumors that Najibullah had fled or tried to flee. State-run Kabul Radio did not report the change in

power until Thursday night.

Speaking to reporters, Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said Najibullah tried to escape with a brother and a close aide but was stopped by rebel militiamen at Kabul's international airport about 2 a.m. Thursday.

## Poles ponder package problems

WARSAW, Poland — Consider the perils of dyeing your hair following French instructions, fighting an ant infestation with instructions in Arabic or ending up with a can of squid rings in garlic sauce by accident.

Scrutinizing packages has become a national pastime for Poles newly confronted by a dazzling array of imported products. The problem: only a few are labeled in Polish.

Nearly 2 1/2 years into Eastern Europe's most dramatic economic

reforms, Poles can choose from a well-packaged plethora of goods that could hardly have been imagined during the 1980s, when leaky vinegar bottles — labeled in Polish, to be sure — were virtually all that was piled high.

But there is already resentment that even routine marketing trips resemble a "Let's go shopping" lesson in a foreign language class.

Some Poles are responding with the first hints of a "Buy Polish" drive, others simply with confusion.

"When the Polish market has been swamped by imported products, the consumer is to a great extent incapacitated," said Andrzej Nowak of the Department of Economic Strategies.

"Sometimes I take the risk, not knowing exactly what is in it," said shopper Beata Winter.

But the results can be unpleasant. Imagine taking a swig of what looks like a refreshing lemonade, only to get a mouthful of a sickly sweet syrup meant to be diluted seven times over.

## Trade deficit drops dramatically; unemployment hits 5-month low

WASHINGTON — America's trade deficit narrowed dramatically to \$3.38 billion in February, its best showing in nearly nine years, as exports climbed to an all-time high and imports dropped for a second straight month, the government reported Thursday.

The Commerce Department reported that the deficit fell a sharp 43.1 percent compared to January's imbalance of \$5.95 billion.

More than one-third of the improvement came from a big surge in sales of American aircraft and parts, but there were also strong gains in shipments of U.S. farm products, autos and computers.

The Labor Department said the number of newly laid off Americans filing claims for unemployment benefits fell to a five-month low of 415,000 during the first week in April.

The decline of 18,000 from the previous week was a pleasant surprise to economists, who had been expecting an increase. They said it offered at least the hope that the fledgling recovery was at last being felt in labor markets.

Labor Secretary Lynn Martin proclaimed the drop in jobless claims provided "further

### U.S. trade balance



confirmation of a strengthening labor market and economy."

New Commerce Secretary Barbara Hackman Franklin hailed the big improvement in the trade deficit, calling it a mark of "strong U.S. competitiveness."

"The slower pace of economic growth among key foreign markets presents an export challenge for the rest of 1992," she said.

Private economists agreed with that assessment, with some suggesting that February's report would represent America's best trade performance for the year.

Through the first two months of the year, the merchandise trade deficit is running at an annual rate of \$56 billion, even better than last year's \$66.3 billion imbalance, a performance that marked the first time the deficit has been under \$100 billion since 1983.

While most economists had been forecasting the deficit would rise again this year to around \$75 billion, a few said the February trade performance was making them rethink that view.

## Officials queried on Iran-Contra

WASHINGTON — Iran-Contra prosecutors recently questioned George Shultz and Caspar Weinberger, who told Congress four years ago that they knew little about the Reagan administration's secret arms sales to Iran while they were in the cabinet.

Knowledgeable sources have told The Associated Press that prosecutors want to know if the two men lied. Shultz, a former secretary of state, told the AP that prosecutors questioned him "about some aspects of my testimony" to Congress and told him he is a subject of their probe.

Being a "subject" means Shultz's conduct is within the scope of a grand jury investigation. It is less serious than being a "target," a person the prosecutor can link to a crime with substantial evidence.

Weinberger, a former defense secretary, did not respond to repeated requests for comment. His attorney, Robert Bennett, said

Weinberger had been questioned, but would not say if he also is a subject of the investigation. Shultz has hired prominent attorney Lloyd Cutler to represent him.

Weinberger testified in 1987 that he didn't recall being told about the White House-approved 1985 arms deliveries to Iran. Shultz said he wasn't informed of the 1986 deliveries.

Four non-government sources told the AP that in recent months, prosecutors have questioned over a dozen former Reagan administration figures about the Iran initiative and what they think Shultz and Weinberger knew about it. The sources all are familiar with the investigation and all spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Those witnesses were from the State Department, the Pentagon and the National Security Council and include the Bush administration's U.S. ambassador to Japan, Michael Armacost.

## Clinton says Bush ruined economy with poor policy

PHILADELPHIA — Democrat Bill Clinton called President Bush's record on the economy the worst in 50 years and said his own candidacy offers the best hope for a domestic revival.

Bush renewed his support for allowing Americans to borrow against future earnings to pay for college and job training.

Bush and Clinton spoke just minutes apart.

Clinton outlined his own economic plans, ranging from tax incentives for new investment and research and development to full funding for Head Start. They included blueprints to ease the transition away from defense production.

Clinton delivered his economic message at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

"Our president does not have a strategy," Clinton said. "His strategy is do nothing. The only time he changes

is when the polls change or the pressures mount."

Clinton said Bush's "single driving strategy" has been low taxes on corporations and upper-income individuals and keeping government out of the way.

"George Bush's presidency has produced slower economic growth, slower job growth and slower income growth than any administration since the Great Depression," Clinton said.

"It is not a Republican or a Democratic issue," he said. "It's America against the rest of the world. Every other advanced nation is governed by a strategy for increasing growth."

Clinton said Bush has been taking cues from his Republican opponents and from Clinton himself.

He said the president's advocacy of measures to help pay for education and job training has long represented a centerpiece of his own campaign, and added that until now the administration has waged "an all-out assault on college aid to middle-class students."

## 5 escape from jail, 2 arrested while still in uniforms

DAKOTA CITY — Two of five prisoners who escaped from the Dakota County Jail were captured in nearby Sioux City, Iowa, after police found them drunk and still wearing their jail uniforms.

The two men — Cedrick Hamilton and Robert Dale — each had escaped from the jail one other time.

A spokeswoman in the county sheriff's office said Thursday that the other three escapees were still at large.

Hamilton, 18, and Dale, 22, both of Macy, were part of a group of five prisoners who escaped from the jail in Dakota City early Tuesday morning.

One of the five escapees stole an extra set of cell keys from a desk in the sheriff's office, and used them hours later to release himself and the four others, authorities said.

Dakota County Sheriff Jim Wagner said Hamilton and Dale were picked up by Sioux City police Wednesday morning after receiving a phone complaint of two loud intoxicated men.

"When they turned them around to handcuff them, the officers saw the 'Dakota County Jail' on their backs," Wagner said. "It's unbelievable, but it's the truth."

### Daily Nebraskan

Editor: Jana Pedersen, 472-1766  
 Managing Editor: Kara Wells  
 Assoc. News Editors: Chris Hopfensperger, Kris Karnopp, Alan Phelps  
 Opinion Page Editor: Roger Price  
 Wire Editor: Wendy Navratil  
 Copy Desk Editor: Nick Hytrek  
 Sports Editor: Tom Clouse  
 Assistant Sports Editor: Stacey McKenzie  
 Arts & Entertainment Editor: Dionne Searcy  
 Divisions Editor: Michelle Paulman  
 Photo Chief: Adeana Lettin  
 Night News Editors: John Adkinson, Wendy Mott, Tom Kunz, Scott Maurer, Dan Shattil, Katherine Potlicky  
 Art Director: Todd Sears  
 General Manager: Eric Kringal  
 Production Manager: Annette Suesper  
 Advertising Manager: Bill Vobejda, 472-2588  
 Sales Manager: Don Walton, 473-7301  
 Classified Ad Manager: Don Walton, 473-7301  
 Publications Board Chairman: Professional Adviser

FAX NUMBER 472-1761

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Bill Vobejda, 472-2588. Subscription price is \$50 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1992 DAILY NEBRASKAN