

## Afghan rebels circle capital

### Guerrillas near to a agreement on government

KABUL, Afghanistan — Guerrillas advanced to the capital's edge and joined forces with the crumbling Afghan government Wednesday to isolate a radical chieftain, and prepare for a rebel-led Islamic government.

A force of at least 1,000 Muslim guerrillas moved to the perimeter of the capital accompanied by an Afghan army colonel. Guerrilla commanders joined army officers at security posts within sight of downtown Kabul.

After 14 years of civil war that has claimed 2 million lives, the mujahedeen rebels were on the verge of conquering the capital and seizing power, replacing the government of ousted President Najibullah, who went into hiding last week.

The takeover was delayed by their indecision on how to share power and who should become the nation's leader.

For the first time, police said, they were permitting unarmed mujahedeen, or Islamic holy warriors, to enter the city.

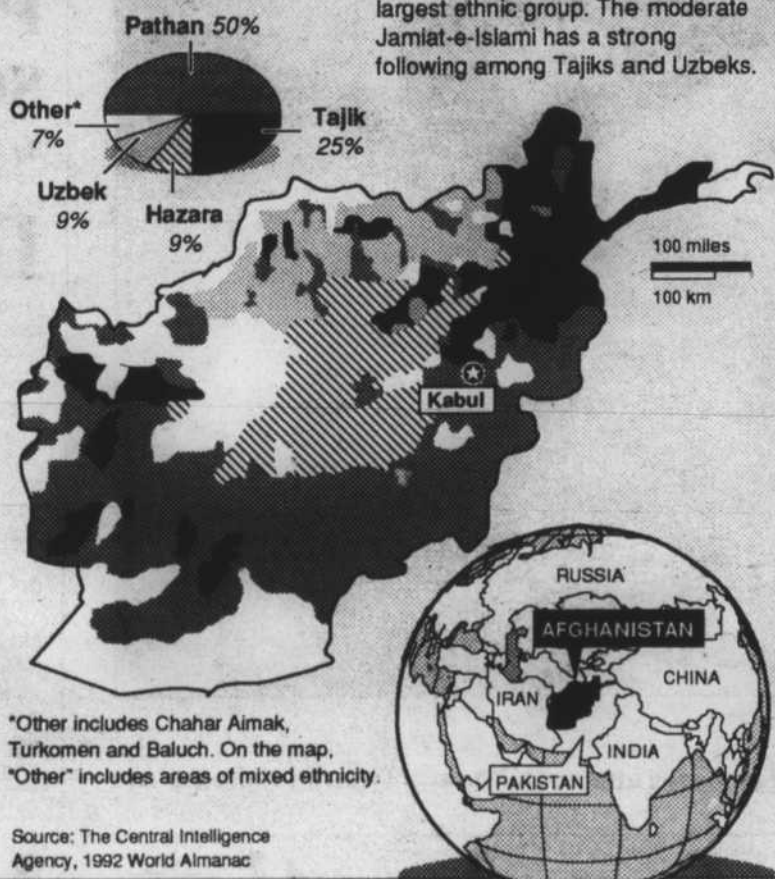
Kabul appeared less tense Wednesday than at any time in the last week. Shops were open and markets were crowded on the first sunny day since the weekend.

After the nightly 9 p.m. curfew went into effect, tracer bullets flashed across the sky and tanks were heard rumbling through the city.

The Red Cross said a field nurse was killed by gunfire in Maidan Shar, about 18 miles southwest of Kabul. It gave no details, but the victim reportedly was an Icelandic killed by fundamentalist rebels.

### Afghanistan's ethnic landscape

Ethnic breakdown of the population and where they live:



The cooperation in Kabul and provincial towns between the army and moderate guerrillas was directed against radical forces under the command of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Hekmatyar has threatened to attack the capital unless it surrenders to him by Monday, the anniversary of

the 1978 Communist coup and the start of the U.S.-supported insurgency.

Ahmed Shah Masood, a moderate and the country's most powerful rebel commander, belittled Hekmatyar's fighting ability and advised him to help form a provisional guerrilla government.

## High court hears case on abortion

### Ruling could overturn Roe vs. Wade

WASHINGTON — With legalized abortion potentially in the balance, the Supreme Court on Wednesday was urged by an abortion-rights advocate to keep women from returning to "back alleys for their health care" while the Bush administration pressed for protection of "those who will be born."

Both sides predicted the court's conservative majority would uphold the restrictive state law in an election-year decision expected by July. Among other things, the law imposes a 24-hour waiting period and requires married women to tell their husbands before getting abortions.

The greater question is whether the decision will reverse or drastically undermine the court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade ruling that abortion is a fundamental constitutional right.

The justices will take their first vote on the case in their regularly scheduled, closed-door conference Friday, and then begin their opinion writing. Votes could change during that process.

Pennsylvania Attorney General Ernest Preate defended his state's law as "an intelligent statute ... carefully drafted to reflect the teach-

ings of this court."

Solicitor General Kenneth Starr, the administration's top courtroom lawyer, urged the justices to rule that abortion is not a fundamental constitutional right.

Starr contended that the standard for court review should be whether state abortion laws are "rational." He said the Pennsylvania regulations pass that standard.

Justice David H. Souter interjected, "So would complete prohibition (of abortion), wouldn't it?"

Starr then suggested that a state would have a problem if it attempted to outlaw all abortion without making any exception for a woman whose life was endangered by continued pregnancy.

That response appeared to irritate Justice John Paul Stevens. "That's not really a fair answer," he told Starr. "A total prohibition would be rational. It would meet your standard."

Stevens, Souter and Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Anthony M. Kennedy and Antonin Scalia asked most of the questions from the bench.

Justice Clarence Thomas was the only court member to remain silent throughout.

## 200 arrested as rival activists clash in front of a suburban Buffalo clinic

AMHERST, N.Y. — Police arrested nearly 200 abortion opponents who charged a women's clinic Wednesday in a melee that was in sharp contrast to the staid abortion arguments being presented before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Anti-abortion demonstrators surged onto a four-lane highway, and tried to rush past police barricades and a crowd of about 150 abortion rights activists stationed in front of the suburban Buffalo clinic.

The arrests occurred on the second day of large-scale abortion demonstrations in the Buffalo area by Operation Rescue. At the same time, the Supreme Court was hearing arguments on an abortion case from Pennsylvania.

Several hundred demonstrators also waved placards and chanted outside the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

In Buffalo, the Rev. Robert Schenck, an abortion protest organizer from suburban Tonawanda, said the demonstration had not been timed to coincide with the Supreme Court arguments.

Protesters went limp and were carried or dragged by police through the crowd of abortion-rights dem-

onstrators to buses. Police bound protesters' wrists with plastic handcuffs.

Police also used the handcuffs to bind the feet of the Rev. John Hunter, an anti-abortion leader from nearby Lockport, after he broke through the line of abortion-rights activists and dashed toward the clinic door.

Some of those arrested lay handcuffed in the street for 30 minutes as demonstrators on both sides taunted one another from opposite sides of the road. Police blocked traffic on the highway and about 100 officers tried to keep the two sides separated.

A bus in which some Operation Rescue demonstrators had arrived was towed away from the front of the clinic.

Abortion-rights activists chanted "God is a woman, and she's pro-choice!" They mocked abortion opponents by shouting, "A baby a year until you drop!"

Anti-abortion demonstrators prayed and sang hymns, holding signs such as "A Baby Is a Person, No Matter How Small," and a poster showing a baby in the womb with the caption, "Mommy, Please Go Home, I Want To Live."

## Recessions slow world economy

WASHINGTON — The world economy will struggle back to growth this year, but the rate will be just half what had been expected, the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday.

The IMF's new economic outlook blamed the poor expectation on the aborted upturn in the United States last fall, spreading weakness in Europe and Japan, and the economic chaos in the former Soviet Union.

The IMF projected that the world economy would grow at a meager rate of 1.4 percent this year. That compares to a far more optimistic 2.8 percent projection the IMF made just six months ago.

The IMF said that it now believed

a significant upturn in world growth will occur a year later than it had previously thought, forecasting growth of 3.6 percent in 1993.

IMF officials conceded that there were risks that even their lowered expectations might not be met. They listed the key threats as persistently high interest rates in Germany and other European nations, and a danger the Japanese economy will not rebound as anticipated because of such factors as jittery financial markets.

"There are clearly downside risks to the forecast," said Michael Mussa, director of the IMF's research department.

The IMF's revised outlook was issued as world finance officials began arriving for the annual spring meeting of the 156-nation IMF and its sister lending organization, the World Bank.

This year's meeting was expected to be highlighted by membership approval for Russia and the other former Soviet republics. In addition to arguments over how much in financial assistance to provide the former Soviet Union, the finance officials were expected to debate how best to spur the world economy to higher growth rates.

The Bush administration has been pressing for cuts in interest rates to stimulate demand for American exports.

IMF officials said that they believed interest rates had been cut enough to spur an economic rebound and that further cuts ran the risk of making inflation worse.

"Often problems of inflation start by trying to push the recovery too rapidly," Mussa said.

## Abortion

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"My guess is that we would end up with a very split nation regarding abortion laws," he said.

Duncan also predicted that the court then would have to rule on whether a fetus had a constitutional right to life, or whether abortion should be legal in the United States.

He said the court's decision was particularly relevant to Nebraska because of LB78, a similar bill the Nebraska Legislature failed to pass this year. Opponents of LB78 argued that the bill might have been unconstitutional, he said, and the Supreme Court's decision would clear up that issue.

## Students ask for DN apology

By Kara Morrison  
Staff Reporter

Members of the UNL Arab Student Organization asked ASUN Wednesday night to help them obtain an apology from the Daily Nebraskan for publishing an advertisement the group found offensive.

Rassem Dabbas, a graduate engineering student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said an ad by the Lincoln group Jews for Pride in the DN's April 17 issue heightened negative stereotypes of Arabs.

Part of the Jews for Pride ad said,

"We pray that in remembrance of our common forefather Avraham, our Arab brethren will abandon lies, murder, and terror and turn to am Yisroel in peace."

"Any educated person would not allow such a line to be published," Dabbas said.

He also said the Daily Nebraskan had "a double standard" because its advertising department edited a word from a Palestine Students Organization ad, but did not edit the Jews for Pride ad.

The Palestine Students Organization ad on April 10 congratulated Palestinians for the safe return of Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat, whose plane was re-

ported missing April 7, but was found April 8.

The ad also said, "We take this opportunity to participate in the celebration with our brothers and sisters in occupied Palestine, looking forward to the day when we are a nation free on its own soil, safe in its own home, and liberated from the chains of occupation."

Dabbas said the Daily Nebraskan would not print the word "evil" before the word "occupation."

First Vice President Trent Steele said the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska would discuss the Arab students' request at its executive committee meeting Tuesday.



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