

Moderate Afghan Muslims near victory

Interim leaders coming by road from Pakistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — Rival Muslim guerrillas battled to a stand-off Monday over the southern approach to Kabul and ignored a reported cease-fire agreement as they fought for control of the Afghan capital.

A convoy carrying members of a guerrilla-led interim government that supported more moderate factions left Pakistan for the 120-mile journey over rugged roads to Kabul. The rebel leaders planned to formally replace the fallen regime of President Najibullah.

A truce that Pakistan's government said was agreed to between the leaders of radical fundamentalists and more moderate guerrillas went unheeded. Red, green and yellow tracer bullets and flares illuminated the sky above Kabul into the night.

Roughly 90 percent of the city was under the control of a coalition commanded by Ahmed Shah Masood. It failed to dislodge the radical fighters of his bitter rival, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, from their strongholds.

Both sides fought with tanks, rockets and machine guns. Masood's fighters were supported by soldiers and even a warplane from Najibullah's military.

Masood and Hekmatyar both want to establish an Islamic state, but they differ on how strict the theocracy should be.

In Islamabad, Pakistan's capital, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, Javed Hussein, said the leaders agreed to a truce. He did not release any details, but Pakistan's state news agency said the agreement was mediated by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and senior Saudi Arabian officials.

The 50-member interim governing council originally had planned to fly to Kabul on a Pakistani military plane. The leaders decided to go overland because Hekmatyar's troops threatened to shoot at any plane approaching the capital.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Masood's forces seemed to have fared best in fighting that began Saturday after rebels advanced into the capital.

"Hekmatyar seems outclassed militarily and isolated politically," she said.

She said the Afghans should seek a political solution involving a broad-based transition government.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met in Tehran with Iranian leaders to seek help in stopping the fighting.

U.N. special envoy Benon Sevan planned to return to Kabul on Wednesday, U.N. officials said.

The civil war has claimed an estimated 2 million lives and driven 5

Control of Afghanistan

Major rebel factions and the provinces they claim to control.

- **Jamiat-e-Islami**
Moderates commanded by Ahmed Shah Masood, an ethnic Tajik.
- **Hezb-e-Islami**
Radical fundamentalists led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, an ethnic Pathan and bitter enemy of Masood. Both groups favor an Islamic state but differ on how strict the theocracy should be.
- **Hezb-e-Islami (breakaway)**
Faction headed by Yunis Khalis.
- **Councils**
Comprised of either elders from dominant tribes or multiparty commanders.
- **Jamili-ur-Rehman**
Ultra-orthodox Muslims.



million people from their homes. Monday was the 14th anniversary of the Marxist coup that touched off the Muslim uprising.

Fighting was concentrated on two hilltops facing across the highway leading south from Kabul. Scattered skirmishes also flared in the city center

and in other pockets held by Hekmatyar's troops.

In the heaviest fighting, Hekmatyar's fighters withstood bombing by a Soviet-built fighter-bomber piloted by a Masood loyalist as well as tank barrages and an infantry assault against their position on

Martyrs' Hill. Hekmatyar's tanks behind the Muslim cemetery on the hill repeatedly bombarded Masood's forces in Bala Hissar. Black smoke billowed from inside the fort's mud walls and brilliant flames shot up as the shells hit.

Regulators paid large bonuses

WASHINGTON — Thirty-nine senior employees of the agency regulating credit unions divided nearly half a million dollars in bonuses last year. Many already earned six-figure salaries. Every eligible employee received a bonus and all but one received the maximum possible.

The bonuses, paid last year by the National Credit Union Administration but suspended this year, are drawing questions from the chairman of the House Banking Committee and protests from a credit union trade organization.

Credit union officials are upset about the bonuses because the NCUA budget is financed entirely by the 12,800 non-profit credit unions it regulates.

"Payment of bonuses to selected individuals based on merit is a laudable management practice, but giving a maximum bonus to everyone eligible is only a subterfuge for paying higher salaries than are warranted," said Kenneth L. Robinson, president of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions.

In a letter to the agency, Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Texas, called the bonuses "extraordinary" and demanded a justification by May 15.

According to agency documents, the bonuses were either 20 percent or 15 percent of salary, depending on the position. They averaged \$12,300. The largest, \$26,000, went to Donald Johnson, the executive director of the agency.

NCUA bonuses and salaries were made public earlier this month by the Credit Union Information Service, which publishes an independent newsletter.

In a telephone interview, Johnson said the bonuses were part of the agency's effort to make its salaries comparable with those at four other agencies that regulate banks and savings institutions.

NCUA executives are the lowest paid among the five agencies. This year, its general counsel and supervision director make 11 percent less than the average at the other agencies. Regional office directors make 21 percent less than their counterparts. The other agencies also pay bonuses.

Clinton attacks Bush, totally ignores Brown

Governor wants to be activist president

PITTSBURGH — Bill Clinton wrapped up the Pennsylvania primary campaign Monday by attacking President Bush as the candidate of "economic decline" and ignoring Democratic rival Jerry Brown. Jesse Jackson retreated from an apparent call to be named Clinton's running mate.

Clinton's focus was all Bush as the all-but-certain Democratic nominee campaigning in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia a day before the Pennsylvania primary. Polls showed Clinton the strong favorite in the state.

The Arkansas governor offered himself as an activist president who would bring national health care, improved schools, safer streets and a tax code that encourages investment in American workers and plants.

On each of these issues, Clinton said, "You won't get it unless you change presidents."

"The Democratic Party has to give the American people not the promise that we can go back to the good old days but that the future is bleak unless we change," Clinton told a crowded luncheon rally in Pittsburgh.

Former California Gov. Brown returned to Philadelphia's Independence Hall and said he would continue his calls for political reform "whether it takes six months or a year or a generation."

"We're going to surprise the cynics," Brown said. "We will win this campaign. Whatever my own fortunes I've seen enough popular discontent to know that our movement, our cause, will continue."

There were 169 delegates at stake in Pennsylvania's Democratic primary. Going into the primary, Clinton had 1,388 delegates to 271 for Brown, with 2,145 needed to clinch the nomination.

On the eve of the primary, Jackson backpedaled on suggestions he should be offered the vice presidential slot on the Democratic ticket.

Anita Hill controversy will influence many facets in the upcoming elections

WASHINGTON — She's not on any ballot, but Anita Hill seems to have become a force in the politics of 1992.

Her treatment at the hands of the Senate Judiciary Committee last October during hearings on Clarence Thomas' nomination to the Supreme Court still resonates. In Pennsylvania, Illinois and Iowa, women are seeking seats in the Senate as a result — two of them hoping to oust members of the Judiciary panel.

Political scientist James Foster believes the hearings one day may

be regarded as pivotal, comparable to the Supreme Court's school desegregation decision of the 1950s or the civil rights struggle of the 1960s.

"I saw a group of pampered privileged white men closing ranks against a black woman," says Foster, who teaches classes in gender and politics at Oregon State University. "The hearings took on a symbolic significance for issues of race and gender that cut to the heart of American society."

Harriett Woods, president of the National Women's Political Caucus, calls the hearings "a moment of truth when a connection is made between private lives and public policy."

Progress made in peace talks

WASHINGTON — Mideast peace talks resumed Monday with Israel offering to hold elections among Palestinians in the territories and Syria making the conciliatory gesture of lifting restrictions on its Jewish community.

Israeli spokesman Benjamin Netanyahu called the offer of "pilot municipal elections" on the West Bank and Gaza "the largest experiment in democracy in the Arab world."

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said this time there was a "distinct possibility" of progress.

The talks will be held through Thursday and should be resumed in Rome within a few weeks, Netanyahu, a close aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak

Shamir, told reporters. "Today we began a real discussion," he said.

The State Department said it expected no quick breakthroughs on Palestinian self-rule or other issues in the fifth round of talks.

"This is going to be a hard, step-by-step process," spokeswoman Margaret D. Tutwiler.

Palestinian spokeswoman Ashrawi said her delegation had received, and would study Israel's proposal to begin municipal elections among the 1.7 million Palestinian Arabs. The idea is to choose leaders to work out arrangements for Palestinians to take control of their own day-to-day economic, judicial, educational and other affairs.

Shuttle Endeavour's first flight delayed to take off in daylight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA on Monday delayed next week's scheduled launch of the new shuttle Endeavour by three days so the spaceship can take off in daylight.

Endeavour was to have embarked on the satellite-rescue mission at 8:34 p.m. EDT Monday. Liftoff is now set for 7:06 p.m. EDT on May 7; Endeavour has until 7:55 that evening to get off the ground.

NASA's acting associate administrator for space flight, Tom Utsman, said officials reviewed the criteria

and decided it would be "prudent" to delay the flight so detailed photographs and documentation could be made for analysis.

NASA spokesman Mark Hess could not explain why officials didn't opt for a daylight launch in the first place. Mission managers settled on a Monday launch just last week.

"There was some discussion of launching in the daylight" at Wednesday's flight readiness review, Hess said. Top executives did not raise any objections at the meeting, he said.

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