

Deadly rain continues fall on Serb-besieged Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — In a blaze of mortar, grenade and machine-gun fire, government troops Sunday launched a new offensive to break the Serb siege of Sarajevo. Casualties were heavy in shelling downtown and on the west side of the city, where government forces were trying to reach Sarajevo's airport, now under U.N. control for an international aid airlift. U.N. peacekeepers closed the airport to aid flights after shells hit the runway. Dr. Arif Smajkic, head of the Bosnian Ministry of Health, said 46 people were killed and 303 wounded in the previous 24 hours of fighting in

Bosnia, including 22 dead and 100 wounded in Sarajevo. Smajkic said the city's main hospital had no water or electricity. Many wounded, mostly soldiers with serious wounds, were being brought in. "It is very critical at this moment," he said. "We need water for operations, and we don't have any." The offensive appeared to be a last-ditch attempt by Bosnian defenders to gain a military advantage before a peace conference on Yugoslavia begins Wednesday in London. The republic's Muslim president, Alija Izetbe-

govic, told reporters that his forces had made headway on the west side, but government military officials gave mixed signals. Izetbegovic said that even if the new offensive failed, his forces would fight on. "Sarajevo shall survive," he said. "We shall fight many, many months more." Izetbegovic planned to attend the peace conference, organized by the European Community and the United Nations. At previous negotiations, his government has refused to talk with representatives of Bosnia's Serbs. Throughout Saturday night and Sunday, explosions and heavy machine-gun fire could

be heard throughout Sarajevo. Shells landed near the main Kosevo hospital in the city center, around government offices and on the west side. A mortar crashed into the second floor of a student hostel in the old city, killing at least two people and wounding several others. One victim remained alive for several minutes after both legs were cut off by a falling wall. His screams faded into deathly quiet, perspiration covered his face, and he was dead by the time he was taken to a hospital.

Bush takes aim at rival from Illinois State Fair

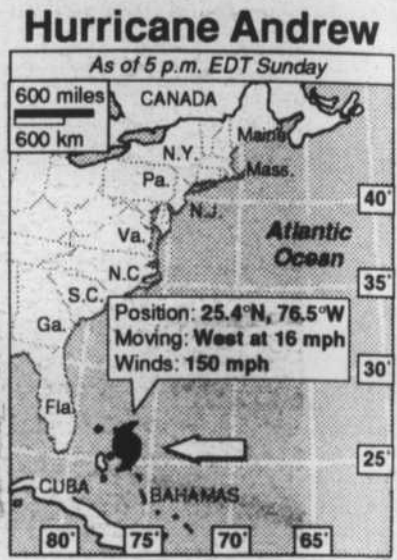
SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — President Bush, opening his campaign in the Midwest, told a cheering Illinois State Fair audience Sunday that Bill Clinton would be a "rubber stamp president that will rubber stamp this spendthrift Congress." "We're not going to let that nightmare happen," Bush shouted, winning thunderous applause from thousands of people at the fairgrounds coliseum. He told reporters that Clinton had started to "whine and complain" in the face of Republican criticism. The Midwest is a key battleground in the presidential race, and Bush — behind in the polls — wasted no time getting here after a two-day swing through the South to tighten his grip on a traditional GOP region. The president is expected to spend a lot of time in the Midwest, and his campaign is considering a whistle-stop train trip. "I am going to do what Harry Truman did," Bush pledged. "In this campaign, no, it's not 'Give 'em hell,' but they're going to think it's hell when I get through with them." On a sweltering summer day, the president inspected a display of tractors and farm equipment, sat down with farm families to eat a pork-chop sandwich and walked down the fairgrounds' midway, pumping hands as he passed by stalls selling french fries, milkshakes, corn dogs and popcorn. He passed a tent of the Illinois Democratic Party and one of its officials, state central committee-woman Shirley McCombs, ac-

knowledgeed, "It's exciting to have the president here." But she said she wouldn't vote for Bush — "no, no, never." White House Chief of Staff Sam Skinner, on his last day on the job, tagged along with the president. Back in Washington, Secretary of State James A. Baker was giving up his title as secretary of state to take over Skinner's job. Despite a lot of anticipation, Bush was silent on a burning issue for Midwest farmers: whether he would grant a waiver for the sale of corn-made ethanol as fuel for cars and trucks. The Environmental Protection Agency proposes to ban its use in polluted cities on grounds that it depletes the ozone. Administration officials said the decision is not ready yet. The coliseum was hot and dusty. "If you'll excuse me one political comment," Bush said, "I have a message for Gov. Clinton. Americans aren't afraid of paying spending and lowering taxes. They fear most of all a rubber stamp president that will rubber stamp this spendthrift Congress." He lashed out at Clinton for saying Bush was distorting his record and was a fearmonger. "Nine months of hammering me — he takes a little, gentle broadside and he starts to whine and complain all the time," the president told reporters. "People don't want that. Compare the ideas: tax and spend versus less taxes and less spending." As for Clinton's record, Bush said: "It's a joke."

Floridians flee from path of hammering hurricane

MIAMI — Hurricane Andrew surged relentlessly Sunday toward southern Florida and forecasters warned it would be the United States' most powerful storm in decades. More than 1 million coastal residents were told to flee. The hurricane ripped into the Bahamas Sunday afternoon with 150 mph winds, heavy rain and surging tide. The outlying eastern islands of Abaco and Eleuthera were hit first. "It's on a dead course for South Florida. I hoped I would never experience this," said Bob Sheets, director of the National Hurricane Center in suburban Coral Gables. "We've not seen anything like this in the past few decades." Gov. Lawton Chiles issued a state of emergency. On Sunday afternoon, Andrew was a Category 4 storm, the same as Hurricane Hugo, with winds of 150 mph. Forecasters expected it to reach Category 5 — the worst — as it crossed the Gulf Stream to Florida. It was expected to hit Florida between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. Monday, said Dan Donahue, a spokesman for the National Guard. Forecasters predicted 156 mph winds would sweep downtown Miami. At 2 p.m. EST Sunday, Andrew's center was near 25.4 north latitude and 75.8 west longitude, just off Eleuthera in the northeastern Bahamas and about 280 miles east of Miami. Hurricane-force winds of at least 74 mph extended out 30 miles from the center, and storm-force winds of at least 39 mph spread out 85 miles.

In the Bahamas, Jimmy Curry, director of production for the Bahamas News Bureau, said he had unconfirmed reports of four deaths on either Abaco or Eleuthera. Newly sworn-in Bahamian Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham urged calm and pleaded with Bahamians to go to shelters. The Tribune in Nassau reported that all tourists were evacuated before the hurricane hit. Hurricane specialist Max Mayfield said two hurricane forecasters had been sent to a backup station in Washington to take over in case the National Hurricane Center — which is in the evacuation zone — loses power. There are records of only two Category 5 hurricanes hitting the United States: Hurricane Camille, which devastated the Mississippi coast in 1969, killing 256 people, and the 1935 Labor Day hurricane that hit the Florida Keys and killed 405 people. Category 5 hurricanes, with winds greater than 155 mph, can cause catastrophic damage. The governor's emergency declaration allowed the mandatory evacuation of more than a million people and put the National Guard and other emergency state agencies on alert. Warnings that Andrew could be stronger than Hurricane Hugo — which left 85 people dead and \$5.9 billion in damage as it swept through the Caribbean and into the Carolinas in 1989



— electrified an already tense atmosphere in the densely populated strip from Miami to Palm Beach County. Residents rushed to secure their homes, hammering up makeshift plywood shutters if they did not have hurricane awnings and moving boats to safe anchorages up the Miami River or pulling them out of the water. Panic buying hit grocery and home-supply stores, money machines were emptied and motorists lined up for gas and headed inland. "I want to go somewhere way west," said 73-year-old Irving Goldberg as he waited to be picked up at a Miami Beach evacuation point. "I want to be out of the area completely."

Clinton slips in polls, calls Republican charge offensive

CHAUTAQUA, N.Y. — Bill Clinton said Sunday that President Bush invoked a "deeply offensive" political ploy in questioning Democrats' commitment to God and said Republicans should be ashamed of their "off the wall" attack linking his values to Woody Allen's. Clinton, counter-attacking as he and running mate Al Gore wrapped up their Rust Belt bus tour, said Republicans were floundering because Democrats had a superior economic plan to put Americans back to work and help raise their children. After arriving in Erie, Pa., early

Sunday, Clinton defended his wife Hillary in the wake of a number of attacks on her by speakers at the Republican National Convention. If President Bush "wants to run against my wife, it's OK with me if he wants to be first lady, but I don't want to live with him," Clinton told a crowd. On Sunday, Housing Secretary Jack Kemp said he believed that some GOP convention speakers had gone "too far" in criticizing Mrs. Clinton. "If she says something that bashes the president or Barbara Bush, she should be taken on," he said on NBC's "Meet The Press."

"But so far as I can tell, she has not," Kemp said. "I don't want to see bashing of anybody's wife. I want us to bash ideas, bash policies, and that's legitimate," he said. In another development, a CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll released Sunday found Clinton ahead of Bush by 10 points — 52 percent to 42 percent — in a survey of 750 registered voters Friday and Saturday. The week before the convention, the poll had Clinton ahead by 19 points — 56 percent to 37 percent. The margins of error were 4 points for the latest poll and 3 points for the earlier one.

And a post-GOP convention poll by The Orange County Register said Bush regained the lead over Clinton in that traditionally Republican area of Southern California. Bush was chosen by 48 percent of those surveyed while Clinton had 38 percent in a poll taken Thursday and Friday, the newspaper said Sunday. The president, talking to evangelical leaders in Dallas, charged that Democrats have all but abandoned God and said he was "struck by the fact that the other party took words to put together their platform but left out three simple letters: G-O-D."

Clinton hit back Sunday after he, Gore and their wives, Hillary and Tipper, attended Methodist church services in Erie, Pa. The four had landed there around 1 a.m. EDT and had found 5,000 people waiting for their bus caravan. Clinton, a lifelong Baptist, seldom misses church. His wife is a Methodist. "The implication that he has made, that Democrats are somehow Godless, is deeply offensive to me, to Sen. Gore and to all of us who cherish our religious convictions but also respect America's tradition of religious diversity," Clinton said.

Fighting intensifies in Afghan capital

KABUL, Afghanistan — Intensified fighting drove the United Nations to evacuate its foreign workers from war-torn Kabul on Sunday. The Islamic government asked the world body to turn over former President Najibullah, who remained in hiding in U.N. offices. Najibullah took refuge in the United Nations compound in the capital in April, after his Soviet-installed government was driven from power by Islamic rebels after a 14-year civil war. Subsequent fighting between rebel

groups has turned the city into a burned-out battlefield. The only U.N. personnel remaining in the U.N. compound on Sunday were Afghans, who did not immediately respond to the government's request that Najibullah be turned over to stand trial on war crimes charges. A spokesman at U.N. headquarters in New York refused comment. Meanwhile, a senior U.N. official in Pakistan announced a \$10 million emergency aid package to get medical supplies to Kabul's hospitals and

food to nearly 100,000 refugees who have fled the city. The fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami group has been raining rockets on Kabul this month in its power struggle with the government. Fighting intensified Sunday when rockets hit residential areas, killing four people and wounding 100, doctors at Kabul's four main hospitals said. Missiles also hit the Pakistani Embassy and the presidential palace. More than a dozen homes near the U.N. Children's Fund office caught fire during shelling.

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