

Milosevic calls for runoff; defeat likely in election

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — Facing the likelihood of defeat, President Slobodan Milosevic sought Monday to force a runoff despite calls from home and abroad to accept the outcome and end his 13 years in power.

The United States and more than a dozen other countries warned Milosevic they would not accept fraudulent claims of victory.

The pro-Western opposition challenger, Vojislav Kostunica, proclaimed victory in Sunday's ballot and demanded the State

Election Commission release the official count.

Kostunica, a 56-year-old law professor, said that if Milosevic tries to tamper with the vote, "We will defend our victory by peaceful means and we will protest for as long as it takes."

In the absence of official results, Milosevic's left-wing coalition insisted Monday that he was ahead in the vote count but not far enough to guarantee that he would avoid a runoff with Kostunica on Oct. 8.

At a news conference, Gorica Gajevic, the general secretary of

Milosevic's party, said that with 37 percent of the ballots counted Milosevic was ahead of Kostunica with 45 percent to Kostunica's 40 percent.

Opposition claims were based on reports from its poll watchers at the country's 10,000 voting stations. All political parties are allowed to have representatives present when votes are counted locally, and the poll watchers may report the results to their national headquarters.

Throughout Europe, the reaction to a possible Milosevic defeat was almost euphoric.

"We will defend our victory by peaceful means, and we will protest for as long as it takes."

Vojislav Kostunica
pro-Western opposition to Milosevic

Milosevic has been blamed for fomenting instability in the Balkans for years, triggering wars in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo.

The European Union said any attempt by Milosevic to claim victory would be "fraudulent," and Italian Foreign

Minister Lamberto Dini warned of "devastating consequences" if Milosevic tries to steal the election.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said Monday that "all the reliable evidence" showed Milosevic had lost and urged the president to step aside.



David Brauchli/NewsMakers

Anti-IMF, World Trade Organization and World Bank protesters shout and wave Monday after unfurling a banner against the International Monetary Fund, WTO and World Bank.

U.S. journalist banned from protests

■ The Socialist Worker reporter can't attend anti-IMF and World Bank meetings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — An American writer for a socialist newspaper became an unlikely focal point Monday in the counterculture war on the IMF and World Bank.

Lee Sustar, a Chicago-based reporter for the Socialist Worker, was barred Sunday from the Czech capital and protests aimed at disrupting International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings.

Sustar said no reason was given, but he suspects it was because he was arrested last year in protests surrounding the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle. He was not charged.

A small crowd gathered outside the international terminal at Prague Ruzyně Airport, holding

banners that said "Open the borders" and "Free Lee Sustar."

Sustar accused Czech President Vaclav Havel of publicly "welcoming a dialogue ... but at the same time, his police forces are using the same oppression measures he knows well from his days as political prisoner under the old regime."

The journalist-activist later left on an afternoon flight to New York, after being stuck overnight in the airport arrivals hall.

Czech authorities have said they are detaining demonstrators at the border if they had arrest records from the Seattle protests, which may lessen the impact of any demonstrations when the bank meetings open Tuesday.

A train carrying more than 500 activists, most of them Italians, rolled into Prague early Monday after being held up all day Sunday at the Austrian border when Czech authorities refused to let several people in, and the people refused to get off

the train.

Organizers have said for weeks they expected up to 20,000 people to take to the streets Tuesday against the World Bank and the IMF. But there were no indications Monday that the numbers would be that high.

An entrepreneur hoping to cash in on a mass influx of demonstrators by setting up a tent city that could house 15,000 people has been forced to scale back his hopes for big profits.

The scene was subdued Monday after more than 1,000 people marched late Sunday to protest the Prague-bound train's being stopped at the border.

Not far from the conference center, about 40 activists from 25 countries held a sit-in Monday to protest oil and gas exploration in what they called environmentally sensitive areas. They accused the World Bank of putting money into projects without regard for any environmental damage.

German museums return artwork to Jewish heirs

■ More than 80 pieces were handed over after a request by the Commission for Art Recovery, set up to recover works stolen during World War II.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN — Two German museums returned more than 80 works of art Monday to a Jewish art lover's heirs decades after they first sought compensation for a collection seized by the Nazis.

At a Berlin ceremony, officials from the Western city of Hanover handed over an oil painting by Lovis Corinth valued at up to \$470,000. The Eastern city of Leipzig returned more than 80 works, mostly drawings and prints by Max Klinger.

The hand-over comes a year after a request to the museums by the Commission for Art Recovery on behalf of the heirs of Leipzig-based publisher Gustav Kirstein. The commission was set up by the World Jewish Congress to help heirs reclaim art treasures stolen from their families during World War II.

"I'm overwhelmed with emotion," said Thekla Stein Nordwind, Kirstein's niece who traveled from the United States for the ceremony. "I never thought we'd see this moment, though it is a bittersweet moment."

Embarrassed by stories such as that of the Kirstein heirs, whose request for compensation was rejected by the authorities in 1964, the German government has urged museums to comb their collections for possible looted art and to publish the details to encourage new claims.

At a 1998 conference in Washington, 44 countries endorsed guidelines intended to push nations, museums, galleries and individuals to re-examine collections and archives in an unprecedented search

Thekla Stein Nordwind
Jewish art-lover's niece

for the lost assets of Holocaust victims.

A follow-up conference is scheduled for Oct. 3 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Other stolen artworks in Poland, Hungary and Germany will be returned to the heirs shortly, said Ronald Lauder, chairman of the Commission for Art Recovery and a former U.S. ambassador to Austria.

Kirstein, a specialist in the color reproduction of artworks, had lost his job under anti-Semitic laws enacted by the Nazis before he died in 1934, leaving his collection to his wife.

She committed suicide five years later after Hitler's secret police confiscated her passport, a day before she was to have followed the couple's two daughters in emigrating to the United States.

The collection, like many possessions of the Jewish families who fled growing Nazi persecution, was seized and auctioned off.

The individual works turned up years later in private collections and museums, including Hanover's Sprengel Museum and the Museum of Plastic Arts in Leipzig.

The Corinth painting is to be exhibited in Germany, the United States and Britain before being auctioned in London next month so that the proceeds can be split between the five heirs.

The fate of the other works has not yet been decided.

Gymnastics all-around winner loses medal after drug test

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYDNEY, Australia — Romania's Andreea Raducan was stripped of her all-around gymnastics gold medal after testing positive for a banned stimulant.

The decision Tuesday (Monday night CDT) to strip the 16-year-old of her medal was made by the International Olympic Committee's executive board, following the recommendation from its medical commission.

The team doctor who gave Raducan the drug in two cold medicine pills was expelled from the games and suspended from the 2002 winter games in Salt Lake and 2004 summer games in Athens.

The decisions were confirmed by Thomas Bach, a member of the IOC's executive board.

Raducan is the first gymnast to be stripped of a medal because of a drug violation and is the second athlete at these games to lose a gold. She is the sixth positive drug case at the Sydney Games.

IOC vice president Kevin Gosper said there was considerable debate among the board members on what action to take, and a difference of opinion among many of them.

"It is a most unusual case," Gosper said. "You have three events, during which the athlete proved to be positive in one. I don't know of any case like that before. It was a long discussion. It was not easy."

Ion Tiriuc, president of Romania's National Olympic Committee, refused to comment immediately after the decision.

The action against Raducan came a day after 330-pound shot put world champion C.J. Hunter, the husband and coach of gold medal sprinter Marion Jones, was identified by world track officials as having tested positive for steroids at a meet in Oslo in July. Hunter is not competing at Sydney.

With Raducan's disqualification, another Romanian, Simona Amanar, gets the gold and teammate Maria Olaru goes from bronze to silver. Liu Xuan of China, the original fourth place finisher, now

gets the bronze medal.

Raducan was allowed to keep her other medals, a gold from the team competition and a silver from the vault.

IOC executive board member Anita DeFrantz said Raducan can remain in the Olympic Village with her team for the rest of the games.

Raducan tested positive for pseudoephedrine, which is on the IOC's list of banned stimulants, Bach said.

Raducan underwent a test after each competition, Bach said. She tested negative after the Romanians won the team gold last Tuesday, but positive after she won the all-around Thursday.

She tested negative after winning a silver in the vault Sunday.

The drug was given to her by a team doctor in two cold medications, Tiriuc said early Tuesday. Raducan took two pills, one containing pseudoephedrine and the second an over-the-counter drug, Tiriuc said.

Romanian officials were told Monday afternoon of the positive test, Tiriuc said, but Raducan competed anyway in the individual floor exercise final that night. She finished seventh out of eight.

Tiriuc said pseudoephedrine is "not at all on the (banned drug) list of the international gymnastics federation but is on the list of the IOC" and had been taken by other athletes. The drug, he said, "is a medicine that is not enhancing but diminishing performance."

Raducan's small stature — 4-foot-10, 82 pounds — contributed to the positive test, he said. He didn't say when she took the medication.

Team coach Octavian Belu threatened to withdraw the entire team from the games, the private Romanian news agency Mediafax reported. He did not attend news conferences following Monday's competition.

Raducan is the fourth athlete to be stripped of a medal because of drugs. Three Bulgarian weightlifters lost their medals, including Izabela Dragnea, the gold medalist in the women's 105-pound event.

World/Nation

The Associated Press

■ Washington, D.C.

Plan would let vehicles drive by White House

It is often called "America's Main Street," but for the last five years, only foot traffic has been allowed on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House. That would change under a plan unveiled Monday.

Officials in the nation's capital said thousands of vehicles could drive past the White House each day without endangering the safety of the president and his family.

President Clinton has expressed a desire to see the street reopened if security concerns can be addressed, said Norton, the district's nonvoting representative to Congress.

■ Washington, D.C.

Report: More gay partners receive health insurance

More employers are offering health insurance coverage to the partners of gay employees, according to a report by the Washington-based Human Rights Campaign.

The study found that 3,572 companies, colleges and states and local governments have offered or announced they will offer health insurance covering their employees' domestic partners. This was up 25 percent from a year ago.

The findings were included in the group's annual "State of the Workplace for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Americans."

■ Jerusalem

City is still downfall of Mideast peace talks

The Israeli and Palestinian leaders met in Israel on Monday, under U.S. pressure to come up with a permanent deal, but there is still little to show after two months of massaging the deal-breaker — Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Yasser Arafat met for three hours late Monday night at Barak's home in the town of Kochav Yair in central Israel.

Barak spokesman Gadi Baltinsky said the meeting, which ended just after midnight, was conducted "in a very good atmosphere and a positive spirit" and described it as an "evaluation and an exchange of views." He said the leaders did not negotiate "specific" issues.

That suggested that they avoided discussion of Jerusalem, the issue that broke up the U.S.-sponsored Camp David talks in July. Aside from an exchanged greeting or two at the U.N. Millennium Summit earlier this month, the two have not met since.

■ Cuba

Thousands protest outside U.S. mission

HAVANA — Thousands of people answered the communist government's call to crowd outside the U.S. mission Monday and protest immigration policies it blames for last week's dramatic departure of a group of Cubans aboard a stolen plane.

President Fidel Castro presided over the rally, which began with a rendition of the Cuban National Anthem by a military band.

Corrections

Because of an editing error, Republican vice presidential candidate Dick Cheney was misidentified in a front-page photo Monday.

Because of a reporting error, the address of a University Park apartment building, 4300 Holdrege St., was wrong in a front-page photo caption Monday. A car crashed into the building Sunday.

Weather

TODAY

Partly sunny
high 78, low 50

TOMORROW

Partly cloudy
high 73, low 47

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