

World and Nation

Anti-Noriega strike fails in Panama

From Associated Press reports

PANAMA CITY, Panama — A general strike called by opponents of Panama's military regime faltered Monday, with transportation and most commerce proceeding uninterrupted.

But the strike, called to press for the resignation of strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, appeared somewhat more effective in industry. Intimidation, censorship and an apparent lack of faith in the effectiveness of mass action conspired against the strike's success. The fact that Monday was payday also hurt the strike call.

"There's fear," said a middle-aged bank employee as he stepped from a bus early Monday. "We lack unity to confront these people who have all the arms."

"The people don't have means to resist," said a female domestic employee who was walking with him. Like all those asked, they spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Noriega, commander of the Defense Forces, has been charged in the United States with involvement in the smuggling of Colombian cocaine and with allowing narcotics traffickers to launder profits in Panamanian banks.

Last week President Eric Arturo Delvalle ordered him to resign. But on Friday, Noriega engineered a vote in the National Assembly, dismissing Delvalle.

Delvalle fled from house arrest Saturday and remained in hiding Monday, defying Noriega's order that he leave the country.

Along downtown's Central Avenue on Monday, more than 80 percent of the stores were open. Some businesses kept shutters or security grates pulled down over show windows, but their doors were open and clients came and went.

Some Panamanian banks were closed, but international banks were open, as were government offices.

The strike call was issued Friday by the National Civic Crusade, an alliance of 200 political, labor, professional and business groups that has been campaigning since June for Noriega's ouster. Opposition leaders say they want the strike to last until Noriega steps down.

After his dismissal by the Legislative Assembly, Delvalle also called for a nationwide strike.

Opening his shop downtown, the

owner of a candy store said he did not support the strike because he distrusts the Civic Crusade.

"It's not that we support Noriega," he said. "But who are these others? Oligarchs who robbed Panama for 60 years."

He said Noriega's regime was "corrupt, like all governments. But it has understood better than previous governments the needs of the small businessman. I prefer to remain with a known evil than risk myself with these others."

Panama Canal authorities said operation of the waterway was "completely normal."

The stoppage was supported by the Industrial Workers' Union of Panama and most factories in the industrial zone were closed.

Iranian news agency reports 16 dead in hospital bombing

From Associated Press reports

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Iraq said it retaliated for pre-dawn missile attacks on Baghdad by firing long-range rockets into the heart of Tehran Monday. Iran reported 16 people killed in the bombing of a hospital.

The official Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, said its gunners fired five surface-to-surface missiles into Tehran after two similar projectiles had exploded in Baghdad, killing and wounding "many civilians."

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency, also monitored in Nicosia, said in urgent dispatches that "two loud explosions" were heard after nightfall in Tehran and "there may have been casualties and damage."

Shultz awaits response on plan

JERUSALEM — Secretary of State George Shultz neared the end of a peace mission Monday with inconclusive responses from Israel and the Arabs on his plan for negotiations this year on a Middle East settlement.

Final word from Jordan, the key Arab country, awaited a meeting Tuesday with King Hussein in London, but the king clearly was no longer pressing the Palestine Liberation Organization to form a joint delegation.

Israel was divided between Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's conservative Likud bloc, which opposes the Shultz idea of trading land for peace, and the center-right Labor Party of Foreign Minister

News in Brief

Shimon Peres, which favors it.

Anti-drug conference begins

WASHINGTON — Nancy Reagan said Monday that casual users of drugs are an "accomplice to murder" because they help finance traffickers willing to commit brutal crimes to keep supply lines open.

Kicking off a White House Conference for a Drug-Free America at which the federal government's anti-drug efforts were criticized, Mrs. Reagan dramatized her "just say no" campaign with a speech focusing on those whose lives have been ruined by drugs.

"With all the headlines about how we're losing the drug war, let's keep in mind the progress we've made," President Reagan told conference participants at a local hotel as a warmup to Mrs. Reagan's speech.

"But as significant as stopping smugglers and pushers is, ending the demand for drugs is how, in the end, we'll win," the president said.

Mrs. Reagan picked up the subject there, saying that while progress has been made, "many ignorant ideas persist. And one of the worst is the casual user's justification that drug use is a victimless crime, that drugs don't hurt anyone except the person who's using them."

Governor's impeachment trial begins

From Associated Press reports

PHOENIX, Ariz. — The Arizona Senate on Monday opened the first impeachment trial of a governor in six decades, while an attorney for Gov. Evan Mecham implored it to reject the charges against the first-term Republican.

"This man hasn't dipped his hands into public funds," attorney Jerris Leonard said. "He hasn't ripped off the treasury. He hasn't committed high crimes in office, and I urge you to dismiss these articles of impeachment."

Attorney Paul Eckstein, one of the prosecutors, responded that even if it turned out that Mecham didn't

violate state laws, his conduct would be "grossly offensive to the people of this state."

"The articles of impeachment . . . cry out for conviction," Eckstein said. He urged speedy resolution of a raft of pending motions to allow testimony to begin.

Mecham, who was not required to be present when the senators convened, stayed at the suburban Glendale offices of his "government in exile," and an aide said he wasn't sure Mecham watched the proceedings on television.

Mecham spent the morning meeting with supporters, spokesman Tanner Brown said.

His absence was not mentioned during the proceedings on the Senate floor.

Mecham, a 63-year-old auto dealer who won the election after five tries, is accused of "high crimes, misdemeanors and malfeasance in office."

Twenty-three articles of impeachment approved by the state House alleged three broad areas of misdeeds. The articles said Mecham concealed a \$350,000 campaign loan, wrongly loaned \$80,000 from his protocol fund to his car dealership and obstructed justice by discouraging a public official from cooperating in the investigation of an alleged death threat to a grand jury witness.

If convicted by the Senate, Mecham would be removed from office and could be permanently barred from holding elective office.

He is the first U.S. governor to be impeached since 1929, when Huey Long of Louisiana and Henry Johnston of Oklahoma were impeached. Long was never tried; Johnston was removed.

Mecham also faces a March 22 criminal trial on six felony charges of concealing the campaign loan and a May 17 recall election.

Mecham, a political outsider, has drawn criticism for comments which critics considered slurs against blacks, homosexuals, Jews and Japanese.

South African police arrest religious leaders in peace protest

From Associated Press reports

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other religious leaders from all races were arrested Monday while kneeling near Parliament with a petition against government bans on anti-apartheid groups.

Members of a procession Tutu and his colleagues had led recited the Lord's Prayer as police sprayed them with jets of water and loaded them into vans.

All the detainees were freed in a few hours and the churchmen said

they would continue protests regardless of the consequences. Their petition referred to an order last Wednesday prohibiting political activity by 18 major anti-apartheid organizations.

Riot police blocked Tutu and two dozen other clergymen who were wearing robes and holding Bibles, as they tried to march toward Parliament from nearby St. George's Cathedral, the main Anglican church in central Cape Town.

They knelt and linked arms as a policeman called through a bullhorn

that the gathering was illegal. Officers escorted the protesters into vans as others aimed jets from water cannons at scores of protesters who remained on the sidewalk praying and singing an African hymn.

After being told at a police station that charges might be filed later, the white, black, mixed-race and Indian clergymen were freed. They held a news conference at St. George's, which was surrounded by policemen.

"We are not defying the law," said Tutu, the black foe of apartheid who

won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize. "We are obeying God. We also obey God every day."

"In the past, it was possible for people to say it was the usual rabble-rousers demonstrating. They can't say it anymore. It's the church."

The Rev. Allan Boesak, mixed-race president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, said the white authorities would view the protest as "an act of subversion."

"We told the South African government that we had decided we would be obedient to God," he said.

"That is a higher law to us."

In the petition addressed to President P.W. Botha and Parliament, the churchmen said in part: "No matter the consequences, we will explore every possible avenue for continuing the activities which you have prohibited other bodies from taking."

The Rev. Khoza Mgojo, head of the Methodist Church, said the petition would be mailed to Botha. The document was drenched in the confrontation.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said the United States

condemns "the forceful repression of peaceful demonstrators. By criminalizing and suppressing the exercise of basic political and human rights, the South African government is shutting off avenues for nonviolent change."

Two American diplomats attended a service Tutu conducted at St. George's before the march, the U.S. Embassy said.

At the service, Tutu and other ministers said churches would continue the work of the banned organizations against apartheid.

News agency reports violence in Soviet Union

From Associated Press reports

MOSCOW — "Hooligans" went on a rampage in a city in Azerbaidzhan, Tass reported Monday. An Armenian dissident said "thugs" beat and knifed Armenians as the ethnic hatred kindled by a territorial dispute spread in the Caucasus republics.

A Soviet deputy prosecutor general said over the weekend that two people

in another region of Azerbaidzhan had been killed in "disorders" sparked by Armenian demands that a part of Azerbaidzhan be reattached to the republic.

Street demonstrations, in which some witnesses said more than 1 million people participated, took place in the Armenian capital of Yerevan last week to call for the annexation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region in Azerbaidzhan, whose 157,000 inhabitants are mostly Armenian.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev appealed Friday to the people of Armenia and Azerbaidzhan for "civic maturity," but state-run media reports and accounts reaching dissident circles in Moscow on Monday indicated he had failed to quell the

dispute.

The official Tass news agency said a "group of hooligans provoked disturbances" Sunday in the industrial city of Sumgait, 1,150 miles south of Moscow on the Caspian Sea.

The Tass dispatch on the unrest in Sumgait was the first official report of civil disturbances in the Soviet Union since it reported that 3,000 people rioted in Alma Ata, capital of the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan, in December 1986. Two people died and hundreds were injured in those riots.

Tass gave no indication what led to the violence in Sumgait, a chemical and steelmaking center that is Azerbaidzhan's most important industrial city after its capital, Baku.

A Moscow-based dissident said the

disturbance was sparked by tensions between Azerbaidzhan's dominant ethnic group, the Azeris and Armenians. Azeris are predominantly Moslem, while Armenians are predominantly Christian.

"Thugs in Sumgait went up to people and asked them if they were Armenian or not," said Sergei Grigoyants, who is of Armenian origin. "They started to beat up people who said they were Armenian. Several people were knifed."

Grigoyants, who said he had received information on the unrest from sources in Yerevan, said apparently no one was killed in the Sunday fracas. He said "several dozen" Azeris reportedly were involved in the attacks.

Candidates visit N.C. campuses

From staff reports

Presidential campaigns invade the Triangle today as Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas speaks at the Bryan Center at Duke University at 8 a.m., former Sen. Albert Gore Sr. meets with students in the Pit at 12:15 p.m. after teaching a political science class and former

Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado appears in Great Hall at 2 p.m.

Dole will speak for 45 minutes on a variety of campaign issues, followed by a press conference. Hart will speak for 30 minutes, with time to meet with students and press afterward, before going to eat dinner on Franklin Street.

Chief

from page 1

interim chief.

"He is a sensitive, people-oriented man who is in touch with the community," Taylor said.

Mayor Jonathan Howes said the selection of Gold was a timely move. Naming Gold as police chief removes any uncertainty in the department

and will help clarify responsibilities in the department, Howes said.

"I think the town has made a good choice," Howes said. "Gold has done a good job as acting chief and is a top-level professional."

Taylor said the search for a director of public safety, who will oversee both the police and fire departments, will continue.

The director will be responsible for more than 40 public safety personnel and their training. He will also coordinate community education services concerning fire and crime prevention, Taylor said.

"The naming of a permanent police chief is consistent with our objectives for the public safety program and I am very confident in Arnold Gold's abilities," Taylor said.

A formal swearing-in ceremony for Gold will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 3, in the Chapel Hill Municipal Building located on Airport Road. The ceremony is open to the public.

Parking from page 1

"There are many problems with the transit system," Sipe said. "The buses stop running at very early hours and they don't run to all the places they should."

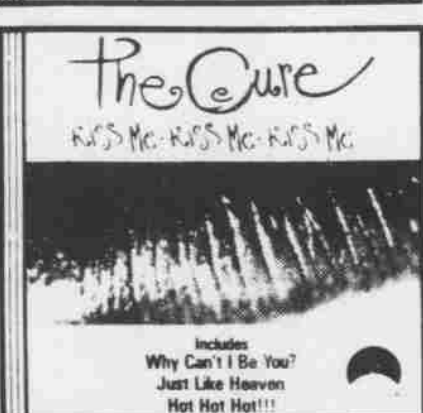
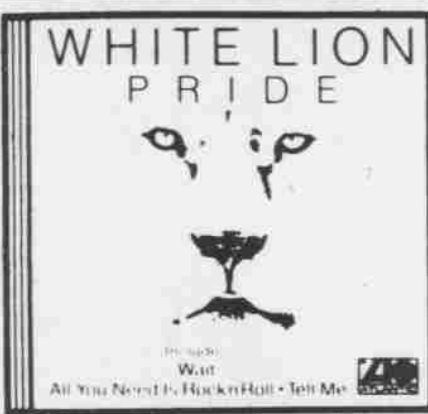
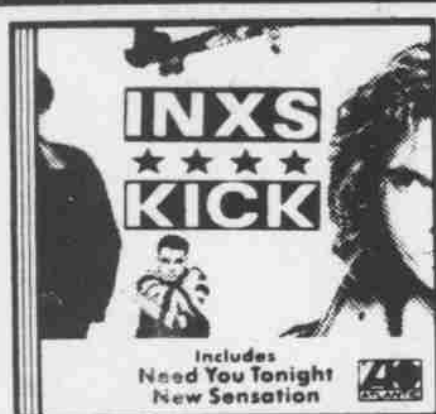
Claude Swecker, associate vice chancellor for facility management, said the price increases were necessary.

"If we want to continue to provide parking and the transit system, these increases are necessary," he said. "They are the only source of revenue the parking service has."

Lawrence Slikin, alumni distinguished professor in physics and astronomy, said that instead of raising parking prices, the Rams Club (Educational Foundation) should be required to pay for University parking during athletic events.

The Rams Club thinks it shouldn't have to pay for parking because it built lots on South Campus, Slikin said.

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