

news roundup

from the associated press wire

World

Ankara judge says Libyans plotted to kill American

A prosecutor in Turkey is saying what US officials have suspected all along — that the Libyan embassy in Ankara was involved in an alleged plot to bomb a US officers' club. Two Libyans were arrested near the club earlier this month. Turkish authorities say the pair were carrying six grenades, and those grenades, the authorities charge, were provided by Libyan Embassy personnel. (AP)

Soviets acknowledge nuclear power-plant accident

The Soviet Union said yesterday afternoon that one of its nuclear power plants in the Ukrainian city of Chernobyl suffered a radiation leak yesterday. The Soviets are administering aid to those who were affected by the radiation. The report came after Swedish officials said some high radiation levels in eastern Sweden were believed to have resulted from radiation carried by winds from the Soviet Union.

The Soviets have built four 1000-megawatt nuclear reactors at the Chernobyl site since 1977. TASS, the Soviet news agency, says the accident is the first in the USSR, although experts in the West believe there was a major accident 28 years ago in the Ural mountains. The accident is believed to have killed hundreds of people and contaminated a wide area. (AP)

US dollar falls against foreign currencies

The US dollar hit a five-year low against the West German mark and a four-year low against the Swiss franc in European trading yesterday after sinking to a post-World War II low against the Japanese yen in Tokyo.

Foreign exchange dealers say the dollar's slide against all major currencies in Europe was triggered by its fall in Tokyo, where the markets close as Europe's open. The yen's strength stems from Japan's big trade surplus with the West and should put Japan in a strong negotiating position when the Western industrial powers summit opens in Tokyo on May 4. (AP)

Abu Nidal claims responsibility for killing in Jerusalem

A group headed by Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal is claiming responsibility for Wednesday's shooting death of a British tourist in Jerusalem. Abu Nidal is the man blamed by the United States for the December massacres at the Rome and Vienna airports. (AP)

Nation

Reagan travels to Pacific basin

President Reagan left Hawaii yesterday for Southeast Asia. The President will travel to Bali, Indonesia, with a refueling stop in Guam along the way. When Reagan goes to Indonesia, he will meet with Philippine Vice President Salvador Laurel. The meeting will be Reagan's first face-to-face session with a representative of the Aquino government. (AP)

US economy shows positive signs

The federal government reported yesterday that non-farm productivity rose a healthy 3.4 percent in the first quarter of 1986. It was the sharpest quarterly gain in two years. Productivity is measured by the output of workers for an hour's day. Its growth is considered an essential tool for holding down inflation. The US Labor Department reports that businesses increased their first-quarter output by four percent, while hourly labor costs went up by only 2.4 percent. (AP)

Supreme Court rules on mentally retarded patient

The US Supreme Court yesterday let stand lower court rulings in a case involving a 19-year-old mentally retarded man and the state of Massachusetts. The bottom line is that Massachusetts officials must continue providing free residential-school education for the man, who is a victim of Down's Syndrome. The state had argued that the order required them to go too far in accommodating the special needs of handicapped students.

In other action, the Supreme Court rejected a challenge to a Santa Barbara, California ordinance that prohibits sleeping in public places. The court, without comment, refused to hear arguments on behalf of 29 homeless people who have contended that the ordinance violates their freedom to travel and their right to self-protection. (AP)

Educational reform to motivate students, teachers

American educators are now focusing on improving the atmosphere in schools rather than tightening competency requirements for students or teachers. 200 educators met to mark the third anniversary of the "A Nation at Risk" report and concluded that lack of motivation in students and teachers is the root of the "rising tide of mediocrity" the commission reported in 1983. (*The New York Times*)

United Methodist bishops denounce nuclear weapons

A panel of bishops of the United Methodist Church approved a pastoral letter condemning any use of nuclear arms, and linking the arms race to rising social injustice and global poverty. The letter will reach the Church's 9.4 million members in the United States. (*The New York Times*)

Where is middle America?

The Census Bureau reports the demographic center of the United States is now located in west-central Washington County, Missouri. The new center of the US population is about 20 miles west and ten miles south of the population center determined by the 1980 census. That continues the westward trend that's been observed in every census since 1790. (AP)

Deaver wants name cleared

Reagan's former deputy chief of staff Michael Deaver says he wants a special prosecutor to look into allegations that he has violated conflict-of-interest laws since leaving the White House to become a lobbyist. A few days ago, President Reagan said it would be "ridiculous" to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Deaver. Attorney General Edwin Meese said he will not get involved in any Justice Department review involving Deaver, since Meese and Deaver have known each other for over 20 years. (AP)

Local

Boston plane turns up no terrorists

An Eastern Airlines flight for Washington yesterday morning was recalled to Logan Airport after an agitated woman passenger left the plane just moments before departure time. Eastern flight 139 returned to Logan Airport shortly after takeoff, according to Massport spokeswoman Dee Clarke. An estimated 128 passengers were evacuated and the plane was searched as a precaution. The plane was eventually released and took off again with its passengers nearly two hours after its scheduled time. (AP)

Task force focuses on border murders

A special New Hampshire-Vermont task force investigating possible links in murders along their borders will focus on four of the deaths. Assistant Attorney General Robert Muh of New Hampshire said there is no concrete evidence that any of the killings are linked, but that no matter how many killers there are, they are still free and may kill again.

Muh said the deaths the group will focus on include those of two women whose bodies were found in woods in the same section of Newport, who disappeared in 1984. They were 27-year-old Ellen Fried of Claremont, whose remains were found in September, and 17-year-old Bernice Courtemanche, whose skeletal remains were found last weekend. (AP)

Sports

Rangers win Patrick Division title and advance to Stanley Cup semifinals

The New York Rangers skated past the Washington Capitals to become the first NHL team to advance to the semifinals. The Rangers, who have not captured the Cup since 1940, won three straight games to take the series 4-2. New York will play the winner of the Montreal-Hartford series. The Canadiens and the Whalers are tied 3-3, with the final game tonight in Montreal.

In hockey's other Cinderella story, the Calgary-Edmonton series will be going down to the wire — the two-time Stanley Cup champion Oilers avoided elimination last night, defeating the Flames 5-2 in Calgary. The St. Louis-Toronto series will also be decided in seven games. The Maple Leafs, down 3-2 in the series, remained alive by defeating the Blues 5-3 last night. Winners of the two series will play in the semifinals. (AP)

Celtics resume series with Hawks tonight

The Boston Celtics and Atlanta Hawks resume their second-round NBA playoff series at the Boston Garden tonight. The Celtics shut down NBA scoring champion Dominique Wilkins Wednesday and won the first game, 103-91. Celtics Coach K. C. Jones pulled the starters from the game early in the fourth quarter with the Celtics holding a 25-point lead. Milwaukee starts action against Philadelphia tonight.

In the West, the Lakers have a one game lead over Dallas, and Houston leads Denver by one. (AP)

NFL draft to be held today

The 28 teams of the National Football League will meet today to draft the best talent from the ranks of college football. (AP)

Weather

Looking for a clear sky

Things are looking better for us in Boston. The stubborn low pressure system to our southwest is finally losing some of its intensity. Its circulation has brought us the cool moist flow from off the ocean which we have been experiencing during the past few days. I expect this to end, finally, with perhaps more sunshine than clouds today.

Tuesday: Partly sunny with highs 60-65. Temperatures will be cooler along the coast with an afternoon sea breeze. Winds will be easterly at 10-15 mph.

Tuesday night: A few clouds with lows near 50. Winds will be light and variable.

Wednesday: After early morning cloudiness, our skies will clear. High temperatures will be 60-65.

Wednesday night: Fair with lows near 50.

Thursday: Increasing cloudiness with highs near 60.

Forecast by Robert X. Black

Compiled by Anu Vedantham
Earl C. Yen