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Wednesday, February 19th



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Candidates compete for votes

Political traffic intensifies on eve of presidential primary

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Democratic presidential rivals roamed southern New Hampshire on Monday in a holiday hunt for votes, while President Bush phoned in a White House defense against his conservative challenger.

The political traffic was heavy on the eve of Tuesday's New Hampshire presidential primary election, the first balloting of 1992.

While Bush was being interviewed by telephone on radio station WFEA in Manchester, Patrick Buchanan, his GOP challenger, was waiting on hold.

The polls begin opening at 6 a.m. Tuesday. The pollsters rated Paul Tsongas, the former senator from Massachusetts, the late leader in the five-man Democratic field, with Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton running second.

Bush held a hefty lead in GOP polling. Both sides said he'd win, but Buchanan sought to come close enough to send the White House and the party a message of conservative rebellion.

"I'd love to win," Democrat Tsongas said.

"I'm going to force the Democratic Party to once and for all take that useless rhetoric, cast it aside... and let's have a partnership of labor and management

and government so the average person in this country can have a job, provide for their family and look to a future that's viable," he said in Portsmouth.

Clinton staged a dozen stops in his final sprint of a race in which he'd been rated the leader before the controversies over a woman's claims of an affair with him and over his Vietnam-era draft status.

"The president has finished his mission," Clinton said. "He is yesterday's man. He offers us no real hope and vision for the future."

Sen. Bob Kerrey of Nebraska said he expects to do well because New Hampshire voters are beginning to realize that he's not a single issue candidate despite his emphasis on national health insurance. "National health insurance for me is a beginning, a beginning of fundamental change in the United States," he told a health care forum in Concord.

He and Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa were ranked well behind Tsongas and Clinton in the polls. The loser between them may have trouble raising the funds and gaining the backing to go on into the most costly campaign states to come.

"We are ready to go national better than any other candidate," Harkin told campaign workers at his Concord headquarters. At the

Allenstown town hall, he said the Democrat who would win with current economic policies just fine tune it. "We want for any tax breaks for the trickle down," he said.

Harkin has been slapping other Democrats in campaign speeches and commercials. Kerrey said that may hurt Iowan. "I hope so," he told a record news conference. "He come Hulk Hogan in this campaign and I hope it's back to

Former California Gov. Brown scoffed at Sunday's polite debate among the Democrats. "It's like this sustained bubble, some kind of Show," he said. "You sit there they pop these little questions"

Gov. Mario Cuomo has been the object of a draft movement that is campaigning for votes in New Hampshire.

"We are suggesting this could be in this race in four weeks," said Don Rose, poll director of the campaign that Cuomo did not authorize, but he discouraged.

Cuomo said in a Sunday interview that he wished he had run in New Hampshire. He would be campaigning here for a New York state budget passage. Rose called it a clear Cuomo still wants to run.

Lebanon prepares for attack

Continued from Page 1

the occupied territories.

In south Lebanon, security sources said 150 elite Lebanese Army commandos in armored personnel carriers arrived in the region and joined 11,000 troops already deployed. They fanned out in the Zahrani area, 12 miles north of Israel's self-styled security zone in south Lebanon.

That suggested the reinforcements were meant for monitoring supply and communications routes of Shiite militants between forward positions and concentrations to the north. Also, their presence would help check quickly any sectarian tensions that might be kindled by developments.

A general protest strike called by Hezbollah closed schools, shops and businesses in Muslim areas in the south and in Beirut. Life was normal in Lebanon's Christian regions.

The Israeli attacks Sunday on the Palestinian refugee camps were in apparent retaliation for an Arab raid on an army camp in Israel early Saturday. Three soldiers were hacked to death and a fourth wounded.

Israel blamed Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah guerrilla faction for the assault, and on Monday a Fatah faction, the Black Panthers, claimed responsibility, in a leaflet circulated in the West Bank.

Israel did not directly raid on Musawi in the attack, but many in the army camp, but many welcomed it as a show of strength and resolve after soldiers were caught unaware. Military officials also called the raid on Musawi a warning to groups that strike at Israel.

Iran, Hezbollah's bankroller, denounced the raid of Musawi.

President Hashemi Rafsanjani in a statement carried by Tas Radio, also called on Muslims "to be logical and reasonable."

Rafsanjani has been trying to improve ties with the West in order to rejuvenate Iran's flagging economy.

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