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**FORECAST**



Partly cloudy with highs in the mid-70s

**OPINION**

Even honesty (from Congress) would be a nice change of pace

-Jon DeShazo  
Battalion columnist  
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**INSIDE**

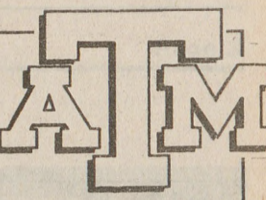
**HEALTH TIPS:**  
Beutel Health Center offers advice on use of caffeine



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**SPORTS**

Longhorns extend SWC lead after two victories over A&M



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# The Battalion

Vol. 91 No. 114 College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" 12 Pages Monday, March 23, 1992

## Ruler seeks to ease Tatarstan's fears, reaffirms tie to Yeltsin

KAZAN, Russia (AP) - Tatarstan's president, in seeking to allay fears that his region's overwhelming vote for independence could help splinter the Russian Federation, said Sunday he will move swiftly to reaffirm ties with Boris Yeltsin's government.

"Our first step will be to announce a tighter union with Russia, to strengthen and intensify ties, to create new relations with a reformed Russia," President Mintimer Shaimiyev said in an interview with The Associated Press.

He spoke a day after citizens of the region voted nearly 2-1 in favor of declaring Tatarstan a sovereign state.

The referendum raised fears that the so-called "autonomous republic" of 3.7 million people would secede from Russia, starting a process that could unravel the Federation's patchwork of ethnic homelands.

The Russian government has refused to accept the Tatarstan referendum, which was declared unconstitutional by a Russian court and strongly opposed by Yeltsin.

Shaimiyev said previously that the region, 500 miles east of Moscow, was simply trying to gain control of its oil and other natural resources to benefit its own people.

He contended Sunday that the referendum could save Russia - rather than destroy it - if Yeltsin's government took the opportunity to grant real autonomy to territories that have been autonomous in name only.

Tatarstan's prime minister, Mukhamat Sabirov, said in a separate interview Sunday that "it is impossible to maintain the unity of Russia by force."

The only way to preserve the Russian Federation is for Moscow to negotiate new relationships with its constituent territories, he said.

A Tatar separatist leader, Marat Mulyukov, told reporters Sunday that Tatarstan should now receive diplomatic recognition, join the United Nations and

become a full-fledged member of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The huge Russian republic, stretching across 11 time zones from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean, dwarfs and completely encircles Tatarstan - a territory the size of West Virginia.

But Russian leaders fear that if Tatarstan tries to break away, so will many of the 16 other "autonomous" regions - such as Karelia on the Finnish border, Tuva on the Chinese border and Yakutia in eastern Siberia.

## Jet crashes in storm; at least 13 people die

Pilot aborts takeoff, plane slides into bay

NEW YORK (AP) - A USAir commuter jet carrying 47 people crashed in a snowstorm Sunday after an aborted takeoff from La Guardia Airport, coming to rest partly in the waters of Flushing Bay. Police said at least 13 people were killed.

An eyewitness said the plane left the ground, then fell back and burst into a "huge fireball" before sliding part way into the water.

Radio reports said rescue divers were in the water for survivors.

USAir Flight 405, bound for Cleveland carrying 47 passengers and four crew members, skidded down the runway at about 9:30 p.m., said fire department spokesman Jerry Sanford.

The plane caught fire and was half submerged in the water, he said.

Police Department Lt. Robert Nardoza confirmed eight people were dead. Survivors, many of them burned, were being taken to hospitals.

Snow had been falling since about 5 p.m.

The aircraft was an F-28 4000 commuter jet, USAir spokesman John Bronson said in a tape-recorded message.

Witness Patrick Silver said the plane lifted off briefly, then slammed back down onto the runway, bursting into flames.

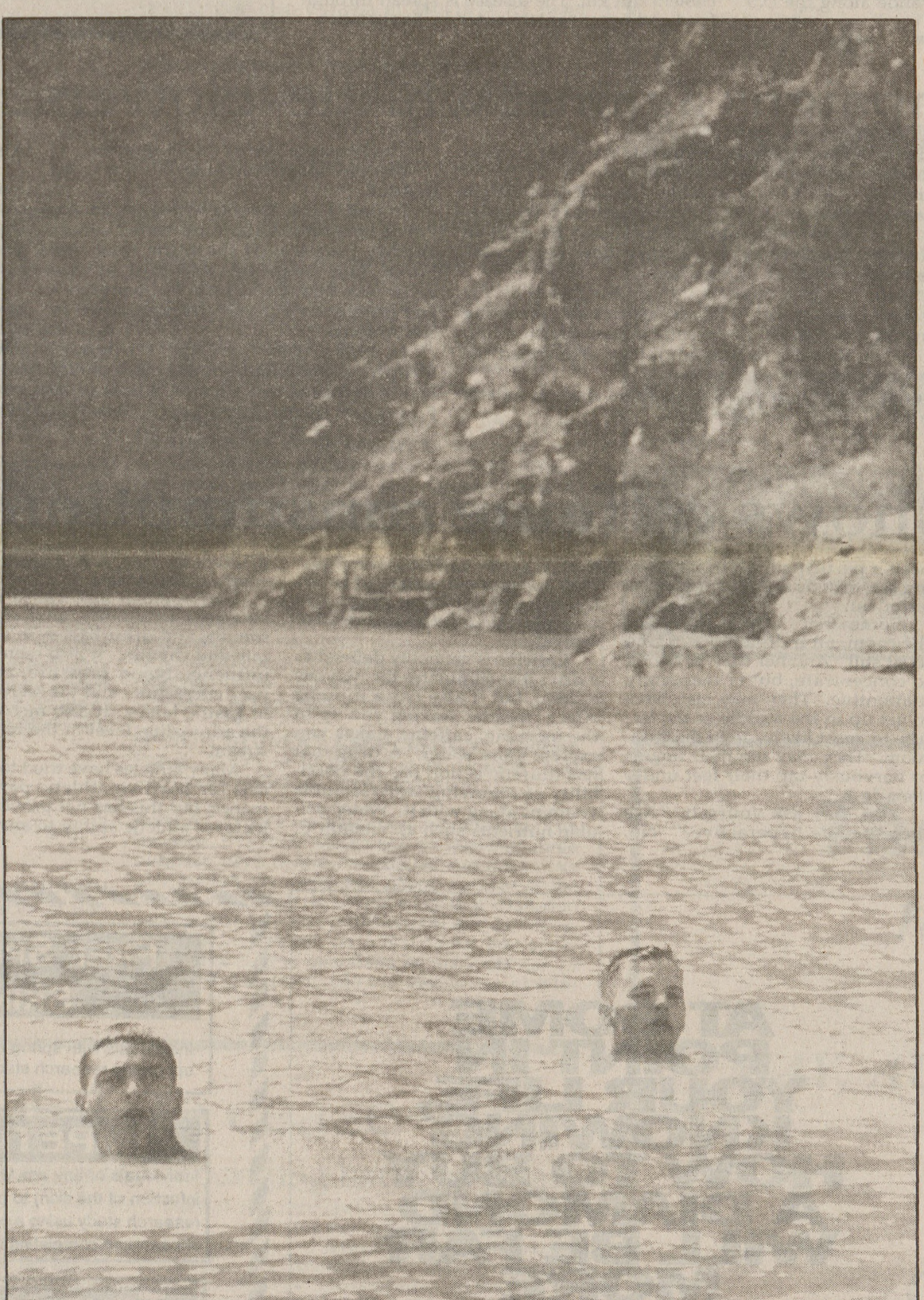
"It catapulted three or four times before it went into the water," Silver said. "It lit up the living room. It was a huge fireball."

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Fred Farrar described the plane as a "relatively small two-engine jet with both engines on the rear of the fuselage."

It was the second time in three years a plane has skidded off a runway at La Guardia. Both times they were USAir flights.

On Sept. 20, 1989, USAir Flight 5050 bound for Charlotte, N.C., skidded off the end of a runway into the East River and broke into several pieces in an aborted takeoff.

Two people were killed in that accident.



## Floating heads

Craig Sicola (left) and Brian Tripplehorn swim across the Rio Grande River just below Santa Elena Canyon in Big Bend National Park. They swam across the river to get to Mexico.

## Clinton defends wife, integrity

### Democratic candidates launch assault; Brown attacks opponent's credibility

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP) - Democratic presidential front-runner Bill Clinton defended his wife and his integrity Sunday as he and rival Jerry Brown duelled over the airwaves and across Connecticut in preparation for their first head-to-head showdown.

Clinton kept his focus on President Bush, saying Connecticut and other states that rely heavily on military work were "about to be blindsided" by defense cuts because Bush had no plan for converting to a civilian economy.

"No other nation would consider the kinds of cuts we are about to have in defense without a plan for what these people will be able to do," the Arkansas governor told a community meeting in Bridgeport, an impoverished city that filed for bankruptcy last year.

But during a national television appearance, Clinton was peppered with questions about his integrity, and Brown used a separate television interview and his later events to attack Clinton.

Brown said Clinton's Arkansas administration "will go down in

the history books for what not to do in American politics. It either comes out now or George Bush and his samurai warriors make mincemeat of Mr. Clinton."

Clinton, interviewed on NBC's "Meet the Press," dismissed such suggestions.

"I have been subjected to attacks in the press that are unprecedented for anybody running for president," Clinton said. "I don't have any reservations about the strength of my character or my ability to be president."

Both Democrats headed from New York television studios to a day of campaigning in Connecticut, including a joint appearance at a church anti-violence rally with Jesse Jackson - where Jackson was greeted with chants of "Run Jesse Run" by the predominantly black audience.

Jackson stole the show from the Democratic candidates, leading a spirited sermon in which he denounced the grip of drugs, violence and decaying families on America's inner cities.

## Re-election team stresses repairing president's image

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush's re-election team sees a race against Democrat Bill Clinton as a battle against a resilient candidate with untapped vulnerabilities. But first, the campaign has to shore up the president's faltering image.

Campaign officials insist that Clinton's emergence as Bush's likely opponent will not change Bush's primary campaign strategy for several weeks.

"Our approach is going to be to focus on the president and his record and his plans," said Charles Black, a top Bush strategist.

That does not mean researchers are not gathering information on Clinton.

"It's really a race to see who can define themselves first... then you can start defining the other guy," said aides.

With the persistent "protest vote" dogging him in primaries, the Bush team is well aware it must do a better job of portraying Bush as capable of pulling the nation out of economic doldrums.

At the same time, the president is expected to underscore subtly his areas of accomplishment in unspoken contrast with Clinton's perceived shortcomings - i.e. foreign policy leadership.

"We have in mind to do that at some point," said Black. "We don't need to specifically reference him. If we do our job, it doesn't matter what he does."

Bush used that approach against GOP primary rival Patrick Buchanan. Without mentioning his opponent's name, he railed against the perils of protectionism and attacked bigotry in general, highlighting two of Buchanan's weak points.

## Grocery store plans to 'check out'

By Alysia Woods  
The Battalion

One of four AppleTree grocery stores in the area will check out its last customer this Saturday as the store permanently closes its doors.

The store, located on 1010 Texas Avenue in Bryan, is one of several stores in a chain owned by AppleTree Markets, Inc.

The decision, which was made by store executives in Houston, reflected a combination of factors said Dan Feldman, assistant store manager for the College Station AppleTree.

"It had to do with the lease agreement and, also, the overall condition of the store," he said.

The building is owned by Weingarten's, a chain that housed a Weingarten's store there before leasing the building to AppleTree.

Feldman said the recent openings of other grocery stores in the area, such as Randall's, Albertson's and H.E.B. Pantry Foods, probably did not help matters.

"You could definitely tell a difference when they came to town," he said.

There are approximately 40 employees at the store. Most will

be transferred to the other three stores in the area, Feldman said. Two stores are located in Bryan and one is in College Station.

"They'll take care of them," he said.

Mada Tyer has worked at the location for thirty years, when it was Weingarten's and through the change to AppleTree. Tyer, a cashier, said the employees who have been there the longest will have a stronger chance of getting an equivalent position in another AppleTree store.

"It's sad to see the store close and I've worked with these people a long time," she said. "We'll just have to see what works out."

## Bush, Kohl end informal talks

### U.S., German leaders agree to open global trade discussions

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl wrapped up a week-end of informal talks Sunday by reiterating their resolve to break the deadlock on global trade talks.



Helmut Kohl

Kohl said a new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is "of paramount importance for the world economy."

"Obviously, when we talk about compromise, it means both sides have to move," Kohl said in alluding to the U.S.-European dispute over agricultural subsidies.

Kohl said he hopes the new global trading rules can be completed "at the very latest by the end of April."

The two leaders, in a two-day retreat at Camp David, also reviewed the troubles inside the former Soviet Union.

"We agreed that as Russia and other new democracies adopt reform programs, we and the rest of the G-7 (Group of Seven) countries should take the lead in ex-

panding financial support through the international financial institutions," Bush said.

Kohl said they discussed a coordinated Western approach to provide "self-help" to Central and Eastern Europe.

Noting relief packages that the United States and Germany have extended to the former Soviet states, Kohl said, "Obviously we cannot go on doing this kind of thing indefinitely."

The six-year-old trade talks have been hung up on disputes between the United States and the European Community over European agricultural subsidies.