

# Two Serbs sentenced to death for war crimes

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — A military court convicted two Serbs of war crimes on Tuesday and sentenced them to death by firing squad for atrocities that included slitting the throats of POWs and raping Muslim women.

No date was set for the executions of Borislav Herak, 22, and Sretko Damjanovic, 31. Defense attorneys said they would appeal.

The commander of U.N. peacekeepers urged Bosnian authorities to turn the case — Bosnia's first war crimes trial — over to an international tribunal to avoid inflaming ethnic passions.

Herak, his head slightly bowed as the sentence was read, confessed to killing 30 war prisoners and civilians, including a dozen young Muslims he first raped.

Damjanovic claims he was tortured into falsely confessing to five murders and two rapes. The only evidence against him, his lawyer complained, is Herak's testimony.

Defense lawyers planned an appeal to the Bosnian supreme court, saying the trial produced no hard evidence and hinged on the disputed confession of one defendant.

Given a chance to speak after sen-

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Serb

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tencing, Herak said, “I deserve the death penalty. I would just like to see my father one more time and to have some cigarettes.”

Damjanovic said bitterly, “I just want to thank the court for this.”

Asked by Judge Zlatan Teftedarija to elaborate, Damjanovic said, “This is a not a fair judgment. I am not guilty. I'd also like to have some cigarettes.”

Both soldiers were convicted of crimes against civilians and genocide, based on Herak's testimony that he and Damjanovic killed people during so-called “ethnic cleansing” operations to purge Muslims from vil-

lages the Serbs took over.

Herak also was convicted of crimes against prisoners of war, based on his confession that he slit the throats of three POWs.

A third defendant, Nada Tomic, was sentenced to three years in prison for harboring goods stolen by the soldiers.

The three defendants were captured Nov. 11 after blundering into a Bosnian army checkpoint.

The trial, which opened March 12, was the first attempt by Bosnia's Muslim-led government to prove in court its claims that Serb nationalists carried out widespread atrocities during the savage, 12-month-old war.

# First medicine developed to battle cancer gene

SAN DIEGO (AP)— Scientists have developed the first medicines intended to stop malignancy by disarming a rogue cancer gene, an approach that could help control many forms of tumors.

The new treatment is intended to block a cancer-causing gene — a so-called oncogene — that appears to play a role in cancer of the breast and pancreas, among other organs.

Although the ultimate cause of cancer is often a mystery, scientists have learned in recent years that mutations in several genes are critical steps on the path to malignancy. When these normal genes go bad, cells lose control over their growth, and cancer results.

The latest approach is intended to short-circuit this process by attacking an oncogene known in scientific shorthand as neu.

At the University of California, Los Angeles, Dr. Dennis J. Slamon has started safety testing of an antibody intended to thwart the protein made by the neu gene's protein. While early results are considered encouraging, the works is still too preliminary to judge whether it will work. Dr. Mark I. Greene of the University of Pennsylvania, who is developing a simi-

lar strategy, said it has shown great promise in tumor-prone lab animals. He plans to begin testing it on people within a year.

He said his animal studies provide “the first demonstration that one can prevent genetically driven tumors.”

The neu oncogene makes a protein called P185. This plays a role in triggering cells' uncontrolled growth. Greene's strategy is to fashion an antibody that locks onto this protein and renders it harmless.

Greene presented his findings Tuesday at a meeting of the American Cancer Society.

Greene, whose team discovered the neu oncogene nearly a decade ago, said it is involved in about 30 percent of breast cancer.

Greene has experimented largely in mice that have been genetically manipulated to develop a form of cancer indistinguishable from neu-related breast cancer in people. Ordinarily, these animals get cancer at about 35 weeks of age. When the researchers began treating them with anti-neu antibodies at about 6 weeks of age, the appearance of cancer was delayed, and half of the mice did not develop malignancies at all.

# Pitcher's fatal boat wreck due to alcohol, tests show

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Cleveland Indians pitcher Tim Crews was legally drunk when his speeding boat crashed into a dock on a darkened lake, killing himself and teammate Steve Olin and injuring Bob Ojeda, investigators said Tuesday.

Crews had a blood-alcohol content of 0.14 percent, surpassing the 0.10 mark considered intoxication under Florida law. Neither Olin nor Ojeda was deemed legally drunk.

Medical Examiner Thomas Hegert of Orange County said a 0.14 reading could be the equivalent of six to seven beers in a person the stature of Crews (6-foot, 195 pounds), “but the effects vary considerably in each person.”

Col. Bob Edwards, law enforcement director for the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, called the matter an “alcohol-related accident.” He added the commission did not anticipate filing any charges.

Edwards cited three factors investigators considered in this kind of accident: “careless operation, maintaining a vessel within the speeds consistent with safety and (the lack of) a designated lookout, someone who can be utilized to help look for structures such as this.”

Edwards and Lt. Bruce Cooper, in charge of the probe into the March 22 accident on Little Lake Nellie, said evidence indicated the 18-foot bass boat with 150-horsepower motor was traveling at more than 25 mph in the dark.

“The exact speed at the time of the crash is unknown,” said Edwards.

Investigators earlier said there were indications the boat was going near top speed of about 65 mph. Edwards

said Tuesday it was impossible to determine maximum speed.

Olin's blood alcohol content was placed at 0.02 percent and Ojeda's at 0.006 percent, indicating they had considerably less to drink than Crews.

“Those were good, honest, solid men,” Indians manager Mike Hargrove said. “It doesn't alter the fact one way or the other. Those guys are still dead. The hurt is still there. And I think enough is enough.”

Hargrove met with the team in the dugout Tuesday after the Indians' fight-filled 6-5 loss to the Cincinnati Reds in Winter Haven to update the players on the investigation.

Cooper was asked what possible charges could have been filed if the operator of the boat had survived the crash.

“That's a what-if question that did not occur,” Cooper said. “We do have laws that would cover it. It would be held manslaughter if that did occur with alcohol.”

Edwards said the findings were reviewed by the state attorney in Lake County, who agreed no charges would be filed.

Autopsies conducted in Orange and Lake counties determined the cause of death for Crews and Olin was “blunt force trauma to the head.” The nature and location of the injuries indicated they did not see the dock.

Ojeda also told investigators he did not see the dock, which investigators said was 171 feet long.

Investigators found unopened cans of beer in an ice chest, a nearly full bottle of vodka and an empty beer can aboard the boat.

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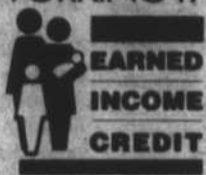
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