

## Iranian hijackers charged

OSLO, Norway — Three men believed to be Iranians were charged Thursday with hijacking after they used grenades and other explosives to commandeer a Russian airliner and force it to fly to Norway.

All 54 passengers and crew on board the Aeroflot Tu-134 were released unharmed after the hijackers surrendered early Thursday.

The 11-hour ordeal came to an end when four men walked down the airliner's stairs with their hands in the air and were taken into police custody.

Government spokesman Gunnar Angeltveit said three asked for asylum. The fourth was being held as a possible accomplice, but police said he might soon be released.

If convicted in Norway of hijacking, the men could face up to 21 years in prison, the Norwegian news agency NTB reported.

Justice Minister Grete Faremo said

there was no sign the hijacking was related to Middle East issues, or to Norway's role in brokering an historic agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"No reason has been given to me for this hijacking other than the fact that they wanted to come to Norway," Faremo said after the drama came to an end at Gardermoen charter airport, 28 miles north of Oslo.

The Russian jetliner was hijacked Wednesday en route from Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, to Perm, Russia. It was diverted to Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, where it was refueled, and then flew to Norway.

Russian, Ukrainian and Azerbaijani officials have said the men could be linked to Lebanon's Shiite Muslim militia, Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed group that has called the Israeli-PLO deal "the crime of the century" and vowed to wreck the peace



**Tupolev-134**

Civil jet airliner widely used by Aeroflot, the Russian national airline, and other former Soviet-bloc carriers

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Length          | 121 ft., 6 in.  |
| Wing span       | 95 ft., 2 in.   |
| Engines         | Two turbofans   |
| Range           | About 2,000 mi. |
| Crew            | 5               |
| Passengers      | Up to 96        |
| Entered service | 1965            |

Source: Illustrated Encyclopedia of Major Airlines of the World process. AP

Police spokesman Stale Svensen said the three men, all reportedly in their 30s, were charged with hijacking. He said they said they were Iranian, but this has not been confirmed. He declined to release their names.

## Clinton pushes health care reform

WASHINGTON — Using a personal touch to pick up the drumbeat for health care reform, President Clinton on Thursday heard horror stories from ordinary Americans and said some people will have to pay more to fix the system.



"I don't want to pretend that this is all going to be easy, but it seems to me that it's a fair thing to say everyone in America should make some contribution to his or her own health insurance and all employers should make some contribution," Clinton said.

Opening what promises to be a tortuous debate spilling into next year, Clinton talked with people from across the country who had written the White House about health care woes.

Aides pitched a large, white canopy in the Rose Garden after rain threatened the made-for-television event designed to personalize the health

care crisis. Clinton was joined by Hillary Rodham Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper.

Clinton planned a similar event today and will hit the road two days next week after unveiling the plan Wednesday to Congress.

Mrs. Clinton chaired the health care task force that received more than 700,000 letters from angry or beleaguered Americans, and Mrs. Gore was a key mental health adviser. Some of the White House pen pals were asked to read their letters aloud.

After hearing several stories about the high cost of coverage, Clinton said his plan to develop huge insurance pools would protect all Americans from the cost of catastrophic illnesses that now drain bank accounts. But he said some people — specifically young, single and healthy Americans — will pay higher premiums to offset the cost.

They "might have to pay a little bit more in ... insurance premiums so everybody in the big pool could always be covered and no one would be kicked out. I think most healthy single

Americans would be willing to do that to avoid the kind of horror stories we've heard today," said Clinton, who shook his head and scrunched his face while the letters were read.

"The American people will have to be willing to make some changes. This is one choice we think a lot of (young) Americans will want to make because they're all presumably going to be sick some day," Clinton said.

Hearing complaints from people who run small businesses, Clinton said firms that don't provide coverage would be required to do so. Subsidies would be given to small companies and workers would be required to pay a portion, too, he said.

"All the employers in the country who don't provide any insurance to their employees (are) basically getting a free ride from the rest of you," Clinton told the group. "Until everyone is willing to make some contributions to his or her health care and until we get all employers in the system, even at a modest rate, we won't have a fair health care system," the president said.

## SPORTS WIRE

### Pirates help baseball's realignment get geographical touch

PITTSBURGH — For the first time since divisional play began in 1969, the National League map will accurately reflect Rand McNally's. The Pittsburgh Pirates saw to that.

The Pirates avoided a possible confrontation with the Atlanta Braves over NL East membership Wednesday by moving to the new NL Central, thereby creating a new Braves-Marlins regional rivalry in a big market-dominated East.

The move strips the NL East of its most successful franchise — the Pirates have won nine titles in the 25 seasons of divisional play — but more closely aligns teams by size, geography and economics.

The new alignment, unlike the current lineup that relocates Atlanta in the West and Chicago and St. Louis in the East, could have been drawn up by a fifth-grade geography student:

- NL East: Atlanta, Florida, Montreal, New York, Philadelphia.
- NL Central: Chicago, Cincinnati, Houston, Pittsburgh, St. Louis.

### Jones opens wallet to help Smith end holdout with Cowboys

IRVING, Texas — Emmitt Smith and Jerry Jones ended their contract feud Thursday. The cost: millions of dollars out of Jones' pocket and two lost football games.

Smith, who had watched on television while the defending Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys lost both games they played without him, reached an agreement with Jones that could make him the highest-paid running back in the game.

— NL West: Colorado, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco.

And, more importantly to team president Mark Sauer, it aligns Pittsburgh with other small-market franchises with similar economic interests, like the Cardinals, Astros and Reds.

"This was the logical thing to do. This just made sense," Sauer said.

The Pirates didn't analyze whether moving would help their won-lost record, Sauer said.

"This is such a long-term issue, it would be foolish to handicap any perceived competitive factors," he said. "We're a small-market franchise and we're going to remain a small-market franchise."

And they would have been a small fish in a big pond had they stayed in the East, with big-market, big-payroll teams like the Braves, Mets and Phillies.

The Pirates were initially opposed to leaving the East, but Sauer dropped his opposition when American League owners won a continuation of the current balanced

schedule during last week's owners meetings in Boston. AL West franchises such as Texas and Oakland want to retain the twice-a-season visits by the big Eastern drawing cards, New York and Boston.

"From a balanced schedule standpoint, it really won't affect any rivalries," Sauer said. "Our main concern about the realignment was the start of television games and playing too many games in the Central time zone. That part really doesn't matter now."

Phillies president Bill Giles was initially disappointed at losing the cross-state rivalry with the Pirates and the arrival of the Braves, currently the NL's strongest team.

"It's tougher next year, but in the long run, it'll be all right," he said.

If the 1994 alignment were currently in place, Atlanta, St. Louis and San Francisco would be the division leaders and the Phillies, the season-long NL East leaders, would be the wild-card team.

Smith's agent, Richard Howell, scooped Jones on releasing the news. Cowboys public relations director Rich Dalrymple finally confirmed "there has been an agreement in principle but the contract has not been signed."

Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson responded: "I'll believe it when I see it."

No contract terms were immediately divulged, but Smith had said he wouldn't sign unless Jones paid him "Thurman Thomas money."

The contract was expected to be a four-year deal for approximately \$13.6 million, which would be more than Buffalo pays Thomas. Smith also has the advantage of not having to pay state income tax, whereas Thomas does.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Mother Teresa recovering from surgery

CALCUTTA, India — Mother Teresa was in stable condition Thursday after doctors cleared a blocked blood vessel in her heart.

The procedure was successful and the 83-year-old Roman Catholic nun was back in her room under close observation, the B.M. Birla Heart Research Institute said in a statement.

Dr. Patricia Aubanel of the United States, Mother Teresa's cardiologist for the past two years, inserted a tiny balloon into the blood vessel and inflated it to expand the clogged vessel and ensure free flow

of blood.

Mother Teresa underwent a similar operation in La Jolla, Calif., in 1991.

She entered the hospital on Monday but the operation was delayed when she developed a fever.

This is the fourth time Mother Teresa has been in a hospital this year. The last time was Aug. 20, when she developed malaria.

Mother Teresa won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize for dedicating her life to the world's poorest and the most destitute people.

### Astronauts have successful spacewalk

SPACE CENTER, Houston — Two spacewalking astronauts in bulky white suits powered up a socket wrench Thursday and tested other tools to help NASA prepare for the important Hubble Space Telescope repair mission.

Discovery crewmen Carl Walz and James Newman wasted no time evaluating equipment and comparing their water tank training on Earth with the real thing. They worked so fast that NASA had to think up additional tasks.

The only snag came near the end, when the astronauts had problems closing the jammed door on a portable tool box.

By the time they got it closed, the planned six-hour walk had stretched to almost seven hours. They capped off the walk by posing for the camera next to a sign saying "Ace HST Tool Testers." NASA dubbed the walk a success.

Some of the astronauts' chores,

such as pulling themselves hand over hand along a ledge and wire, were easier in space. Others were tougher. As busy as they stayed, however, they couldn't help stopping to admire the view.

"Boy is that beautiful down there," Walz said as Discovery flew 184 miles over the Atlantic Ocean toward Africa.

Thursday's spacewalk was the third and final one preparing for that mission. One of its goals was to keep astronauts warm in temperatures down to minus 270 Fahrenheit. Spacewalkers in June complained about being extremely cold.

Walz and Newman reported feeling fine, even a little too warm at times. At times they held their hands close in front of a floodlight to see how much heat they would absorb.

"Definitely picked up some warmth there. It's not really fast and it's not intense," Newman said.



## STATE WIRE

### Trio sentenced to prison terms for abuse

HARTINGTON — Two men accused of child sexual abuse in Belden have been sentenced to prison terms, authorities said.

Richard G. Sitton, 45, of Kelso, Wash., had pleaded guilty to two counts of sexual assault of a child and was sentenced by Cedar County District Judge Darvid Quist.

Sitton was sentenced to 10 years to 20 years in prison on one count and one year to three years on another count, to be served consecutively.

Ronald J. Grove, 26, of rural Carroll, had pleaded guilty to two counts of sexual assault of a child and was sentenced on Monday from one year and eight months to five

years in prison.

Authorities said Sitton and Grove spent time in the same house in Belden and sexually abused children who lived in the house. Sitton pleaded guilty to incidents that authorities said occurred between September 1989 and January 1992. Grove pleaded guilty to incidents that authorities said occurred around November 1991.

One other man who lived in the house in Belden, Dale R. Evans, 38, had pleaded no contest to two counts of sexual assault of a child and was sentenced to two consecutive prison terms of 18 months to 30 months.

### Exeter man guilty of abusing keno rules

GENEVA — A Fillmore County District Court jury Thursday took less than two hours to find a former keno operator guilty of abusing Nebraska keno game reporting regulations.

Dale Waldron of Exeter was charged with filing a false report and making a false entry, both felonies. A third charge, violating the Nebraska Bingo and Lottery Act, was dismissed Monday.

Waldron faces five years in prison and a \$10,000 for each charge.

"It was a solid case and the jury obviously felt it was solid, too," York County Attorney Charles Campbell said after the verdict.

It is the first court case in Nebraska to probe the reporting regulations and bookkeeping requirements of keno game operators, ac-

ording to Steve Schatz of the state revenue department's Gaming Division. The trial started Monday.

Waldron operated a keno game in Exeter in September 1992 at the Longbranch Saloon, a bar he owned. An audit by the Gaming Division in October 1992 allegedly showed numerous discrepancies in the records Waldron turned in to the Exeter Village office.

"Dale Waldron gambled that he wouldn't get caught," Campbell told jurors during final arguments Thursday. "He lost that gamble."

A customer playing keno the night of Sept. 25 and a keno writer at the bar testified that a customer was allowed to play illegally, after the game had closed for the night, which led to an estimated \$15,000 in losses for the player.

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