

# NEWS DIGEST

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## Crisis in Kosovo

# Attacks continue day after convoy hit

### NATO regrets tragedy; Serbs shell border

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — A day after its bombs hit a convoy of refugees in Kosovo, NATO pressed ahead with its air campaign Thursday, hitting military barracks, TV transmitters and bridges throughout Yugoslavia.

NATO expressed deep regret over the "tragic accident," saying its planes had been targeting Serb forces when they struck a column of ethnic Albanians fleeing the province. The bombing Wednesday left refugees' bodies dismembered and burned on a Kosovo road.

Serb forces, meanwhile, lobbed artillery shells over the border into northern Albania in a running battle with the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army. International observers said Thursday that five KLA fighters had been killed in the past 24 hours.

Some mortars landed close to Albania's border checkpoint at Morini, where international aid workers were operating and refugees were passing through, said monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which watches the border.

Thousands of ethnic Albanians crossed over into Macedonia and Albania on Thursday, fleeing what they described as a methodical Serb push to empty towns and villages in Kosovo.

Yugoslavia renewed its denunciations of the attack on the convoy. "This is the worst picture of a humanitarian catastrophe brought on by the NATO bombings," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nebojsa Vujovic said.

In Djakovica, the main town nearest the attack, a judge said 69 bodies, mostly women, children and elderly, had been identified so far.

But there were additional charred bodies and body parts, making a precise body count difficult, said the judge, Milenko Momcilovic.

Sixteen-year-old Teuta Sulja told reporters on an official Yugoslav-organized trip to the strike site that seven people were killed on the flatbed trailer she was riding on.

"I lost an uncle and a father and another relative," she said.

At its headquarters in Belgium, NATO said it

"Of course we regret these things deeply when they happen."

TONY BLAIR  
British prime minister

"deeply regrets the loss of life." Spokesman Jamie Shea said the alliance had taken "every possible precaution" to avoid hurting civilians.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said ultimate responsibility lay with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, because his "ethnic cleansing" against Kosovo's Albanians had precipitated the attack.

"Of course we regret these things deeply when they happen. But that should not make us flinch from placing responsibility for this conflict squarely on the shoulders of ... Milosevic," Blair said.

Milosevic launched a crackdown on ethnic Albanians separatists 14 months ago in Kosovo, a province in Serbia, the main republic in Yugoslavia, a campaign that forced tens of thousands from their homes. NATO allies began bombing Yugoslavia on March 24 after Milosevic refused to sign a peace accord for the province.

The goal of the air operation is to cripple Serbia's ability to crack down on the ethnic Albanians.

The presence on Kosovo's roads of huge refugee columns like the one hit Wednesday could signal a final push by Serb forces to rid the province of its ethnic Albanian majority.

Along the tense Albania-Yugoslav border, meanwhile, international observers reported a new round of Serb shelling, as well as machine gun and mortar fire near the Albanian border hamlets Padesh and Kamenica.

Kamenica briefly fell into Serb hands Tuesday when light infantrymen pushed across the border into Albania.

## Evidence of new solar system found

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The first evidence of the existence of another solar system somewhat like our own was reported Thursday.

The discovery indicates that the Milky Way, which contains about 200 billion stars, probably has numerous planetary systems, San Francisco State University researchers said in announcing the find.

Astronomers knew one planet was circulating around Upsilon Andromedae, 44 light years from Earth. But after studying 107 stars for 11 years at the Lick Observatory near San Jose, scientists said evidence of two additional planets has been spotted. The discovery would mean that for the first time, a true solar system, with multiple planets, had been located.

"It implies that planets can form more easily than we ever imagined, and that our Milky Way is teeming with planetary systems," researcher Debra Fischer said.

The planets were discovered using a method that measures their gravitational pull on their star, not by direct observation. Planets' gravity tugs on their stars, causing them to wobble slightly. By examining the star's ultraviolet light transmissions, astronomers can calculate shifts in the ultraviolet wavelengths. A larger wobble indicates the orbiting planet is large.

Astronomers from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass., and at the High-Altitude Observatory in Boulder, Colo., independently identified the two new planets.

The innermost of the three planets has at least 75 percent of the mass of Jupiter and is very close to its sun, orbiting once every 4.6 days. The middle planet is twice Jupiter's mass and orbits the star every 242 days from a location about as far as Venus from the sun. The outer planet has the mass of four Jupiters and orbits its star every 3½ to four years. It is more than twice as far from its star as Earth is from the sun.

No theory predicted that so many huge planets would form around a star, said astronomer Geoffrey Marcy, a member of the discovery team.

"I am mystified at how such a system of Jupiter-like planets might have been created," he said.

Alex Wolszczan, an astronomy professor at Penn State University, called the discovery an important step toward understanding the cosmos.

"It has been anticipated and awaited by the scientific community. It's nice to see it finally happened," he said. "What I get right away from this particular discovery is that it emphasizes even more how different those systems are from our own."

## World and Nation DATES

### Utah

#### Two killed, five hurt in Mormon library shooting

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A disheveled man calmly walked into the Mormon church's renowned genealogical library during an international convention on Thursday and methodically shot people with a small-caliber handgun.

Before it was over, the gunman had killed a church security officer and a library patron and wounded five others, including a police officer. He was fatally shot by police and died later in an ambulance. Police knew of no motive.

### Washington, D.C.

#### Congress nears approval of Republican budget

The Associated Press — Congress moved to the brink of approving a \$1.74 trillion budget for fiscal 2000 that Republicans hope will sharpen their image as tax cutters and as a party that has moved beyond President Clinton's impeachment.

The Senate neared final approval of the blueprint Thursday, a day after the House passed it by a near party-line 220-208 vote. The measure maps a 10-year tax cut of at least \$778 billion.

### Pakistan

#### Pakistan tests missile; second one in two days

ISLAMABAD (AP) — South Asia appeared closer to a full-blown arms race after Pakistan tested its second nuclear-capable missile in two days Thursday, upping the ante on its rival India.

The latest test was of the Shaheen I, a surface-to-surface missile with a range of 450 miles, considerably shorter than the Ghaury II, tested by Pakistan the day before.

The Ghaury II was tested in apparent response to India's test flight of its Agni II missile on Sunday.

### Colombia

#### Mudslides kill five in Colombia; 25 still missing

BOGOTA (AP) — Two mudslides killed at least five people in western Colombia on Thursday, some of them rescue workers. Another 25 people were missing and feared buried alive, authorities said.

After weeks of torrential rains, the mudslides plowed under several blocks of the town of Argelia, 150 miles west of Bogota, the capital. The first slide occurred before dawn, the second after rescue workers had arrived.

### Great Britain

#### Official rules that Spain can pursue Pinochet

LONDON (AP) — Former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet faces the prospect of more months — if not years — under guard after Britain's top law enforcement official ruled Thursday that Spain can continue seeking his extradition.

The 83-year-old general must remain confined to his rented mansion outside London, guarded 24 hours a day, while his lawyers battle with Spanish prosecutors.

## Schools ban some body piercings

### Aurora Public Schools have prohibited all body jewelry except earrings.

AURORA (AP) — Except for earrings, body piercing will not be allowed next year at Aurora Public Schools.

Previous rules at the middle and elementary schools have prohibited visible body piercings like tongue and nose rings, but the high school had not had similar rules.

The school board decided to adopt

the same policy for the entire district, including the high school.

"We wanted a consistent K-12 policy," said Superintendent Larry Ramaekers.

Board members began discussing a policy early this year after two middle school students were threatened with suspension if they did not remove their tongue rings. The two students, Sarah Atwill and Stacey Kielion, transferred to Hampton Public School, which allows body piercing.

Matt LeMieux, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union

of Nebraska, said Aurora's policy is a bad move.

"I think the school is stepping out of its bounds," he said. "Not only is it a bad idea, but it might be unconstitutional."

LeMieux said body piercing does not interrupt students' education.

Ramaekers said the policy was created out of safety concerns. For example, a student's piercing adornment could cause injuries if it gets caught on something. Earrings are exempt from the ban unless they are long, dangling and distracting.

## Daily Nebraskan

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