

Croatian army general surrenders to U.N. to face war crimes

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

ZAGREB, Croatia — A Croatian army general fled to the Netherlands today to surrender to the U.N. war crimes tribunal and face charges that he oversaw a wartime campaign that left 70 Serb civilians dead and hundreds of homes in ashes.

Gen. Rahim Ademi is the first Croat to face accusations stemming from the 1991-95 Serbo-Croat war.

Wearing his military uniform decorated with medals, Ademi, his wife, Anita, and his lawyer took a regular Croatian Airlines flight to Amsterdam. Because he decided to surrender voluntarily, Ademi boarded the flight without handcuffs or a police guard.

"I am proud of my role in the war," he told The Associated Press before he left. "I am not afraid of The Hague court's accusations — I have done nothing wrong in the war and I will prove it there. My conscience is completely clear."

The tribunal indicted Ademi along with another high-ranking Croatian officer and demanded that both suspects be handed over for trial. Croatia's pro-Western government agreed to comply, but its decision triggered fierce protests.

GENEVA — The United States today formally announced it was rejecting a U.N. draft treaty designed to give teeth to an anti-germ warfare accord. "In our assessment, the draft protocol would put national security and confidential business information at risk," said U.S. chief negotiator Donald A. Mahley.

He said Washington still supported the 1972 U.N. treaty banning the use of biological weapons, and would come up with new proposals on how to enforce it.

Nations have been negotiating for seven years to come up with an accord on how to enforce the germ warfare treaty, painstakingly working through disagreements over the 210-page document. The draft in Geneva is intended to create a way to inspect sites suspected of developing biological weapons without interfering with legitimate industries and facilities.

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Mahley said the United States had concluded that it could not support the treaty even if amendments were made.

NATIONAL
BALTIMORE — Federal investigators are examining a century-old cast-iron pipe to determine whether the derailment of a train that disrupted traffic for almost a week was caused by a burst water main.

But city officials insisted, as they have all along, that the train wreck caused the water main to break. Their data shows a surge in water movement at a nearby reservoir after the derailment, which officials said suggested the water main break followed the accident.

At issue is whether the city or railroad is responsible for the damage, the cleanup, overtime for police and firefighters, and business losses.

"It's clear that there's a lot at stake," said Tony White, spokesman for Mayor Martin O'Malley. "It's premature to say how much, but it's safe to say it's of a very large magnitude."

The National Transportation Safety Board reviewed city public works department records to help learn whether water gushing from the broken main damaged the track in the tunnel and caused the 60-car CSX train to derail on June 18.

The accident caused a fire and an acid spill that brought much of the city to a standstill.

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — A death row inmate has won a stay of execution as part of a ruling that will allow the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to consider its first appeal under a law allowing DNA testing.

Richard Kutzner, an air-conditioning repairman, had been scheduled to die by injection 6 p.m. today. The appeals court issued the stay Tuesday evening.

The case could help determine how the DNA testing law should be applied in lower courts, Rick Wetzel, the court's general counsel, said in today's editions of the Houston Chronicle. The

law, which went into effect April 5, allows convicts to seek state-funded DNA testing in an effort to exonerate themselves.

Kutzner, 58, earned death sentences for two slayings, 17 days apart, in early 1996.

He was set to die today for the second of those killings, the strangling of a 59-year-old woman working at her real estate office in Montgomery County, north of Houston.

With his punishment looming, Kutzner's attorneys went to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to appeal their requests for DNA testing, denied twice by the trial court.

No DNA evidence was used in the original case.

WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON — The House passed a \$15.2 billion foreign aid bill after a debate that centered on the administration's program to eradicate drugs and bring political stability in Colombia and its neighbors.

The House rejected several amendments offered by lawmakers who questioned the effectiveness of

the Andean anti-drug initiative and contended that the \$676 million allotted for the initiative would be better spent fighting the worldwide epidemic of AIDS and other health problems.

The foreign aid bill for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 passed 381-46. It now goes to the Senate for consideration.

The legislation contains \$2.7 billion in military and economic assistance for Israel and \$2 billion for Egypt. It provides \$474 million for AIDS programs, \$425 million for reproductive health assistance, \$768 million for the states of the former Soviet Union and \$600 million for Southeast Asia and the Balkans.

The House defeated, by 240-188, an amendment by Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., that would have shifted \$60 million from the Andes initiative and military assistance programs to an international AIDS fund.

WASHINGTON — The FBI is sitting down with Rep. Gary Condit to create a profile of Chandra Levy as it seeks a fresh approach to cracking the mystery surrounding the former federal intern's disappearance three

months ago.

Lawyers for Condit, D-Calif., agreed Tuesday for their client to speak with FBI profilers after a new agent assigned to the case offered to do it without questions from local police, according to sources familiar with the FBI's contact with the congressman.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the session could occur as early as this week, depending on Condit's schedule.

The sources said the FBI told Condit's lawyers they intended to conduct the session without Washington police present. City police have interviewed Condit three times and recently expressed interest in a fourth interview with him.

A police source said Condit, 53 and married, said in his third interview with police that he had an affair with the 24-year-old former intern.

He has denied any role in her disappearance and, according to his lead lawyer, passed a lie detector test administered by a former FBI expert hired by the Condit team.

WASHINGTON — Heading for a House floor vote, a contentious bill prohibiting human cloning is likely

to cause continued rancor over the emotional issue of stem cell research.

The House Judiciary Committee approved the bill by a party-line 18-11 vote Tuesday. GOP leaders have said the measure could come before the full House next week. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said the committee should be applauded.

Democrats voiced concern that an outright ban on human cloning would also prohibit stem cell and other types of research.

Republican supporters of the cloning bill said they wanted to keep scientists from applying the same technique on humans that was used to clone Dolly the sheep in 1997. They said the bill only affects human cloning and does not restrict the use of cloning technology to produce molecules, DNA, cells other than human embryos, tissues, organs, plants or animals other than humans.

But Republicans will have to face divisions within their ranks. The House Energy and Commerce Committee on Friday will consider a competing measure, considered less restrictive on research efforts, written by Rep. Jim Greenwood, R-Pa.

Atlantis returns after airlock installed on station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space shuttle Atlantis swooped through the night sky and touched down smoothly, completing its mission to install a new air lock for spacewalkers at the international space station.

The shuttle and its five astronauts landed on the floodlit runway at Kennedy Space Center late Tuesday after a one-day delay caused by rain.

"Boy, did we have a really good flight," astronaut Janet Kavandi said early Wednesday after emerging from Atlantis.

"It was hard work. It was great work. It was probably the most satisfying thing that I've ever done," added James Reilly II, who took part in the mission's three spacewalks.

The space station and its three resi-

dents were soaring high above the Atlantic when the shuttle ended its 13-day, 5 million-mile journey. The clouds were high and sparse and there was no rain around. A line of showers had prevented the shuttle from landing Tuesday morning.

It was only the 18th space shuttle touchdown in darkness in 20 years. Infrared cameras showed the incoming spaceship as a ghostly white blur from as far out as 70 miles.

Astronauts installing the air lock ended up working overtime because of air and water leaks, a screeching pump and a balky valve.

NASA kept the shuttle crew at the station an extra day because of the problems.

After installing the new air lock on the orbiting complex, astronauts

passed through it for their final spacewalk.

Shuttle commander Steven Lindsey praised his crew and the space station team for working together to pull the mission off.

"I asked them to do all kinds of things," Lindsey said. "I had them working and working well past what they should have been expected to do."

The \$164 million air lock and a billion-dollar robot arm installed in the spring will make it easier for space station astronauts to perform various tasks.

Americans living aboard the station can now go out on spacewalks whenever they want wearing American suits, rather than Russian ones. American space suits are incompatible with the space station's Russian

systems.

The next stage of space station assembly is shrouded in uncertainty as NASA struggles with budget overruns of more than \$4 billion over the next five years. In jeopardy are a lifeboat and a habitation module that would double the number of crew members the space station can accommodate.

"You always have to be focused on the future and we are," shuttle processing director Dave King said after Atlantis landed. "At the same time, we do need to take the time to celebrate this. This is a huge success."

Space shuttle Discovery is next up, with liftoff targeted for Aug. 9. The shuttle will drop off a fresh space station crew and bring back the two Americans and one Russian who have been in orbit since March.

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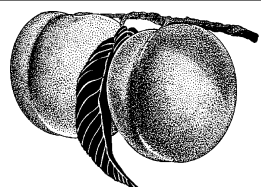
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