

AROUND THE WORLD

S. Africa bill would help black citizens reclaim land

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — South Africa's National Assembly passed a bill Tuesday giving black people who were stripped of their land under apartheid three years to reclaim it.

The Restitution of Land Rights Bill is the first post-apartheid legislation implementing President Nelson Mandela's election promise to redress the wrongs of decades of official racial segregation.

The bill is subject to approval by the Senate, which is dominated by Mandela's African National Congress. It represents a watershed in reversing the takeover of black land that began in 1913, when legislation to limit black land ownership was passed.

Yeltsin strengthens grip

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin strengthened his personal grip on the government Tuesday by appointing reformist Yevgeny Yasin as Russia's new economics minister. The appointment of Yasin, 60, who worked as head of the president's economic analytical center, is the latest in a broad cabinet shake-up set off by the Oct. 11 collapse of the ruble. He replaces Alexander Shokhin, who resigned last week.

Tribunal wants to try Serb

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — The first international war crimes tribunal since World War II asked Germany on Tuesday to surrender a Bosnian Serb accused of murder and torture. In a courtroom rented at an insurance company headquarters, three judges ruled that Dusan Tadic should be tried by the Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunal, established a year ago by the United Nations.

Meanwhile in Bosnia, four civilians, including a 13-year-old girl and two other children, were killed and six others wounded Tuesday in shelling and sniping attacks in Sarajevo, marking the bloodiest day in the Bosnian capital since a February NATO ultimatum forced the Bosnian Serbs to roll back artillery.

Hijacker frees hostages

ATHENS, Greece — A young Greek, apparently heartbroken

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HEADLINES

Hot spots, updates and offbeat news

Algerians remember slain sisters

Reuters

TUNIS, Tunisia — Algerians observed a moment of silence Tuesday in memory of two teenage sisters whose throats were slit because they rejected proposals of "pleasure marriage."

The killings have been blamed on Islamic militants.

Suspected guerrillas slit the throats of Saida Boughedou, a 19-year-old student, and her sister, Zoulikha, 15, for refusing to accept proposals of short-term marriage.

The practice of what is known in Arabic as *Zawadj al-mutaa* — which translates into "pleasure marriage" — involves a temporary union for a specific period. It has become quite popular among some guerrilla groups in Algeria, according to government officials.

The two girls were kidnapped Friday and their bodies found Monday on a highway near Blida, south of Algiers.

Their father and brother, abducted at the same time, were freed Tuesday

after troops stormed a militant hide-out and shot dead two Muslim guerrillas in Ouled Chebel village, south of Algiers.

Meanwhile in France, police conducted the biggest sweep against Islamic militants Tuesday, seizing weapons and arresting more than 95 people suspected of supporting guerrillas in Algeria.

Coordinated raids took place throughout the Paris region and elsewhere in France before daybreak.

HE SAID IT

**"Shoot back, cowards;
what are you waiting for?
Give me the gun —
I'll fire back!"**

A Bosnian soldier, screaming at a UN peacekeeper in Sarajevo on Tuesday after snipers — apparently Bosnian Serbs — opened fire on a streetcar, killing a 9-year-old girl.

Haitian government goes to work

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Haiti's new cabinet ministers were sworn in at the national palace Tuesday, and President Jean-Bertrand Aristide extended an olive branch to the military.

"I want to say again to all Haitian military officers, soldiers and interim police officers that I have come to bring you peace," Aristide said,

in his most direct appeal for military cooperation since he flew home Oct. 15.

At the inauguration ceremony, Aristide hugged and shook hands with Prime Minister Smarck Michel and his 17 cabinet ministers.

Meanwhile, more U.S. soldiers flew home as part of a planned U.S. troop cutback of 6,000 by Dec. 1.



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1994

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ACROSS THE NATION

Crash prompts FAA to mull commuter-flight limits

WASHINGTON — The Federal Aviation Administration said Tuesday it is considering temporarily barring commuter planes like the one that crashed in Indiana last week from flying in areas of suspected icing.

The independent National Transportation Safety Board recommended the move Monday, and the FAA responded that it is considering the move "on an urgent basis." The proposal came a week after an American Eagle ATR72 propjet crashed near Roselawn, Ind., killing all 68 people aboard.

Church van fire kills 5 kids

MILWAUKEE — A church van punctured its gas tank on a piece of debris in the road and burst into flames Tuesday, killing five children and critically injuring their parents and their brother.

The van, a 1994 Plymouth Voyager, belonged to Parkwood Baptist Church in Chicago. The accident occurred on I-94. The dead, four boys and a girl, ranged in age from 6 weeks to 11 years.

Court urged to keep gun law

WASHINGTON — A top Clinton administration lawyer Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to uphold a federal law barring possession of firearms near schools.

Drew Days, the administration's chief advocate before the high court, said Congress acted within its constitutional powers in adopting the 1990 law that bars possession of a firearm within 1,000 feet of a school.

A U.S. appeals court in New Orleans struck down the law, ruling that schools were local concerns and that Congress can ban guns at a school only if such possession substantially affects interstate commerce.

NEW YEAR, NEW STAMP PRICES

WASHINGTON — Plan on paying more on mail in early January.

The post office has proposed a 10.3-percent increase in stamp prices, including a three-cent boost in the first-class rate, to 32 cents.

Sam Winters, chairman of the U.S. Postal Service's governing

board, said Tuesday that the agency hopes to raise rates as early as possible in January. "Our customers should plan accordingly," he said.

The independent Postal Rate Commission is considering the proposal and is expected to rule within a few weeks.



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