



Log, notes found on submarine

BY ANDREW KRAMER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — In addition to notes found on sailors' bodies, Russian divers retrieved a ship's log and more written material from the sunken nuclear submarine Kursk, a top official said Thursday.

"We recovered what we could: certain notes and the log book from the fourth compartment of the Kursk," the Interfax news agency quoted Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov as saying.

The log and written material were being studied, he said. He didn't say when they were written, but it is thought everybody in the fourth

compartment died within minutes of the explosions.

Klebanov's spokeswoman Oksana Onishchenko said the divers found only "unreadable" fragments of the log. "There was nothing related to the accident," Onishchenko said.

The log is the latest find divers have pulled through holes cut in the hull of the submarine during a precarious 18-day operation on the bottom of the Barents Sea.

They retrieved 12 bodies and two notes written by sailors as they suffocated to death in a rear compartment of the submarine. The notes told of poison gas from fires and pressure mounting in the compartment. All 118 men aboard the Kursk died after it suffered

explosions and plunged to the sea floor Aug. 12.

The log book was found in a forward area more severely damaged by the blasts. It was unclear whether the log was for the whole ship or just the fourth compartment. Ship's logs usually contain notes on routine activity on board.

Klebanov did not say when the log was found. Divers worked in the fourth compartment Sunday and Monday before the operation was called off Tuesday because of rough weather and danger to the divers.

They had entered the fourth compartment through a hole cut in the top of the sub and were unable to move more than six feet down one passage

"We recovered what we could: certain notes and the log book from the fourth compartment of the Kursk."

Ilya Klebanov
Deputy Prime Minister

on the upper deck, officials have said.

The passage was cluttered with debris and rubble that threatened to tear the diver's suits. The debris resulted from two explosions that tore through the forward compartments of the Kursk.

The fourth compartment held sleeping quarters, a kitchen and meeting rooms.

Russian officials have said the divers' main objective was to retrieve corpses

to return to their families for burial. Klebanov said divers also searched for clues about the accident.

Klebanov said Wednesday that dents divers observed on the Kursk's hull may be evidence of a collision with a foreign vessel, a theory Russian officials have focused on. Independent experts have said an explosion in the torpedo compartment was a likely cause of the accident.

Israeli rocket attack kills 3, injures 12 in Bethlehem suburb

New policy signals shift toward offensive

BY NASSER SHIYOUKHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIT SAHOUR, WEST BANK — Israeli combat helicopters rocketed a pickup truck full of Palestinian commanders Thursday, killing one and critically wounding another in what the army said was a new policy of targeting ring-leaders of violence. Two passers-by were killed and 11 others were injured.

Palestinians promised a tough response to the attack in this well-to-do Christian suburb of Bethlehem, coming as President Clinton was set to convene yet another round of talks aimed at resuscitating the peace negotiations.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak has until now resisted pressure from the army to take pre-emptive activity targeting organizers of the violence, fearing it would scuttle any chances for reviving the peace. But in a statement saying it had "initiated" the action, the army signaled a switch from defensive to offensive.

The dead man was identified by the army and by hospital officials as Hussein Abayat, prominent among the plainclothes Palestinian gunmen who have led the most recent uprising against the continued Israeli presence in parts of the West Bank, Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

The army said Abayat had planned and carried out three different ambushes in the Bethlehem-Jerusalem area that killed three soldiers and seriously injured a policeman.

"The attack was carried out after soldiers spotted an armed cell occupying positions which had been used to launch shooting attacks," the army said.

Fadi Salahat, whose uncle, Khaled, was a senior intelligence officer in Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, said Abayat was a "soldier for the Palestinian Authority. He was patrolling the area to protect the people of Bethlehem and Beit Sahour from Israeli occupiers."

Khaled Salahat was critically wounded in the attack and was kept under close guard in Beit Sahour hospital.

Witnesses said four helicopters closed in on the green pickup truck, two firing rockets. A third man in the pickup truck and two others in a car traveling behind escaped with slight injuries.

Within minutes, the street was filled with medics and security officials.

"The people I saw, they were pieces of meat on the ground. They did not look like human beings," said Mahmoud Joban, who witnessed the attack from his balcony.

Two passers-by, both women, were also killed in the attack and one other woman was critically wounded. Another ten people had moderate to light wounds.

Almost 180 people have been killed in the past six weeks of clashes, the vast majority of them Palestinians, but most of those have come from the rank

and file. Israeli troops shot dead a 14-year-old in Gaza on Thursday in a clash.

An Israeli decision to target people close to the Palestinian leadership could escalate the conflict and sour Clinton's efforts to get the sides talking again.

Palestinian leaders promised retaliation.

"This is an assassination against one of the Fatah leaders in the Bethlehem district," said Marwan Barghouti, who heads Fatah in the West Bank and who Israel says is organizing the violence. "I think this will push Fatah for a reaction."

It has not been unusual for the Israeli army to launch helicopter gunship attacks on Palestinian targets in retaliation for shooting attacks, but until now the targets have mainly been infrastructure sites, such as military headquarters and police stations, and were preceded by warnings to evacuate.

There was no warning in this case, and the civilians in the area were clearly visible.

Beit Sahour has been used as a base for Palestinian gunmen aiming their attacks at an Israeli army camp in an Israeli-controlled area of the West Bank. Another Christian town, Beit Jalla, has been used to launch attacks on Gilo, a middle-class Jewish neighborhood in a disputed area of Jerusalem.

Those battles have, until now, been marked by relatively low casualties, mostly residents treated for shock.

Arafat arrived in Washington early Thursday. In his talks with Clinton, he is expected to press for sending an international force to the West Bank and Gaza to protect his people from Israeli troops.

Barak, who meets Clinton on Sunday, has rejected any such force.

U.N. Human Rights Commissioner Mary Robinson started a weeklong mission to the Middle East on Thursday after the commission passed a resolution condemning Israel for excessive use of force against the Palestinians.

Reflecting concerns about continuing unrest, the military banned, then allowed an annual prayer gathering on Thursday at Rachel's Tomb, a Jewish holy site in Bethlehem. The site, where Jews believe the biblical Rachel was buried, has been the scene of riots and exchanges of gunfire and has been closed to Jewish worshippers since the current wave of violence erupted.

Leaders of Jewish settlers in the West Bank charged Barak with keeping Jews away from all the holy sites there and not providing security.

A number of settlers succeeded in infiltrating Rachel's Tomb before dawn, but were evacuated by the army. Troops kept about a hundred people from crossing the border between Jerusalem and Bethlehem for several hours on Thursday, and then escorted them inside for a short prayer service.

Settlers at the Bethlehem-Jerusalem crossing tried to stop an ambulance that was evacuating wounded from the Beit Sahour clash to a Jerusalem hospital. They surrounded the vehicle and banged on it until it managed to pull away.

Oregon, New Mexico work to declare winner

BY BRAD CAIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND, ORE. — Even as all eyes remained on Florida, ballot counters in Oregon and New Mexico were also working to establish which presidential candidate won in their states.

Vice President Al Gore held a slender lead over Texas Gov. George W. Bush in both states with counting unfinished, but victories for either candidate would be largely symbolic because the states together have only a dozen electoral votes.

Bush needs 24 electoral votes to reach the required 270, and Gore needs 15, so neither Oregon, with 7 votes, or New Mexico, with 5, would decide the outcome. Whoever wins Florida's 25 votes will move into the White House next January.

Because of a last-minute rush of ballots, final unofficial results in Oregon's nationally unique all-mail vote won't be available until late

Thursday, at the earliest. In New Mexico, the problem was technical glitches.

With 96 percent of the vote counted in Oregon, Gore had 662,155 votes, or 47 percent, to Bush's 658,123 votes, also 47 percent. Green Party contender Ralph Nader drew 63,284 votes, or 5 percent.

Bush could take the lead in Oregon on Thursday as more votes were reported from the conservative, southwestern counties of Jackson and Josephine.

Under Oregon law, a recount would be automatic if the margin between Bush and Gore were less than one-fifth of 1 percent, or about 2,500 votes.

New Mexico was waiting for a recount of 67,000 absentee and early-voting ballots from the state's most populous county before it could declare a winner. Officials in Bernalillo County, which includes Albu-

querque, began that recount Thursday morning.

With 99 percent of the precincts reporting before the recount began, Gore had 255,597 votes, or 49 percent, and Bush had 245,526, or 47 percent. Nader won 19,215 votes, or 4 percent.

The recount was caused by a software glitch and by ballots that would not go through the counting machines, officials said. The machines couldn't read ballots where voters marked they were voting a straight party ticket, but then chose at least one candidate from another party, election officials said.

The county clerk, a judge, attorneys from the Republican, Democratic and Green parties and officials of the company that manufactured the county's ballot machines agreed to the recount Wednesday afternoon, avoiding any immediate legal action.

Tabloid editor donates money to university ethics program

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOLDEN, COLO. — A supermarket tabloid editor accused of trying to buy a copy of the JonBenet Ramsey ransom note agreed to donate \$100,000 to a journalism ethics program to avoid bribery and extortion charges.

At the request of the prosecutor, a judge Wednesday dismissed charges against Craig Lewis, a Globe editor, in exchange for the donation to the University of Colorado School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

"We're very happy," said Lewis' lawyer, Jeffrey Pagliuca. "We think it's a very good and fair resolution." "It is very unusual," Jefferson County District Attorney Dave Thomas said.

Lewis, 44, was accused of offering

"It's sweet irony that the Globe, one of the most unethical publications on the face of the earth, would be supporting a media ethics class."

Len Ackland
University of Colorado journalism professor

a handwriting analyst \$30,000 for a copy of the note JonBenet's mother said she discovered before the 6-year-old's body was found.

He also was charged with trying to extort information from a detective by sending him pictures of his deceased mother and threatening to expose a family tragedy.

"It's a sweet irony that the Globe, one of the most unethical publications on the face of the earth, would be supporting a media ethics class," CU journalism professor Len Ackland said.

Stocks drop as investors wait for decision in presidential race

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Stocks continued their decline Thursday as Wall Street waited to see if the ballot recount under way in Florida will determine who wins the U.S. presidency.

Unsure how to invest given the political uncertainty, investors returned to their recent trading pattern, selling high-tech issues whose profit growth appears to be in doubt. The tech-dominated Nasdaq composite index was down 52.27 at 3,179.43, compounding a 184-point drop in Wednesday's session.

But investors weren't putting their money in stocks usually seen as rela-

tively safer. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 70.15 to 10,836.91, adding to Wednesday's 45-point slide.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 11.89 to 1,397.39 after a nearly 23-point drop in the previous session.

Among the technology companies that dropped in the first hour of trading on Wall Street were computer chip manufacturer Intel, slipping \$1.44 to \$41.25, and network equipment maker Cisco, off 31 cents at \$51.81.

Pharmaceuticals, which made big gains Wednesday, also lost ground. Merck, a Dow component, was down 69 cents at \$90.13. Pfizer fell 63 cents to \$44.63.

Financial firms, off significantly on Wednesday, were mixed. Banker J.P. Morgan, also a Dow stock, gained 31 cents to trade at \$160, but Morgan Stanley Dean Witter was down 44 cents at \$72.63.

The Russell 2000 index was down 5.98 at 494.70.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers 13-6 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume was 141.70 million shares, up from 113.23 million in the previous session.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 2.21 percent. Germany's DAX index lost 0.64 percent, Britain's FT-SE 100 was down 0.42 percent, and France's CAC-40 also was off 1.03 percent.

NEWS BRIEFS

Democrats look for more influence in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — While Democrats failed to win a majority in either house of Congress in this week's election, party leaders envision greater influence due to their gains in the House and Senate.

Republicans promise improved cooperation but vow to stay in charge. In the Senate, the possibility of a 50-50 tie hinged on the Washington state race between Republican Sen. Slade Gorton and Democratic challenger Maria Cantwell that remained too close to call Wednesday.

Democrats had already picked up three seats, making it 50 Republicans and 49 Democrats at this point. With two House races still too close to call, Republicans had 220 seats to 211 for the Democrats. There are two independents, one aligned with each party.

Democrats will have a net gain of two seats in Tuesday's election if trends in the two outstanding races hold.

Clinton, Arafat meeting in effort to end violence

WASHINGTON (AP) — Renewed violence is at the top of the agenda and resumption of negotiations with Israel only a remote possibility Thursday as Yasser Arafat meets President Clinton at the White House.

Once-optimistic plans to mold a final settlement between Palestinian leader Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, who arrives Sunday, are in disarray, shattered by their differences on Jerusalem and five weeks of violence on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and in Israel.

Report says AIDS-related virus can be spread through kissing

BOSTON (AP) — A form of the herpes virus that causes an AIDS-related skin cancer appears to spread through kissing.

Herpes virus 8 was discovered six years ago and causes a skin cancer called Kaposi's sarcoma. In the United States, the cancer occurs almost exclusively in people with AIDS.

Some had suspected the virus was transmitted through sexual intercourse, but new research from the University of Washington, reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, contradicts that idea.

Explosion rocks Tibetan capital

BEIJING (AP) — An explosion, reportedly caused by a bomb, rocked a courthouse in the Tibetan capital Lhasa, briefly disrupting traffic and prompting police security checks, a monitoring group said Thursday.

The Oct. 26 blast was the first reported in the Himalayan region's capital in more than two years and may, if confirmed to be a bomb, signal renewed efforts by militant Tibetans to combat Chinese rule.

At least eight bombings, none causing deaths or serious injuries, have rocked Lhasa over the past five years, most recently in June 1998 near the city's police headquarters, the London-based Tibet Information Network said.

Tiger Woods attacks PGA Tour

(AP) — Tiger Woods gave a blistering review of the PGA Tour in an interview with Golf World magazine, complaining that he doesn't like how the tour is using his image for its own marketing and promotional purposes.

He said he wants control over how he is used, as well as a share of the skyrocketing revenues he's generating for the game. Woods said he was prepared to issue his demands in person to tour commissioner Tim Finchem, but he and Finchem rarely speak.

"The only time he talks to me is when he wants me to do something for him. To play in this tournament or that tournament. It's not like he comes up to me and asks me how I'm doing," Woods says in the Nov. 10 issue of the magazine.