World

Refugees gain permission to leave

At least 42 refugees were notified yesterday by Soviet authorities that after years of waiting they will be allowed to emigrate. The humanitarian gesture, offering Jews who had been denied exit permits on grounds of state security, followed by one day the ending of Soviet jailing of American-born Russian language broadcasters.

Bhutto named prime minister

Democracy came full circle in Pakistan yesterday when Benazir Bhutto was named prime minister. She becomes the first woman to lead a Muslim country and becomes the first freely elected prime minister in Pakistan since her father was overthrown in a military coup ten years ago.

Possible AIDS treatment announced in Britain

British researchers announced that they have developed a treatment for AIDS that apparently kills the virus without side effects. They said it requires victims of AIDS to have a monthly transfusion of blood plasma from other healthy carriers of the virus. A researcher said the plasma is treated to remove viruses, but contains high levels of the antibodies that can kill the virus. He cautioned that the treatment does not eliminate the AIDS victims' virus entirely.

Palestinian children return to school in the West Bank

Palestinian children returned to school yesterday in Israel's West Bank. Thousands of Arab children streamed into school buildings left vacant for most of the last ten months because an Israeli army order. No violence was reported at the schools, but elsewhere, hospital officials said 15 Palestinians were wounded when Israeli troops opened fire on stone-throwing demonstrators.

Local

FBI stakeout leads to mistaken arrest

An FBI stakeout in downtown Boston for a potential bank robber this morning resulted in at least one mistaken arrest. And, an elderly couple from Connecticut say they were pounced on by FBI agents and their son was arrested. And, an elderly couple from Connecticut say they were pounced on by FBI agents and their son was arrested.

American peacekeepers told to leave southern Lebanon

President Reagan ordered yesterday that American military endures assigned to United Nations peacekeeping duties in the Middle East to leave their units in southern Lebanon. Nine and a half months ago, Marine Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, who was on patrol, was abducted while on duty from that area.

Mexicans demonstrate during inauguration

There were protests in the streets of Mexico City today following the inauguration of President de la Gortari. Members of the opposition party contended that the 40-year-old economist will not be able to find a solution to the country's problems.

First AIDS day draws big crowds

The first AIDS day was marked today in cities around the world yesterday. Free condoms were distributed at London's Gower Park, people marched through downtown Miami and police in Zimbabwe tried to disperse the angry crowds.

Weather

Euthanasia suspect acquitted

A Florida doctor has been acquitted of murder charges by a St. Petersburg jury. Dr. Peter Rooker admitted trying to kill his wife, who was suffering from terminal cancer, and who had asked him to end her life.

Bush crowns national Christmas tree

Barbara Bush organizes her annual tree-planting ceremony on the south lawn of the White House today. The ceremony is the only thing she has done more than anyone else, and many had been denied exit permits on grounds of state security, followed by one day the ending of Soviet jailing of American-born Russian language broadcasters.

Reagan rules out pre-trial pardon

President Reagan apparently ruled out a pre-trial pardon for Oliver North, saying such a move would leave him off a list that includes some of the most hardened criminals. The probe grew out of separate investigations in New York, Philadelphia and Buffalo.

FBI breaks up drug ring

The FBI broke up yesterday what it called the "Buffalo-Monaca connection," in a joint US-Italian operation. More than 200 people have been charged in an international drug ring that deals in cocaine and heroin. FBI Director William Sessions said among those arrested are some of the top leaders of organized crime. The probe grew out of separate investigations in New York, Philadelphia and Buffalo.

Post office hopes for a "Miracle on 34th St."

The US Post Office on 34th St. in New York is hoping for another "Miracle on 34th St." that will be as meaningful as the original was. The post office gets all the letters to Santa from less-fortunate kids. And, instead of leaving them in the dead letter unit, it less volunteers pick them up and play Santa. The post office expects to receive 18,000 letters and officials are hoping for a let of happy endings.

December Almanac

As the sun makes its annual trek toward the Tropic of Capricorn, the temperatures in the northern hemisphere drop sharply. December is the month for many messy weather situations to overwhelm the country. The average high temperature is 39.3°F and the average low is 26.6°F giving a mean of 33°F. Normal precipitation for the month is 4.5 inches with an average of 11 days of measurable precipitation.

While the stormer pattern anticipated for this week has failed to materialize, the cooler temperatures have. A weak disturbance will pass to our north today triggering flurries in New Hampshire and Maine. A more important low will follow a similar track but pass to our north around the north late Saturday. This will increase our chances of light snow or flurries. However, it appears our southern neighbors will pick up most of whatever snow develops.

Local

Chief executive tainted at school

An elderly couple who fit the description of people who had been denied exit permits on grounds of state security. They were pounced on by FBI agents and their son was arrested.

Bush tends goodwill tour

President Bush is making a goodwill tour today by playing host to his former presidential rival, Michael Dukakis. The two will meet at the vice-President's residence in Washington, a day after Bush met with newly-elected Senate majority leader, George Mitchell. Earlier in the week, Bush extended the olive branch to Jesse Jackson and Senate minority leader, Bob Dole.

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High school students remain misinformed about AIDS

A survey conducted by the National Center for Disease Control found that many high school students were misinformed about AIDS, and more than a few are at risk of contracting the disease. The NCDC said that a majority of those surveyed knew they could get AIDS from giving blood, mosquito bites and toilet seats.