World

Yugoslav military shoots down European Community observers

The Yugoslav federal military is expressing deep regret about shooting down a European Community helicopter over war-torn Croatia. The helicopter was one of two choppers reportedly traveling from Belgrade to Zagreb in areas said to be safe from conflict. Officials said a Yugoslav air force jet fired a missile that brought the helicopter down and killed all five EC military observers on board.

In a statement carried by the Tanjug news agency, the Defense Ministry said it has ordered an investigation. The Yugoslav federation's air force commander has been suspended pending investigation of the attack.

The United Nations Security Council denounced the shoot-down as a clear violation of the cease-fire, but diplomats said the council will still approve a plan to send an advance team of military observers to Yugoslavia.

Arabs will come to peace talks

A Syrian source said the Syrian delegation to the Mideast peace talks will leave for the United States in two days for a belated beginning to the latest round of talks. Jordanian and Palestinian delegates are also reportedly ready to make the trip now that Israel has been reprimanded by the United Nations for its plan to deport 12 Palestinian activists. This leaves Lebanon as the only Arab state not committed to returning to the table.

Their Israeli counterparts have been waiting in Washington since the peace talks were to start yesterday. The Arabs had refused to take part until the UN Security Council condemned Israel's deportation of 12 Palestinians from a occupied West Jerusalem. A Israeli government official said the 12 had encouraged attacks that led to the recent deaths of four Jews settlers.

Nation

Love Canal dispute continues in trial

A lawyer for New York state said the company that created one of America's most notorious toxic dumps was too cheap to fence it to keep kids out. Eugene Martin-Leff said the top management of Hooker Chemical chose profits over children as Love Canal in New York. He spoke in closing arguments in the state's suit for $250 million in punitive damages from the company, which is now called Occidental Chemical. Occidental said the company just followed standard procedure for the time, which was based on earlier arguments on the company's claim that governments should share the cost of cleanup are due later this month.

Plane's engine falls off

Passengers aboard a Delta Air Lines jet watched as one of the plane's engines fell off and tumbled to the ground today shortly after takeoff. No one was injured in the incident which occurred shortly after the plane left Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. One of the 44 people aboard said "when you see fuel coming out of the wing" obviously you panic. But the passenger gave the pilots credit for doing "one heck of a job."

Bush and businessmen visit Japan

President Bush is visiting Japan to meet with Emperor Hirohito, to hold talks with Prime Minister Miyazawa. Yesterday, Bush and the chairman of the giant US auto maker General Motors welcomed Mr. Miyazawa to the US. The official welcoming ceremony was followed by meetings between Bush and Japanese officials. Their mission is to try to persuade Japanese officials to open markets to US products.

Statute owners file copyright suit

The owner of the copyright on the GI statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington is asking a federal judge to bar a veterans' group from selling photos of the artwork. A group called Homecoming Two has been selling photos and T-shirts of the statue. An attorney for the copyright owners said they are due a copyright fee. But a lawyer for the veterans' group said the statue is a public monument for all to photograph.

Scientists locate a heart disease gene

Scientists said they have found the location of a faulty gene that may be responsible for 25 percent of all heart disease. People with the gene are more likely to build up fatty deposits in the arteries, scientists are hoping the discovery of the gene's location might lead to a test that will identify people with a high risk of heart problems. The findings were reported in yesterday's edition of the Journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Abortion group rates Massachusetts unlikely to lose abortion rights

A national pro-choice group said women in Massachusetts are not likely to lose abortion rights even if the US Supreme Court overturns Roe vs. Wade. The National Abortion Rights Action League is ranking each state according to its current abortion laws and the views toward abortion of its governors and state legislators. Massachusetts was placed in the "low-risk" category, which means that abortion is likely to remain legal in the Bay State. Connecticut, Maine and Vermont are also considered states where there is the least risk of changes in abortion laws. Women in New Hampshire and Rhode Island are considered at moderate risk.

NARAL said the Supreme Court could leave millions of women without abortion rights if it lets states set tighter limits on abortions. The pro-choice group said that 13 states are likely to ban abortions if the high court reverses its 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision. NARAL Executive director Kate Michelman predicted the Court could overturn the abortion-rights ruling as early as June.

Tunnel construction begins

Using a giant floating crane called Super Scoop, construction crews are beginning the dredging of Boston Harbor. The tunnel will connect South Boston with Logan Airport. The project will take about seven months to complete. State Transportation Secretary Richard Taylor called it the "first significant, concrete evidence of real construction" on Senato Kennedy's plan to boost the economy. The tunnel will be placed in the "low-risk" category, which means that it is not expected to lose abortion rights. Massachusetts was placed in the "low-risk" category, which means that abortion is likely to remain legal in the Bay State. Connecticu

Weather

Sunny but cool


Wednesday night: Clear. Low near 20 °F (-7 °C).

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers or sprinkle. High around 35 °F -8 °C to 4 °C.

Forecast by National Weather Service

Compiled by Sarah Keightley

Tech's response line

Do you have an opinion on an issue, or a comment about anything you saw in The Tech? Then tell us at our Response Line. Leave your name, MIT affiliation, and evening phone number with your message. (The Tech's business number will continue to be 258-8251.)