

World and Nation

terrorist denies Achille Lauro killing

GENOA, Italy (AP) — The Palestinian who had confessed to killing Klinghoffer denied in court yesterday that he did it and claimed the 69-year-old invalid American was not even aboard the hijacked liner Achille Lauro.

Youssef Magid al-Molqi, 23, denied that the report of Klinghoffer's death "was a frame-up between Americans and the Syrians." U.S. officials identified the body after it washed up on the Syrian coast.

Judge Lino Monteverde, who is conducting the trial of 15 people charged in last October's two-day hijacking, read from a confession Molqi gave a prosecutor Nov. 8.

In it, Molqi said the four Palestinians who seized the ship off Port Said, Egypt, decided to kill a hostage because Syria refused to help press their demands that Israel release 51 Palestinian prisoners. The liner was off the Syrian port of Tartus at the time but was denied permission to enter.

American. I chose Klinghoffer, an invalid, so that they would know that we had no pity for anyone, just as the Americans, arming Israel, do not take into consideration that Israel kills without discrimination women and children of our people."

Bassam al-Ashker, accused of being the fourth hijacker, is to be tried separately in a juvenile court because he was 17 when the ship was seized and the 383 people aboard taken hostage.

Monteverde pointed out that an Italian hairdresser and a Portuguese waiter in the crew had said Molqi forced them to dump Klinghoffer's body overboard.

Molqi testified for two hours in the heavily guarded chamber built like a bunker under a Genoa courthouse. He sat before the judge with an armed policeman at either side.

Molqi insisted the pirates intended to leave the Achille Lauro in Ashdod, Israel, the next stop after Port Said, attack the customs office and "take as many Israelis as possible" hostage.

He said they seized the ship only because a waiter became suspicious. Monteverde replied that the waiter told investigators Molqi's story was false.

Police officer slain during investigation

REYNOSA, Mexico (AP) — A Mexican police officer investigating the slaying of a newspaper publisher was gunned down Thursday when he tried to question passengers in a car, authorities said.

Presiliano Garcia, 33, a veteran of the Tamaulipas State Judicial Police, died en route to the government hospital in Reynosa after he was shot with a .45-caliber weapon, said Israel Pena Lucero, commandant of the State Judicial Police in Reynosa.

Garcia and rookie officer Manuel Oviedo, 24, were investigating the murder of Dr. Jorge Brennes, 66, the newspaper publisher turned down Tuesday, Pena Lucero said.

Oviedo remained in the government hospital with multiple wounds, authorities said.

Also on Thursday, investigators from the Hidalgo County Sheriff's office released a composite sketch of the man who pumped four .38-caliber bullets into Brennes.

Monteverde read from the confession: "I remember that it was 3:12 (p.m.). I went down where the hostages were and I forced a Portuguese waiter to bring the American to the stern of the ship. I shot twice, once to the head and once to the chest."

"I and Bassam agreed that the first hostage to be killed had to be

When he had finished reading, Judge Monteverde asked Molqi, "How do you defend yourself?"

"I did not kill him, this is not true," said the young Palestinian described as the leader of the pirates. Klinghoffer "was not on the ship and I did not see him."

Molqi said in Arabic, through an interpreter, "Not one of us killed an American, not even I."

Canyon crash

Plane's tire may have hit helicopter

GRAND CANYON VILLAGE, Ariz. (AP) — Grand Canyon Airlines suspended tour flights Thursday as crews working in rugged terrain recovered the bodies of all 25 people killed when a helicopter and airplane crashed in flames into the canyon Wednesday.

Officials said there were indications that the helicopter's main rotor had sheared off the plane's tail, and that one of the plane's tires had struck the helicopter's engine cover.

John Guthrie, deputy superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park, said the collision probably occurred below the rim of the canyon.

The National Park Service and the Federal Aviation Administration have said aircraft are supposed to fly no lower than 2,000 feet above the mile-high rim, but opponents of the

flights say the advisory regulation is rarely enforced.

Flight manifests showed that 18 of the crash's victims were foreign tourists, authorities said.

Grand Canyon Airlines of nearby Tusayan, which owned the 20-occupant DeHavilland Twin Otter airplane, said it was suspending air tour operations pending results of the crash investigation.

Coconino County detectives returned Thursday to the crash site at Tuna Creek, a tributary of the Colorado River, to photograph, diagram and measure the impact points.

National Guard helicopters were used to remove the bodies, which were taken to a Park Service maintenance building for storage in a refrigerated trailer pending transfer to Flagstaff, 130 miles to the south.

Authorities announced a memo-

rial service for the victims Sunday at the Grand Canyon lodge.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators from Washington arrived Thursday to begin sorting out the final seconds of the aircraft.

John Schulte, a dispatcher in the Kaibab National Forest, said the airplane's emergency transmitter emitted a signal within seconds of the accident.

Sheriff's Sgt. Steven Luckesen, who spent Wednesday night at the crash site, said there was what appeared to be a tire skid mark on top of a panel of the helicopter engine housing. The airplane has fixed landing gear. The marked panel was some distance from the rest of the helicopter, Luckesen said.

World Briefs

Excedrin capsules recalled nationwide

SEATTLE (AP) — Tests were under way Thursday to see if a second person had died of cyanide poisoning linked to Extra-Strength Excedrin capsules.

The Food and Drug Administration late Wednesday issued a warning against use of the medication after the discovery of a second bottle of poisoned capsules, and manufacturer Bristol-Myers recalled the capsules nationwide.

The FDA said more than 73,000 capsules were analyzed

and none but the two bottles were found to contain cyanide.

Bristol-Myers urged stores to pull the product after the death of Katherine Sue Snow of Auburn, Wash., was blamed on cyanide found in the capsule.

Potassium cyanide also was found in a capsule from a bottle that may have been used by an Auburn man who died June 5, said Sue Hutchcroft, an FDA spokeswoman in Seattle.

Man gets AIDS from screened blood

ATLANTA (AP) — Health researchers reported Thursday the first case of a patient becoming infected with the AIDS virus from a blood transfusion that had been tested and showed no signs of the deadly disease.

The case, which occurred last year in Colorado, involved a rare set of circumstances — a donor who gave blood so soon after a homosexual encounter that he had not yet developed the antibodies which trigger the AIDS blood tests, officials with the federal Centers for Disease Control Federal health officials said.

The chance of a blood recipient getting the virus which causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome remains less than one in 100,000, said Dr. Harold Jaffe, an AIDS specialist with the CDC.

But the CDC noted that AIDS antibodies take months to show up in blood tests. For that reason, men who have had sexual contact with another man since 1977 (the advent of AIDS) must not donate blood.

In the Colorado case, a 31-year-old blood donor who tested negative for AIDS virus in April 1985 donated again in August 1985, about three months after he had his first homosexual contact in 11 years.

The August donation, like the April blood, tested negative. But a 60-year-old surgery patient, apparently heterosexual and faithfully married for 30 years, acquired the AIDS virus from a transfusion with the August blood, the CDC said.

Late selling causes Dow Jones drop

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market finished lower Thursday as the blue chips sagged amid some late selling.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials changed direction a number of times. It stayed close to Wednesday's closing level until the final few minutes when selling sent the blue chip indicator to

its lowest level of the day and left it with a 13.08-point loss at 1,855.86.

The market's erratic behavior was partly caused by apprehension on the eve of a "triple witching hour" which occurs on the last trading day for a set of futures contracts on stock indexes, options on stock indexes, and options on individual stocks.



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