

Twelve dead in Somali violence

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Fighting between feuding factions of a leading clan has killed at least 12 militiamen in the last two days in a southern Somali town, hospitals reported Monday. Four gunmen were killed Sunday and another eight were killed Monday in what appeared to be a cycle of revenge killings between Eyr and Suleiman sub-clans in Afgoe, 18 miles southwest of Mogadishu.

Both belong to Habr-Gedir, a major group of the Hawiye clan led by Hussein Aidid, a U.S. citizen and former Marine reservist.

The hostility between the two groups has been unceasing since the Eyr gunmen killed Mogadishu businessman Qasim Sheikh Mohamoud. Aidid and clan elders have been unable to stop the killings, despite repeated attempts.

Somalia has had no central government since the country disintegrated along clan and factional lines after the ouster of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991.

Fergie victim of skiing accident

VERBIER, Switzerland (AP) — The Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, has chipped a bone in her shoulder while skiing in Switzerland.

The duchess was skiing on the slopes above the resort of Verbier on Sunday morning when she fell, picked herself up and skied back down, her office said today.

She saw a doctor but the injury was not serious enough for her to cut short the holiday, the statement said.

"The Duchess is in considerable pain but is expected to stay on in Verbier," it said.

The 38-year-old duchess is vacationing with her daughters, 10, 9, and Eugenie, 7. She is Italian aristocrat Count della Gherardesca and the duchess's former boyfriend, car driver Paddy McNally. Her ex-husband, Prince Andrew, will be visiting them in Verbier Thursday, his 38th birthday.

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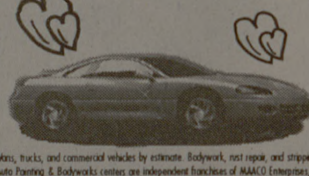
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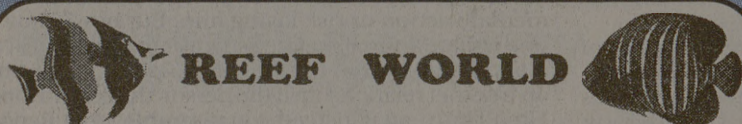
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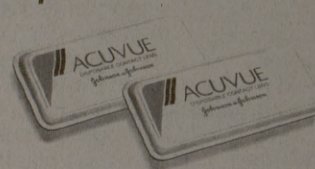
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