

NEWS IN BRIEF

A QUICK GLANCE AT EVENTS AROUND THE GLOBE

Two shootings occur on popular Phila. street

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A West Philadelphia man was in critical condition yesterday, the victim of a second shooting in the South Street area over the weekend. The first shooting left a man dead.

Tarik Robinson, 23, was wounded at 1:25 a.m. Sunday in a dispute with two men over a parking space on South Street, police said.

One man fired several shots. Robinson was struck by a bullet behind his left ear and taken to Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Early Saturday, Michael Lexter, 32, was shot to death after chasing a robber who had confronted him near a popular shopping and restaurant district several blocks away on South Street.

Lexter and some acquaintances had gone to the Monte Carlo Living Room Friday night. Lexter left about 2 a.m. with a man and a woman, and the three were approached by an armed robber, police said.

The gunman reportedly demanded money from Lexter's friend, who said he didn't have any. The robber punched the friend, then fled and got into this car.

Lexter and his friend chased the man and smashed his rear window and tail lights. The gunman got out and shot Lexter in the back.

Lexter was pronounced dead at 3:15 a.m. at Jefferson University Hospital.

Diabetic lost in woods lives on stream water

SIGEL (AP) — Ronald Remich was afraid to eat even berries for the 3½ days he spent in Jefferson County's thick woods because he is diabetic and did not have medication to regulate his blood sugar.

He was in fair condition in a Pittsburgh hospital Sunday. His wife notified authorities when he did not return from a ride on his all-terrain vehicle Wednesday.

Remich was found Saturday evening by a rescuer from the Civil Air Patrol some 12 miles from where his ATV had gotten stuck in mud. He said he drank from streams to put off dehydration.

"There's so many things that go through your mind . . . you can get turned around so easily that you don't know it," Remich said.



Chrysler's minivan childseats may be unsafe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vicky Albers ran to get scissors and cut the straps on her Chrysler minivan's built-in child seat when she feared it was choking her infant daughter.

"Rachel was frantically screaming and every time she would move or I would try to get her out, (the straps) would get tighter and tighter," said Albers, 31, of Charlotte, N.C.

The government's highway safety agency is investigating 166 complaints that children have been trapped in built-in child seats in Chrysler minivans for model years 1995-97 when the restraint systems' belts malfunctioned.

Chrysler officials believe food, candy or other sticky substances are getting caught in a latch mechanism at the bottom of the seat that controls the retraction of the restraints. The minivans involved are the popular Chrysler Town and Country, Dodge Caravan and Grand Caravan and Plymouth Voyager.

Chrysler recently sent 150,000 videos to customers with the child seats and dealers telling them how to clean and properly use them.

"We were aware of concerns," said Chrysler spokesperson Michele Tinson. "We felt we needed to communicate how to use the seats and any maintenance tips that would help them with the situations that were occurring."

Pathfinder is slowing down to save energy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After a month on the Red Planet, the Mars Pathfinder is finally slowing down.

The spacecraft yesterday began a new regimen in which it will spend Martian nights essentially shut down to save its batteries.

"The battery we have has been degrading slowly since we landed," said mission manager Richard Cook at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

The lander has surpassed the 30 days it was expected to last. And its companion Sojourner rover has gone well past its predicted seven-day life span.

Cook said it is difficult to tell how much time is left for Pathfinder. The cold nights and warm days will take their toll.

"Those thermal cycles are bad on electronic parts like solder joints," he said. "It will be that stress that will eventually break some connection, and that will be it."



Tenth landslide victim found, eight missing

THREDBO, Australia (AP) — Rescue workers yesterday found the body of a 10th victim of a landslide that buried two ski lodges, and fears of new slides hastened efforts to find eight people still missing.

Nineteen people were trapped under the mud and wreckage when a landslide struck this ski resort 185 miles south of Sydney on Wednesday, and since then only one person has been found alive in the rubble. Rescuers dug quickly today after forecasters predicted more rain and flash floods could trigger new slides.

"We are sure that the Snowy and its people, who have such a special place in our nation, its achievement and its folklore, will come through this tragedy with their legendary determination and courage," said Sir William Deane, a representative of Queen Elizabeth II.

Ten bodies have been recovered, including those of two Americans identified by The Australian newspaper as Mim Sodergren, 41, and Mike Sodergren, 46, of Tahoe City, Calif.

The latest body was found this evening. The victim's identity was not made public.

Late today, police verified that a woman believed to have been caught in the landslide was alive and well at their home in their country home in New South Wales. Her husband had reported her missing and then failed to notify authorities when he located her after the slide.

Only one of the people engulfed by the slide has been found alive. Rescuers on Saturday pulled ski instructor Stuart Diver free from a hollow in the debris where he lay in freezing water and darkness for about 65 hours.

Hun Sen will allow his supporters to return

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — The leader of Cambodia yesterday guaranteed safety to members of parliament who fled his bloody coup if they returned to endorse his choice for a new co-prime minister.

Hun Sen deposed his co-prime minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, in a violent coup July 5 that triggered two days of pitched battles in the capital.

With scores of his opponents in exile, Hun Sen is expected to have Ung Huot, his choice for co-premier, approved when 97 members of the 120-member National Assembly meet to vote Wednesday after a six-month lapse.

Foreign Minister Ung Huot is a member of Ranariddh's royalist party. Though Hun Sen is expected to retain real power, having a royalist as his co-premier would preserve a semblance of the coalition government. Hun Sen said again yesterday he would arrest Ranariddh and try him for treason if he returns.

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