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Putin Doles Out Press Awards

President honors journalists for Chechen war coverage. Page 3.



Confusion Reigns Over Massood

Fate of Afghan guerrilla leader remains a mystery. World, Page 15.



Softening

Russia signals acceptance of U.S. pullout from ABM Treaty. Page 3.

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Terrorists Destroy World Trade Center

By Jerry Schwartz
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — In one of the most horrifying attacks ever against the United States, terrorists crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center in a deadly series of blows Tuesday that brought down the twin 110-story towers.

A plane also slammed into the Defense Department as the government itself came under attack.

Thousands could be dead or injured, a high-ranking New York City police official said.

Authorities had been trying to evac-

Planes Ram Towers, Thousands Feared Dead

uate those who work in the twin towers when the glass-and-steel skyscrapers came down in a thunderous roar within about 90 minutes after the crashes, which took place minutes apart around 9 a.m. But many people were thought to have been trapped.

About 50,000 people work at the Trade Center and tens of thousands of others visit each day.

American Airlines initially said the Trade Center was hit by two of its

planes, both hijacked, carrying a total of 156 people. But the airline later said that was unconfirmed. Two United airliners with a total of 110 aboard also

Markets, leaders of the world and Russia react, Pages 12-13. Photos, Page 14.

crashed — one outside Pittsburgh, the other in a location not immediately identified. Altogether, the planes had 266 people aboard.

"This is perhaps the most audacious

terrorist attack that's ever taken place in the world," said Chris Yates, an aviation expert at Jane's Transport in London. "It takes a logistics operation from the terror group involved that is second to none. Only a very small handful of terror groups is on that list. ... I would name at the top of the list Osama bin Laden."

In June, a U.S. judge had set this Wednesday as the sentencing date for a bin Laden associate for his role in the

1998 bombing of U.S. embassies in Africa killed more than 200 people. The sentencing had been set for the federal courthouse near the World Trade Center. No one from the U.S. attorney's office could be reached Tuesday to comment on whether the sentencing was still on.

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers condemned the attacks and rejected suggestions that bin Laden was behind them, saying he does not have the means to carry out such well-orchestrated attacks. Bin Laden has been given asylum in Afghanistan.

Abdel-Bari Atwan, editor of the Al-Quds al-Arabi newspaper, said he received a warning from Islamic fundamentalists close to bin Laden, but did not take the threat seriously. "They said it would be a huge and unprecedented attack but they did not specify," Atwan said in a telephone interview in London.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, thousands of Palestinians celebrated the attacks, chanting "God is Great" and handing out candy.

Evacuations were ordered at the United Nations in New York and at the Sears Tower in Chicago. Los Angeles mobilized its anti-terrorism division. Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, was evacuated.

At the World Trade Center, "everyone was screaming, crying, running, cops, people, firefighters, everyone," said Mike Smith, a fire marshal.

"It's like a war zone," said Jennifer Brickhouse, 34, from Union, New Jersey, who was going up the escalator into the World Trade Center when she "heard this big boom."

"All this stuff started falling and all this smoke was coming through. People were screaming, falling and jumping out of the windows" from high in the sky, she said.

"I just saw the building I work in come down," said businessman Gabriel Ioan, shaking in shock outside City Hall, a cloud of smoke and ash from the World Trade Center behind him.

Nearby a crowd mobbed a man on a pay phone, screaming at him to get off so that they could call relatives.

Dust and dirt flew everywhere. Ash was up to 8 centimeters deep in places. People wandered dazed and terrified.

The planes blasted fiery, gaping holes in the upper floors of the twin towers. About an hour later, the southern tower collapsed with a roar and a



One of the two World Trade Center towers collapsing Tuesday morning in Manhattan after two passenger planes crashed into them. The second tower collapsed minutes later.

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Another Hijacked Plane Hits Pentagon

By Ron Fournier
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon took a direct, devastating hit from an aircraft and the enduring symbols of American power were evacuated Tuesday as an apparent terrorist attack quickly spread fear and chaos in the U.S. capital.

President George W. Bush ordered the military to "high-alert status," and vowed to "hunt down and punish those responsible" for the attacks in Washington and New York.

The president was in Florida at the time of the attacks and was flown at midday to the safety of a military installation, Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana.

The top leaders of Congress were led to the safety of an undisclosed location, and military aircraft were reported patrolling the skies above the capital.

The nerve center of the nation's military burst into flames and a portion of one side of the five-sided structure collapsed when the plane struck in mid-

morning. Secondary explosions were reported in the aftermath of the attack, and great billows of smoke drifted skyward toward the Potomac River and the city beyond.

At midday, local hospitals reported receiving 40 victims of the attack, with seven patients in critical condition admitted to one facility for treatment of burns.

Glenn Flood, a Pentagon spokesman, said there were "extensive

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ATTACK

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huge cloud of smoke; the other tower fell about a half-hour after that, covering lower Manhattan in heaps of gray rubble and broken glass. Firefighters trapped in the rubble radioed for help.

"I have a sense it's a horrendous number of lives lost," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said. "Right now we have to focus on saving as many lives as possible."

The death toll on the crashed planes alone could surpass that of the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19, 1995, which claimed 168 lives in what was the deadliest act of terrorism on U.S. soil.

In Florida, President George W. Bush was reading to children in a classroom when his chief of staff, Andrew Card, whispered into his ear. The president briefly turned somber before he resumed reading. He addressed the tragedy about a half-hour later.

David Reck was handing out literature for a candidate for public advocate a few blocks away when he saw a jet come in "very low, and then it made a slight twist and dove into the building."

When the second plane hit the World Trade Center, a fireball of flame and smoke erupted, leaving a huge hole in the glass and steel tower.

John Axisa, who was getting off a commuter train to the World Trade Center, said he saw "bodies falling out" of the building. He said he ran outside and watched people jump out of the

first building. Then there was a second explosion, and he felt heat on the back of his neck.

WCBS-TV, citing an FBI agent, said five or six people jumped out of the windows. Witnesses on the street screamed every time another person leaped.

People ran down the stairs in panic and fled the building. Thousands of pieces of what appeared to be office paper drifted over Brooklyn, about five kilometers away.

Trading on Wall Street was suspended. New York's mayoral primary election Tuesday was postponed.

All bridges and tunnels into Manhattan were closed.

American Airlines initially identified the planes that crashed into the Trade Center as Flight 11, a Los Angeles-bound jet hijacked after takeoff from Boston with 92 people aboard, and Flight 77, which was seized while carrying 64 people from Washington to Los Angeles.

In Pennsylvania, United Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757 en route from Newark, New Jersey, to San Francisco, crashed about 130 kilometers southeast of Pittsburgh with 45 people aboard. United said another of its planes, Flight 175, a Boeing 767 bound from Boston to Los Angeles with 65 people on board, also crashed, but it did not say where. United's pilots union said United Flight 175 crashed into the Trade Center.

An emergency dispatcher in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, received a cellphone call at 9:58 a.m. from a man who said he was a passenger locked in the bathroom of United Flight 93, said dispatch supervisor Glenn Cramer.

"We are being hijacked, we are being hijacked!" Cramer quoted the man as saying. The man told dispatchers the plane "was going down. He heard some sort of explosion and saw white smoke coming from the plane and we lost contact with him," Cramer said.

Terrorist bombers struck the World Trade Center in February 1993, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others.

In 1945, an Army Air Corps B-25, a twin-engine bomber, crashed into the 79th floor of the Empire State Building in dense fog.



Smoke billowing into the air from the Pentagon following the impact, which caused a portion of one side of the building to collapse.

PENTAGON

Continued from Page 1

casualties and an unknown number of fatalities."

"The whole building shook" with the impact, said Terry Yonkers, an Air Force civilian employee at work inside the Pentagon at the time of the attack. "There was screaming and pandemonium," he said, but the evacuation ordered shortly afterward was carried out smoothly.

"I saw a big jet flying close to the building coming at full speed. There was a big noise when it hit the building," said Oscar Martinez, who witnessed the attack.

Authorities have not described the plane that hit the Pentagon, although eyewitnesses said it was clearly a big commercial jet.

Vice President Dick Cheney was in Washington and he and first lady Laura Bush were taken to an undisclosed secure location, officials said.

"The leadership of the Defense Department is OK. The secretary [Donald Rumsfeld] is OK," Flood told reporters.

Authorities immediately began deploying troops, including a regiment of light infantry, in response to an attack for which they said there had been no advance warning.

The departments of Justice, State, Treasury and Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency were evacuated

— an estimated 20,000 at the Pentagon alone. Agents with automatic weapons patrolled the White House grounds.

And the Federal Aviation Administration ordered the U.S. air traffic system shut down for the first time in history.

Two planes had crashed into the World Trade Center, and a third into the Pentagon. A fourth plane crashed southeast of Pittsburgh, and one lawmaker, Representative James Moran, said after a Marine Corps briefing that "it was apparently intended to hit Camp David," the presidential retreat in the mountains of Maryland. On Sept. 17, 1978, after 12 days of secret talks, Israeli-Egyptian negotiations yielded the Camp David accords.

Armed personnel secured the runway at Barksdale Air Force Base when Bush's plane touched down there. After a short stay on the ground, Bush's plane prepared to take off once again, to an undisclosed destination.

Bush and others spoke freely about terrorism being the cause, and already there was speculation about those responsible.

One U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there were unspecified indications that Osama bin Laden's organization was responsible. But assessing responsibility was likely months if not years down the road, and in the meantime, there was no attempt to minimize the impact.

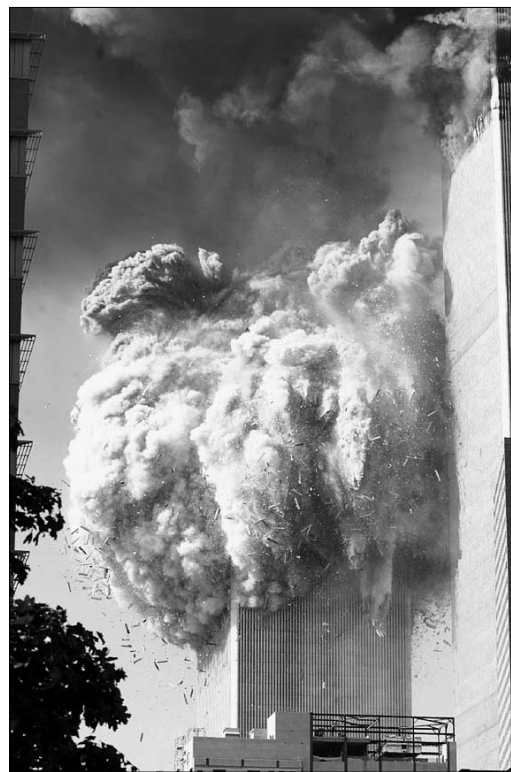
The U.S. military was ordered to "Threat Level Delta," the highest level,

according to Air Force Captain Tatiana Stead at Andrews Air Force Base.

"This is the second Pearl Harbor. I don't think that I overstate it," said Senator Chuck Hagel, referring to the attack 60 years ago that surprised the nation's intelligence apparatus and propelled the country into World War II.

With Bush away from the capital, his advisers were preparing a list of options, including closing the nation's borders, according to a senior U.S. official. The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was premature to discuss military options because investigators were still trying to determine who was responsible for the attacks.

Away from the Pentagon, unexplained explosions were reported in the vicinity of the State Department and the Capitol building. A torrent of people rushed from their office buildings throughout Washington, eager to leave a city under siege.



The second Trade Center tower collapsing Tuesday.

WEATHER

	WEDNESDAY P. cloudy High 20, Low 12.
	THURSDAY P. cloudy High 18, Low 11.
	FRIDAY Sunny High 20, Low 5.

CIS	HIGH	LOW	OUTLOOK
Irkutsk	11	6	cloudy
Kiev	16	12	rain
Minsk	17	11	rain
Novosibirsk	11	2	rain
Odessa	17	12	p. cloudy
St. Petersburg	19	8	sunny
Tbilisi	29	16	p. cloudy
Vladivostok	25	10	sunny

THE WORLD	HIGH	LOW	OUTLOOK
Amsterdam	17	13	rain
Berlin	18	7	p. cloudy
Buenos Aires	21	9	sunny
Geneva	15	1	p. cloudy
Helsinki	19	12	rain
Hong Kong	31	24	p. cloudy
Jerusalem	31	17	sunny
Johannesburg	25	11	p. cloudy
London	16	8	p. cloudy
Madrid	30	6	sunny
Nairobi	26	13	p. cloudy
New York	23	12	sunny
Paris	21	7	p. cloudy
San Francisco	21	9	sunny
Tokyo	27	21	p. cloudy
Vienna	12	3	p. cloudy

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I N B R I E F

Putin Meets Zhu

■ MOSCOW (AP) — President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday praised the “intensive” development of ties between Russia and China, especially in the spheres of economic cooperation and weapons sales. He told visiting Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji that he would soon send the countries’ new friendship treaty to parliament for ratification, Itar-Tass reported. Putin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin signed the treaty in July.

Salvation Army Case

■ MOSCOW (AP) — A Moscow judge Tuesday refused the Salvation Army’s request to postpone a case seeking to put the group out of business in the city.

Moscow authorities have denied the group’s requests for registration.

Russian lawyers for the religious charity had argued that the case in Moscow should be put off pending decisions on appeals lodged in top Russian courts and the European Court of Human Rights. But Judge Svetlana Grigoryeva ruled that the case would proceed.

Italian Sailor Stabs Boy

■ MOSCOW (AP) — An Italian navy seaman stabbed a 17-year-old boy to death in a brawl and took refuge in his ship, which left Novorossiisk on Tuesday before Russian officials could press charges, police said.

The Italian cruiser Vittorio Veneto was winding up a five-day friendship visit to the Black Sea port. A fight broke out between local teenagers and visiting Italian sailors on Monday, and the boy was stabbed in the back, said Klavdia Zhivotova, a police officer in Novorossiisk. She said the stabbing victim might have provoked the fight, but he was unarmed.

After the fight, the Italian seamen barricaded themselves on the ship and would not let anyone approach, she said.

Chechnya Bombed

■ NAZRAN, Ingushetia (AP) — Military aircraft and heavy artillery barraged Chechnya’s southern mountains Tuesday in response to the latest spate of rebel mine explosions and raids.

At least two federal servicemen have been killed and 10 more wounded since Monday in ambushes and attacks, said an official with the pro-Moscow Chechen administration.

In retaliation, military jets and cannons pounded the forested Vedeno Gorge and other regions in the south.

Putin Talks With Bush

■ WASHINGTON (AP) — In a brief telephone conversation President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President George W. Bush reaffirmed their intent to make progress on strategic relations during their upcoming meetings in the next several months.

“They said they both looked forward to productive exchanges at their upcoming meetings in Shanghai in October and in the U.S. in November,” White House spokesman Sean McCormack said of Monday’s 10-minute conversation.

Bulgaria Requires Visas

■ SOFIA, Bulgaria (Reuters) — Bulgaria will introduce visas for visitors from Russia, Ukraine and Georgia starting Oct. 1, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. The visas are being imposed in line with pledges to the European Union, the ministry said in a statement.

20,000 Hens Die in Fire

■ MOSCOW (MT) — Some 20,000 hens died of smoke inhalation after a fire erupted Monday evening in a Moscow-region chicken coop, Interfax reported. Negligence by welders working on the roof was the suspected cause, the report said.

Kremlin Honors Chechnya Reporters

By Andrei Zolotov Jr.
STAFF WRITER

In a questionable attempt to improve his public image, President Vladimir Putin praised journalists Tuesday for their coverage of the Chechnya conflict. At a special Kremlin ceremony, he awarded 48 reporters and cameramen with state medals for their work in the north Caucasus during both Chechnya wars.

Since the start of the second campaign, which began in 1999, Putin and his government have been criticized for excessively restricting the work of reporters in Chechnya. Several journalists, such as Radio Liberty correspondent Andrei Babitsky and Novaya Gazeta reporter Anna Politkovskaya, whose hard-hitting reports about the suffering of the civilian population have irritated authorities, have spent time under arrest in Chechnya. Other reporters have been kidnapped or killed by the rebels.

On Tuesday, Putin praised the journalists’ courage and said that reporters played an important role in the promotion of democracy and civil society in Russia, as well as in improving the chances for peace in Chechnya.

“That the peace process [in Chechnya] is gaining strength is to a large extent a merit of journalists,” he was quoted by Interfax as saying.

At the same time, Putin remained



President Vladimir Putin pinning a medal onto the lapel of NTV’s Alexander Khabarov.

unwavering in defending the campaign, which, he said, is targeted at “international terrorists.” The ceremony took place before news broke of the disastrous terrorist attack against the United States.

Putin stressed that reporters had faced a “well paid for, real propaganda war” on the part of the rebels, but predictably said nothing about the federal government’s attempts to control the in-

formation flow from the war zone.

Among reporters who received medals — some of which are meant for soldiers who displayed courage in battle — were television journalists from ORT, RTR, NTV, TV6 and TV Center, as well as the war correspondents of Interfax and Itar-Tass news agencies. Some of the names on the list were NTV’s Alexander Khabarov and Vyacheslav Grunsky, RTR’s Alexander Sladkov and Vitaly

Dzhibity from Interfax. The host of a former NTV show, “The Forgotten Regiment,” Yevgeny Kirichenko — who left the company in the wake of its politically charged takeover by Gazprom-Media — was also on the list of Tuesday’s award recipients.

Neither Politkovskaya, who received an international award in New York earlier this year for her critical Chechnya coverage, nor any other print journalists were honored by the Kremlin.

In his speech, Putin acknowledged the awkwardness of reporters’ receiving awards from the government. The vocation of journalists, he said, is “to criticize the authorities, to point to their mistakes and omissions.” But on Tuesday, reporters were awarded for their contribution to the “development of the society,” he said.

Alexei Simonov, president of the press freedom watchdog Glasnost Defense Foundation, said it is not up to the government to honor journalists.

“Journalists can be honored by public organizations or by the journalistic community,” Simonov said. “As for the government giving awards to reporters, there is something awkward about it. I am always happy to congratulate my colleagues on any award. But in this situation, I am afraid to say, the greatest courage would be to refuse it.”

Russia Softens Its Position on U.S. ABM Withdrawal Plans

REUTERS

Russia signaled Tuesday that it no longer sought to talk Washington out of withdrawing from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, but instead aimed to make the shift to a new relationship “safer.”

A top general who led Russia’s delegation in a day of talks with a Pentagon team responded more mildly than in the past to U.S. plans to withdraw from the landmark 1972 pact, apparently accepting the U.S. intentions as unshakeable.

The talks took place as news broke of the attacks in the United States, but officials declined to draw links between those attacks and the missile shield issue.

“The U.S. side is proposing to abandon the ABM and build a new strategic relationship,” Deputy Chief of Staff Yuri Baluyevsky said. “We propose making movement to this goal safer, marking the road with traffic signs to new arms deals.”

He added that “U.S. withdrawal from the ABM pact will not affect these relations of trust.”

Undersecretary of State for Defense Douglas Feith, who led the U.S. side, said he was pleased with Russia’s interest in U.S. proposals to develop a framework for a new strategic relationship.

Feith said the day of talks had laid the groundwork for talks due in October between the U.S. secretary of defense and Russia’s defense minister. Feith said the talks covered the level of U.S. offensive nuclear forces and missile defenses.

“There were elements that we brought that Russia said were new. ... It was a serious conversation,” he said.

There was no indication there had been a significant narrowing of differences over U.S. plans to build a missile shield for protection against strikes by “rogue states,” but Baluyevsky’s tone was milder than in the past.

EU: No Normal Relations Are Possible With Belarus

REUTERS

YALTA, Ukraine — European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana said Tuesday the EU could not normalize relations with Belarus after an election described as fraudulent by Western poll monitors.

“We’re not going to normalize relations with a country that does not respect the freedom of an election,” said Solana, attending a summit with Ukrainian leaders in Yalta.

On Monday, the EU and the United States expressed concern about the landslide re-election of President Alexander Lukashenko. The United States, one of Lukashenko’s fiercest critics, called it “meaningless.”

Lukashenko swept 76 percent of the polls while rival Vladimir Goncharik got only 15 percent. Gon-

charik complained of vote rigging, intimidation and lack of access to media.

His claims were backed by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which said the election was conducted in an atmosphere of fear.

Solana said Monday the EU would seek to encourage the development of grassroots democratic movements in Belarus and was heartened that the divergent opposition parties had managed to unite for the election behind Goncharik.

State Department spokesman Philip Reeker said the United States would pursue measures to promote civil society and restore democracy to Belarus. “Regrettably, no part of the electoral process has been transparent or fair,” he said.

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IM to Stop Publishing Playboy

THE MOSCOW TIMES

Independent Media, the parent company of The Moscow Times and about a dozen glossy magazines, said Tuesday it would stop publishing the Russian version of Playboy by the end of the year as part of a "strategic" adjustment to market conditions.

The decision coincides with the launch this month of FHM, also a mens' glossy lifestyle magazine.

"Although it was great fun to introduce Playboy to the Russian market in 1995, and our Russian team did a wonderful job in producing the local edition, we feel new titles like FHM and Men's Health have a stronger future and connect better with their audiences. Internationally, Playboy has clearly lost out to its competitors," Independent Media CEO Derk Sauer said Tuesday.

Independent Media publishes FHM, which has a worldwide circulation of 2.5 million copies and is the best-selling monthly magazine of any kind in Europe, under a licensing agreement with British-based Emap Publisher.

Sauer said that none of the 15 or so employees of Playboy would be laid off.

"Playboy's team will be offered jobs within the publishing house. There are plenty of new, exciting projects to work on and to accommodate [all] staff [members]," Sauer said.

Independent Media's publications include Russian-language versions of Men's Health, Cosmopolitan, Good Housekeeping and Harper's Bazaar; the magazines Kto, Yes! and Kult Lichnosti; and the Russian-language business daily Vedomosti. It also operates two Internet portals, Business.ru and eStart.ru.

State, Duma Begin Budget Debate

By Darya Korsunskaya

REUTERS

Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin said Tuesday the government was determined to stick to its inflation goals in the 2002 budget as parliament began to scrutinize next year's spending plans.

Government officials and members of the State Duma began discussions on the budget on Tuesday, including economic forecasts.

Duma members have recently called for changes in the government forecasts, including inflation, gross domestic product and revenue expectations.

But Kudrin said ahead of the meet-

ing that the government was determined to hold its ground.

"We intend to stick to this inflation figure," Kudrin told ORT television, referring to the government's 2002 inflation forecast of 10 percent to 13 percent.

"The growth in prices is today our main scourge therefore the government will stand very firmly on this," he said.

Inflation for 2001 was forecast originally at 12 to 14 percent, but officials have since raised their expectation to 17 to 18 percent. Inflation last year was 20.2 percent.

The head of the Duma budget committee, Alexander Zhukov, said the government had underestimated GDP ex-

pectations for this year and next by 1 trillion rubles (\$34 billion). He said the inflation forecast, the GDP deflator used in calculating economic growth and the volume of planned GDP needed to be changed.

"I am ready to bet with any government official about the size of GDP. This is unacceptable, being mistaken by a trillion rubles," Zhukov said of the government's forecast.

Zhukov said he expected GDP next year of around 11 trillion rubles, compared with a government forecast of 10.6 trillion.

He also said an official forecast for 2002 revenues undershot what the real

figure would be by 200 billion rubles. "The government has again reduced the income side of the budget, which we have seen it do for the last three years," he said.

Kudrin, also a deputy prime minister, said the budget would enjoy wide support in parliament.

Zhukov said that so far only one party, the pro-government Unity bloc, was in favor.

The 2002 draft for the first time includes a budget surplus, forecast to be 1.26 percent of gross domestic product.

Kudrin said the government would hold wide consultations in parliament to make sure support was firm.

Foreign Investors Hail Reform, Warn on Banks

By Svetlana Kovalyova

REUTERS

Russia has made good progress in overcoming the 1998 financial crisis but further economic growth may be hindered if banks are not reformed to meet the country's economic needs, foreign investors said Tuesday.

Banks were hit hardest by the crisis, when the government defaulted on domestic debt and temporarily froze repayments on non-sovereign foreign debt, triggering a wave of bank failures.

Banking reform has become even more urgent as the economy is recovering from the crisis and is desperate for investment, said bankers and economists at a Euromoney investment conference.

"Russia's banking system is not relevant to the growing economic needs [of the country]," said Allan Hirst, Citibank's senior vice president and head for Russia and the CIS.

Russia's economy posted record post-Soviet growth of 8.3 percent in 2000 and the government has forecast 5.0 to 5.5 percent gross domestic product growth this year. A favorable economic situation, including high prices for key exports oil, gas and metals, has given the government breathing space to launch wide-ranging structural reforms.

Investors praised the government's progress in tax reform and in ending barter and other non-monetary forms of payment, which were inherited from the communist-style economy.

But they highlighted the dependence on high prices for energy and commodities and a post-crisis ruble devaluation as key drivers for the recovery.

"Russia's economy is in a healthier shape than a few years ago, but it is still fragile in our view. Russia has to take firm measures to sustain growth," said Eugene Lawson, president of the U.S.-Russia Business Council.

"Russia does not have the internal resources to sustain growth. Foreign investment is essential," he said. Bankers agreed the sector was too small to finance an expanding economy.

Pyotr Aven, head of Alfa-Bank, quoted official figures that show the total capital for all Russian banks is a meager 4 percent of GDP.

He said bank loans to industry were just 3 percent of all investments, with the remainder covered by the government and companies themselves.

Aven said banks suffered from a lack of long-term funds as foreign capital markets were effectively closed to them after the crisis and an estimated \$30 billion in household savings was kept at home, not in banks.

Lawson said top U.S. investors still saw Russia as too risky, despite its strong fundamentals, as they saw the business climate as unfriendly and felt their rights were not fully protected.

Russia has seen many scandals over shareholder rights in recent years, in which many foreign investors have been burnt.

Bankers said many companies and banks had improved their corporate governance, but called for further steps towards international standards in management and transparency, including international accounting standards.

"International accounting standards, like an X-ray, help to reveal the disease so it can be cured," said Yury Ponomarev, head of Vneshtorgbank, Russia's second biggest state-owned bank. The Central Bank is urging all banks to adopt IAS by 2004.

The Central Bank has also said it wants to tighten control over banks' corporate management and get them to increase capital and improve capital adequacy ratios as part of a comprehensive banking reform, being drafted together with the government.



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I N B R I E F

UES Sinks 6%

■ MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russia's most liquid share sank 6 percent by the close Tuesday, rattled by slides on world markets after planes crashed into the World Trade Center in New York, but an oil price surge helped local oil stocks.

The news of the U.S. attacks came just before the close of trade on the Russian market so widespread impact was limited. But the most liquid stock, Unified Energy Systems, the market bellwether, slid 6.02 percent to close at \$0.10 on trade of more than \$7.0 million.

The main RTS index closed up 0.26 percent at 206.13 on official turnover of \$19.78 million, although the broader Reuters Russian Composite lost 0.53 percent to 1,303.51.

Of oil stocks, LUKoil rose 0.18 percent to \$11.05, Surgutneftegaz rose 0.19 to \$0.2575 and Yukos rose 1.12 percent at \$3.60. They were helped by surging oil prices after the U.S. attacks, with Brent crude oil futures soaring more than \$3.0 to over \$30.

Gazprom Foreign Stake

■ MOSCOW (Reuters) — A Gazprom official was quoted as saying Tuesday that he expected the 20 percent limit on foreign shareholdings in the firm to be reached next year.

Prime-Tass quoted the head of Gazprom's securities department, Alexander Semenyak, as also saying that the company would sell some shares that it owns in itself in 2002 and 2003.

Gazprom has said foreigners can boost their total stake in the company to 20 percent as part of a liberalization of trade in the shares. Prime-Tass quoted Semenyak as saying that getting the level up to 20 percent would probably be finished during next year.

Foreigners can currently legally only buy American Depository Shares, more

expensive than the locally quoted ordinary stock.

Gazprom says foreigners currently own a total 11.5 percent of its shares, although market analysts say the 20 percent level has already been reached via "gray schemes," which have allowed foreign shareholders to secretly buy local Gazprom shares.

Semenyak said the 20 percent quota will be met via auctions or tenders under a scheme yet to be decided by the company.

\$30M Aeroflot Loan

■ MOSCOW (Reuters) — Leading airline Aeroflot said Tuesday it had signed a one-year \$30 million syndicated credit organized by Raiffeisenbank Austria and was eyeing an issue of Eurobonds or other medium-term securities.

Aeroflot said in a statement that the agreement with Raiffeisen was signed Aug. 31. The co-organizers were Commerzbank Eurasia and Citibank.

The loan was backed by revenues from ticket sales abroad.

The statement quoted Aeroflot deputy general director for finance and planning, Nikolai Kuznetsov, as saying the funds would be used to refinance the beginning of work on a third terminal at Moscow's main airport, Sheremetyevo.

Aeroflot's director of treasury operations, Sergei Sukovatov, was quoted as saying that the loan was one of the ways in which Aeroflot was forming a positive credit history to allow it to take long-term loans on Western markets.

Aeroflot Cargo Move

■ COPENHAGEN, Denmark (Reuters) — Aeroflot will expand its cargo services from Europe to the Far East by four weekly DC-10 freighter flights to Beijing and Shanghai from the start of October, a senior Aeroflot cargo executive said.

"In addition to the existing three-times-a-week cargo flights from Luxembourg to Tokyo, we are now planning to operate four weekly flights to China," said Alexander Kiritchenko, Aeroflot cargo manager in Luxembourg.

Kiritchenko said the cargo flights will comprise one departure from Luxembourg to Beijing on Mondays, one flight from Hahn to Beijing on Fridays and two flights from Hahn to Shanghai on Wednesdays and Sundays.

A second weekly frequency from Hahn to Beijing will be added in November, bringing the total of new routes to China to five this year, he said.

Golden Nizhny Buy

■ MOSCOW (Reuters) — Golden Telecom said Tuesday it had agreed to acquire an alternative fixed-line telecommunications company in the Volga-region city of Nizhny Novgorod for \$2.9 million.

Golden said in a statement that the company, ADS, was the largest alternative fixed-line carrier in Nizhny Novgorod with 13,000 lines.

Golden already offers long-distance and Internet services in Nizhny.

"ADS will allow us to enhance our offerings and access additional customers because of its extensive networks," CEO Stewart Reich said in the statement.

Kazakh Plane Repairs

■ ASTANA, Kazakhstan (Reuters) — Kazakhstan plans to extend the lifespan of its ageing Russian-made aircraft by 10 percent, a senior official of the Central Asian state's civil aviation commission said Tuesday.

Amantay Zholdybayev, head of the commission's safety inspectorate, said the aircraft could be kept airworthy by improving maintenance to allow them

to fly for 110 percent of their design capacity.

"We've got about 600 aircraft of Russian manufacture, including helicopters," he said. "We can't just take them all out of service, we've got to use them," he said.

\$3.9Bln Extra

■ MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russia's coffers received 117.35 billion rubles (\$3.9 billion) in revenues above target in the first half of this year, the Finance Ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry said in a statement 41.2 billion rubles had been spent to service foreign debt.

Russia has said it planned to accumulate the money it receives from high prices for its main exports — oil, gas and metals — in a fund designed to tackle a 2003 peak in foreign debt payments.

Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov said Monday that Russia planned to accumulate \$5 billion this year to cope with \$19 billion in foreign debt payments and servicing. Russia is to pay about \$14 billion this year and next.

TNK to Sell Online

■ LONDON (Reuters) — Russian oil producer TNK is set this week to make the first online oil tender offer through the Internet-based OILspace services group, selling just over 50,000 tons of Urals crude, trade sources said Tuesday.

TNK will on Wednesday tender to sell 52,000 tons of Urals loading out of the Baltic Sea port of Ventspils on Sept. 28 to 29, the sources said. The tender will be awarded Friday.

Industry sources say this will be the first live transaction over OILspace's Nexus system, a proprietary platform that allows for multilateral negotiations and auctioning of oil cargoes.

OILspace, a privately owned com-

pany founded last year by an oil trader and a mathematician, is an online services company that aims to provide a variety of services to oil companies, from news feeds to risk-management tools to back-office tasks.

Russia, Turkmen Deal

■ ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan (Reuters) — Turkmenistan and Russia are preparing a 10-year cooperation agreement in the oil and gas sectors, a Turkmen government official said Tuesday.

"A Russian government delegation arrived in Ashgabat in the last few days to prepare a draft agreement for a 10-year period with the Turkmen side," the official said.

He said there had been discussions on selling Turkmen gas through Russia to third countries and on involving Russian companies in developing oil and gas fields in Turkmenistan, including offshore fields on the Caspian shelf.

The agreement could be signed during a planned visit to Ashgabat on Sept. 28 by Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov.

M A R K E T S	
FTSE CLOSE	FRANKFURT
4,746.0	4,273.53
287.7	396.6
NIKKEI CLOSE	DOW NOON
97.26	MARKET CLOSED
10,292.95	
HANG SENG	CAC-40 CLOSE
51.04	4,059.75
10,417.36	323.99

RUSSIAN MARKETS

CENTRAL BANK RATE			
29.50	29.45	29.40	29.35
29.30	29.25	29.20	29.15
9/6	9/7	9/8	9/11
			29.44

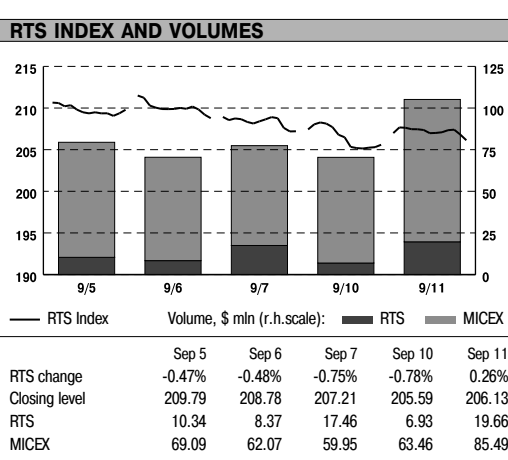
DOLLAR RATE IN SELT	
BID	OFFER
UTS 29.4470	29.4488
TOD 29.4650	29.4800
TOM 29.4700	29.4750

CENTRAL BANK RATES			
FOR	RUR	USD	
Australia	1	15.14	0.51
Austria	10	19.21	0.65
UK	1	42.82	1.45
Belarus	1,000	19.92	0.68
Belgium	100	65.54	2.23
Greece	1,000	77.63	2.64
Denmark	10	35.55	1.21
USA	1	29.44	1.00
Euro	1	26.44	0.90
Ireland	1	33.57	1.14
Iceland	100	29.48	1.00
Spain	100	15.89	0.54
Italy	1,000	13.66	0.46
Kazakhstan	100	19.93	0.68
Canada	1	18.83	0.64
Germany	1	13.52	0.46
Dutch	1	12.00	0.41
Norway	10	33.11	1.12
Portugal	100	13.19	0.45
SDR	1	37.73	1.28
Singapore	1	16.80	0.57
Turkey	1,000,000	20.67	0.70
Ukraine	10	55.18	1.87
Finland	10	44.47	1.51
France	10	40.31	1.37
Sweden	10	27.67	0.94
Swiss	1	17.44	0.59
Japan	100	24.22	0.82

INTEREST RATES	
DAYS	BID CHNG OFFER CHNG
1	4.0 33% 6.0 0%
2	7.0 40% 8.0 0%
14	10.0 18% 15.0 30%
30	12.0 26% 17.0 26%
60	11.0 5% 15.0 3%
90	12.0 4% 16.0 3%

BENCHMARK STOCKS	
	CLOSE, \$ CHNG, % VOLUME, \$ EV/EBITDA MCAP, \$ MLN 52WK HI 52WK LO
Oil and Gas	
Gazprom*	0.484 -2.71 1,843,834 3.24 11,462.7 3.598 0.248
LUKoil	11.230 1.95 6,076,870 1.99 9,345.1 15.560 7.900
Sibneft	0.600 0.00 414,850 2.12 2,076.7 1.675 0.225
Surgutneftegaz	0.259 1.05 1,020,675 1.88 10,438.9 0.341 0.180
Tatneft	0.498 1.48 323,975 1.38 1,124.5 0.608 0.318
YUKOS	3.598 1.35 871,660 1.43 8,047.6 3.930 1.380
Electricity	
UES	0.104 -2.40 7,120,199 3.30 4,406.4 0.161 0.068
Mosenergo	0.032 -1.38 69,000 3.02 911.6 0.045 0.022
Irkutskenergo	0.087 -0.29 - 4.63 412.3 0.120 0.061
Bashkirenergo	0.088 -0.28 9,000 1.00 93.1 0.103 0.040
Chelyabenergo	0.080 0.00 - 0.40 36.6 0.081 0.020
Kubanenergo	2.200 0.00 - 0.58 39.3 2.600 0.650
Kuzbassenergo	0.112 -1.32 - 1.04 67.7 0.155 0.065
Lenenergo	0.265 0.00 - 1.71 220.7 0.330 0.150
Rostovenergo	0.016 -3.13 7,000 3.29 58.4 0.020 0.010
Samaraenergo	0.027 0.00 - 1.50 101.3 0.032 0.011
Sverdlovennergo	0.088 0.00 - 0.46 52.8 0.120 0.041
Telecommunications	
Rostelecom	0.636 -3.05 295,570 2.95 533.8 2.050 0.632
Central Telecom	142.500 0.00 - 5.67 76.0 215.000 135.000
MGTS	5.375 -10.04 11,400 5.41 455.5 8.600 4.800
Nizhegorod SI	0.950 0.00 - 4.05 98.2 1.450 0.700
PTS	0.450 5.26 - 5.67 233.6 0.745 0.310
Southern Telecom	6.800 0.00 - 4.30 83.2 13.700 6.600
Ural SI	0.008 0.00 - 5.40 72.6 0.015 0.007
Metals	
Norilsk Nickel	16.375 0.00 161,000 1.32 3,495.8 18.000 14.600
Severstal	40.400 -1.76 80,690 2.43 891.8 44.750 16.750
Manufacturing	
AvtoVAZ	12.350 -1.20 - 2.79 370.9 12.350 1.500
GAZ	18.875 -1.18 27,475 5.54 96.2 53.000 13.750
KamAZ	0.298 0.00 - 2.23 234.1 0.340 0.150
United Heavy Machinery	3.625 0.00 - 2.59 132.8 4.900 1.410
Consumer & Retail	
GUM	1.500 0.00 - 4.60 90.0 1.750 1.100
Red October	3.900 -2.50 3,600 3.44 36.0 5.250 3.500
TzUM	0.315 0.00 3,050 3.72 28.2 0.600 0.230
Transport	
Aeroflot	0.296 -0.42 14,375 3.89 329.0 0.369 0.028
Tyumenaviatrans	0.040 0.00 - 1.71 22.8 0.044 0.021
Banking	
Sberbank	35.000 -2.23 17,875 0.38 683.9 48.150 22.700

PREFERRED SHARES	
	CLOSE, \$ CHNG, % VOLUME, \$ DISCOUNT E DIVD YIELD 52WK HI 52WK LO
LUKoil pref	11.025 1.52 863,500 -2% 16% 14.000 7.910
Rostelecom pref	0.289 -1.28 14,000 -55% 5% 0.710 0.280
Sberbank pref	0.378 -0.07 - -46% 8% 0.435 0.266
Surgutneftegaz pref	0.154 2.70 1,732,285 -40% 5% 0.167 0.081
Tatneft pref	0.275 0.00 - -45% 7% 0.300 0.190
UES pref	0.070 -4.14 92,600 -33% 3% 0.090 0.028



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ADRS	
	Sept. 10
	SHARES PER ADR CLOSE, \$ CHNG, % VOLUME, \$ 52WK HI 52WK LO
LUKoil	4 44.38 -1.39 13,245,765 63.00 31.25
SurgutNG	50 13.15 -0.38 4,788,786 17.00 8.88
Gazprom	10 9.89 0.15 7,119,830 11.45 5.33
Tatneft	20 9.86 0.61 648,816 12.00 6.25
Sibneft	10 5.75 -2.57 764,204 n/a n/a
YUKOS	15 53.75 0.94 2,515,950 58.75 38.24
UES	100 10.66 -1.30 679,125 16.00 7.00
Mosenergo	100 3.29 -1.79 182,147 4.70 2.00
Rostelecom	6 3.90 -1.76 560,430 12.13 3.85
VimpelCom	1.33 16.80 -4.44 4,771,264 26.69 12.06
Golden Telecom	9.36 1.74 55,224 27.50 4.88
MTS	1 25.54 0.16 2,342,018 31.00 21.25
Norilsk Nickel	1 17.00 6.25 522,076 20.75 14.25
UHM	1 3.57 -3.94 45,810 5.65 1.40

data from

"I have knowingly defended a number of guilty men, but they never escape unscathed. My fees are sufficient punishment for anyone."
An American lawyer

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OIL PRICE

	LATEST	D-O-D	DISCOUNT TO BRENT	52WK HI	52WK LO
Urals, \$/pbl	26.40	-0.98	3.30%	34.39	19.05

TROIKA DIALOG EXTERNAL DEBT INDEX (TED)

324.13

OFZ WEIGHTED AVERAGE YIELD (%)

16.78

MINFIN BONDS

	MATURITY	BID	CHNG	YTM	SPREAD	CHNG
MinFin 4	5/14/03	86.50	0.375	12.53%	901.2	-28.2
MinFin 5	5/14/08	52.00	0.875	14.82%	998.6	-32.3
MinFin 6	5/14/06	63.25	1.250	14.35%	1,003.5	-51.3
MinFin 7	5/14/11	42.37	0.245	14.41%	957.2	-7.9
MinFin 8	11/14/07	56.13	6.000	14.72%	988.1	-245.9

SOVEREIGN EUROBONDS

	COUPON	MATURITY	BID	CHNG	YTM	SPREAD	CHNG
Euro 01	9.25%	11/27/01	100.75	0.000	5.36%	208.0	-11.3
Euro 03	11.75%	6/10/03	105.00	0.250	8.57%	506.0	-15.4
Euro 05	8.75%	7/24/05	95.06	1.062	10.33%	600.0	-35.3
Euro 07	10.00%	6/26/07	92.50	0.750	11.82%	749.0	-19.4
Euro 10	8.25%	3/31/10	79.88	0.625	12.94%	862.0	-16.7
Euro 18	11.00%	7/24/18	92.50	1.000	12.04%	720.0	-15.2
Euro 28/08	12.75%	6/24/28	101.50	1.000	12.41%	808.0	-22.2
Euro 30	5.00%	3/31/30	49.44	0.812	14.39%	955.0	-22.1

MUNICIPAL AND CORPORATE EUROBONDS

	COUPON	MATURITY	BID	CHNG	YTM	SPREAD	CHNG
St. Petersburg	9.50%	6/18/02	101.13	0.000	7.92%	472.2	-5.4

Meeting the Needs of Petersburg's Job Market

By Anna Shcherbakova

SPECIAL TO THE MOSCOW TIMES

ST. PETERSBURG — Yekaterina Matskevich, research consultant and head of the St. Petersburg office of Ward Howell, an international company that specializes in executive searches, says St. Petersburg has given the country a lot of talented top-level managers in both the business and governmental sectors.

Q: What positions do your clients most often come to you looking to fill?

A: Since 1993, when we entered the Russian market, it has changed several times. In 1993, the first multinationals were establishing their presence here, and they were looking primarily for salespeople. Their requirements were straightforward: young, ambitious people, Western-oriented, with some English if possible.

We started out by helping them with this, but even so, it was really quite difficult to find potential employees with these qualifications.

In 1995, we began working with Russian companies looking for top-level executives — primarily in the banking sector. Beginning in 1997, investment banking grew rapidly and until the August 1998 crisis, we were working primarily in commercial and investment banking.

After the crisis, we had only outplacement assignments for about six months. By mid-1999, though, business started returning and now we have assignments in a broad range of production sectors: aviation, metals, machine building, pharmaceuticals. Everybody is producing.

Russians were quick to understand that the crisis was a good chance for domestic companies to get into the market and compete with the multinationals, most of which only had sales and representative offices in St. Petersburg.

The multinationals came to understand this too. They now know they must ... create production enterprises in order to avoid losing their positions. Now, our assignments are split about evenly between Russian and foreign companies.

Mostly we are looking for technical managers, technical directors and chief engineers. Financial managers are always marketable. When a crisis comes, they are needed to close down operations. When the crisis passes, they are needed to open them again. If you are in finance, you can hardly lose.

But Russia is a producing country, and St. Petersburg is no exception. Real interest in this sphere has developed



ALEXANDER BELENKY / MT

Matskevich says now that the crisis has passed, businesses are looking to restaff.

enormously in the last few years. It is difficult to find well-qualified managers with sound skills because in the early 1990s, most of them left their positions and went into trade or other business.

Q: Does that mean that the army of engineers educated in Soviet times is finally in demand?

A: Yes.

Q: And have a lot of them maintained their knowledge and skills? Are they able to cope with current tasks?

A: In most cases, they are ready. If a manager worked for an enterprise with 15,000 employees, it is very likely that he knows how to manage people and to solve problems. He has those skills. What is really needed, though, are people who are willing to move to the regions. In Soviet times, young people finishing the institutes had to begin their careers in the regions. But that system is now destroyed and most people want to stay here. We currently have several assignments in Siberia, central Russia and the Far East. It is very hard to fill them.

There are other shortages as well. We do not have any marketing people in St. Petersburg. We didn't have any assignments in this field for several years. This year, we have two and we are searching mostly in Moscow. We found a market-

ing director for Bravo Brewery in Moscow. There are practically no marketing professionals here.

Q: Is there any difference between Russian and international companies in terms of compensation or requirements for top managers?

A: I see no difference between local and multinationals in terms of compensation. But local companies are more demanding in terms of hiring. I wouldn't say that they need more skills, but they are looking for more entrepreneurial people. Multinationals usually have stan-

dardized procedures, and they still prefer to have people from their headquarters in top positions. Here they are looking for experienced people who understand the culture of a multinational company. Russian companies are looking for tough guys who can get results.

Now we are serving local companies looking for expatriate managers. Russian owners are smart. It is not like the days when Russian companies just wanted "a foreigner." Now they know what they need from a foreign manager and they have targets. Our work in this area is difficult. It is not enough to find someone with entrepreneurial qualities who is willing to work in Russia. They must also be highly professional.

In the last few months, we successfully completed one such assignment for Gloria. They needed a production manager for one of their enterprises and we found an Italian who had previously worked in Romania. Now he is working in Novoshakhtinsk.

new opportunities and new businesses.

Q: So there is less competition here?

A: We feel more relaxed. We know everyone. The environment in Moscow is tougher. Everybody is moving and looking for something new. The image of people is quite different. People who work in Moscow come here on the weekends to relax and meet with friends. But they prefer to work in Moscow.

In my opinion, St. Petersburg is not good at importing people. Moscow does a much better job of importing people from all over Russia. St. Petersburg's culture is different in this way. Locals here don't like newcomers, especially from Moscow.

One reason why St. Petersburg is so closed is because of the high level of the education system here. You can find almost any type of specialist locally. But I think we need some kind of stimulus from outside. It may come from locals who went to Moscow and who may someday return and do business here.

Q: What is your view of jobs in the government? Is its prestige increasing? Since a local became president, many people have gone to Moscow and many more seem to be waiting to go.

A: Businesspeople are more interested in working in the government sector now than they were in previous years. Some recent changes, like the 13 percent income tax, should encourage them more. Instead of spending their time coming up with ways to avoid taxes, they prefer doing concrete things. They see that working in state structures allows them to organize the situation and make the business environment more friendly. They also know that experience working as a high-level official is an excellent qualification for top-level management positions.



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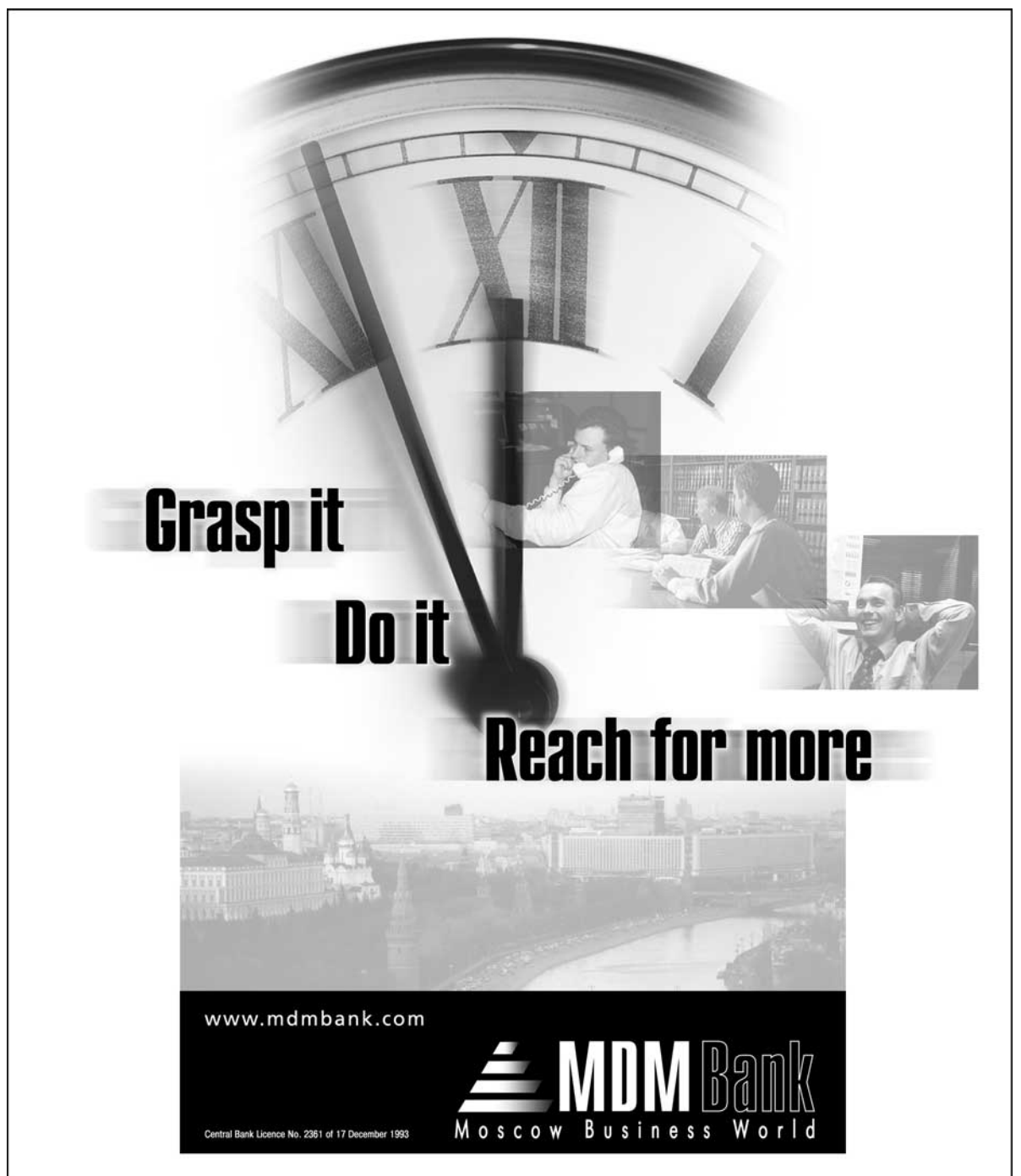
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A Decade of Connecting With Cellphones

By Elizabeth Wolfe

STAFF WRITER

A decade ago it cost \$5,000 just to get started, phones weighed 5 kilograms and subscribers could not stray far from the center of St. Petersburg or Moscow if they wanted to keep their signal.

Today, cellphones and initial fees can ring in at less than \$100, per-minute tariffs are still falling, and subscribers are not a magnet for strange looks while chatting away in the street, metro, car, office or at the dacha.

It's been 10 years and three days since Delta Telecom launched commercial operations in St. Petersburg, becoming the former Soviet Union's first cellular provider. Then-St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak made the ceremonial first call to the mayor of Seattle in the United States.

Running on the NMT-450 cellular standard, Delta picked up 131 customers by year's end and almost 1,000 more in 1992. Moscow Cellular Communications, which started up in Moscow a few months later, was just as small with tariffs just as big.

For most of the decade, cellphones remained the exclusive toy of the business or government elite, which quickly made it a status symbol. Still, the pioneering companies say they had to teach people just what mobile communications were all about.

"When we started in '91 and '92 it was a very new product. It was a new product in the world, but in Russia especially," said Nikolai Pryanishnikov, first vice president of Vimpelcom, who in the early 1990s worked at MCC.

"I remember going to rich people and offering them cellular phones, and them saying, 'We've got secretaries. We've got phones in our office. Why do we need mobile phones?'"

That soon changed as the cellphone began to be equated with power and a Mercedes Benz with tinted windows. Manufacturers and operators say that, in the very beginning, it was actually modish to have a big phone — the more visible the better.

"Now you can have it in your pocket, you don't have to carry a suitcase," said Raimo Niukkanen, head of Moscow operations for Nokia, which started selling car phones to gas and oil executives in the Soviet Union in the late 1970s. "But then it was actually really cool to have a large phone."

Tariffs stayed outrageous for several years, making Russian operators among the most expensive in the world. Prices were hardly a deterrent to a select group of people, and operators reaped profits from the start.

"Because of network constraints, we couldn't provide services to everyone," said Delta Telecom general director Victor Ustyuzhann, who has been with the company since Sobchak made his call. "But there were enough very rich people who wanted this service, and they were prepared to pay."

Vimpelcom, founded in 1994, saw its net profit jump 190 percent the next year, making it one of the world's most successful cellular startups and helping it become the first Russian company to list on the New York Stock Exchange. Mobile TeleSystems, or MTS, now Russia's leading operator by sub-



Russian dancers performing at the New York Stock Exchange on Nov. 15, 1996, to celebrate Vimpelcom's listing on the exchange.

scribers, joined them in 2000.

Actually, mobile communications did not start going mass market in Moscow — by far Russia's most lucrative area — until late 1999, when Vimpelcom, the nation's No. 2 provider that operates under the Beeline brand name, offered its "phone-in-a-box" for \$49. Even competitor MTS admits that the cheap package helped change consumer attitudes.

"It was really a breakthrough in the mentality toward mobile communications," said MTS spokeswoman Eva Prokofeva.

By the end of this year, well over 6 million people will be chatting away, analysts predict. The 5 million mark was already surpassed in July, and the Communications Ministry says that by 2010 there will be between 45 and 48 million users, almost a third of the country.

The number of mobile phone users will soon surpass those with regular telephones in some large cities. Russia's largest fixed-line provider, Moscow City Telephone Network, or MGTS, had 100,000 new subscribers last year. By comparison, MTS gets

more than that each month.

"There was a mobile boom in 2000 and 2001 in Russia — in a year and a half, the amount of subscribers practically doubled," said First Deputy Communications Minister Yury Pavlenko, according to Interfax.

"The cellular boom in Russia reflects global tendencies," he said.

While not everyone in the industry uses the world "boom" so loosely, subscriber growth has indeed accelerated, jumping more than 150 percent from 1999 to 2000.

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rising penetration rate in Moscow is apparent, with rings and beeps sounding off all over the center. But overall, only 3.4 percent of the country is hooked up — not quite up to the standards of West European markets, where penetration will average 68 percent at the end of the year, according to Pyramid Research.

Though St. Petersburg made the first call, it was Moscow that became the seedbed for real competition among operators.

By the late 1990s, it became clear that Russia was headed the way of GSM, the European standard. Vimpelcom, which started up on the AMPS network in 1994, and MCC began to lose market share to GSM operator MTS. Particularly, higher-paying business clients migrated to GSM with its automatic roaming and handset variety.

Now, 900/1800 GSM licenses are one of the most coveted things in the Communication Ministry's power. The so-called "big three" — MTS, Vimpelcom and Telecominvest — all have the stated goal of becoming a national operator, and each is seeking licenses for certain macro-regions, or else angling to buy a licensed local operator. Analysts say that eventually each of the big three will have coverage over the entire country.

The larger operators are moving more aggressively toward the regions, convinced that that's where future growth lies and that the early bird often gets the worm. Over the next few years, the three leaders plan to invest a combined \$1.5 billion outside Moscow and St. Petersburg. American company MCT Corp., with interests in 25 operators across the country, including Delta and MCC, has a five-year \$500 million capital expenditure plan and sees itself a contender or even a leader in several regions.

This fall, for the first time ever, Russian operators are vying for business across the border. MTS and Tele-

cominvest's Northwest GSM are currently participating in a tender for Belarus' second GSM license. NWGSM announced last week a new business in Tajikistan. Vimpelcom strategic investor Alfa Group, which spawned a telecoms department in the past year, has said it is looking beyond countries of the former Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, back in Moscow, subscribers have grown more sophisticated and demanding, and a mini-revolution is expected in St. Petersburg. NWGSM now has a virtual monopoly on the GSM market, but MTS is moving in this fall and the Communications Ministry has hinted that Vimpelcom could win a third license.

Competition among providers is already shifting from tariff wars and network coverage to additional services like e-mail and Internet access.

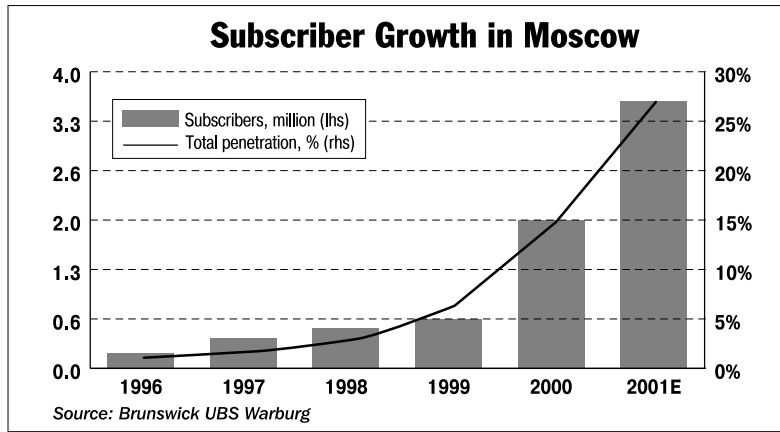
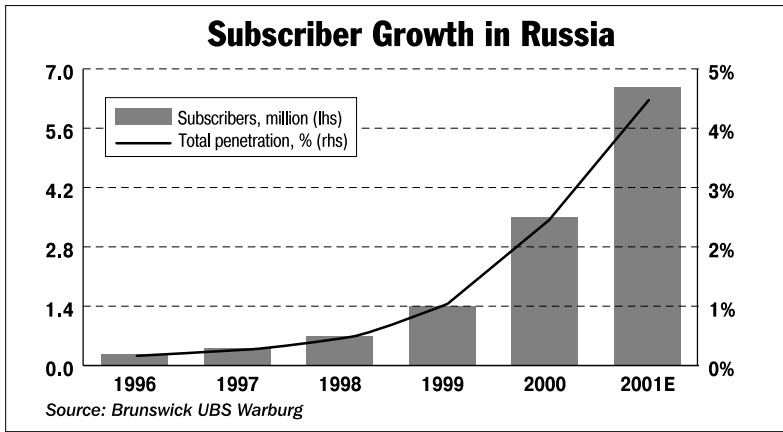
"When the tariffs are more or less the same all you can compete on is the quality of connection and the number of value-added services," said Prokofeva.

Mirroring operators worldwide that saw their most optimistic forecasts beaten thanks to mobile-hungry consumers, Russia's mobile companies are banking on a continuing upward trend.

"Whoever tries it will never give it up. It's like a drug," said Delta's Ustyuzhann.



Mobile TeleSystems' leadership marking MTS's debut on the New York Stock Exchange at the opening of trade on June 30, 2000.



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EDITORIAL

CEC Smear
Not a Real
Rebuttal

When The Moscow Times researched and published its conclusions on the March 2000 presidential elections last September, we didn't really expect a response from the Russian government. Many august bodies from the State Duma's Audit Chamber on down have published more damning and more compelling information without so much as a by-your-leave from any of the state agencies responsible for investigating such matters.

Silence is still the government's standard operating procedure when it comes to information that it does not like.

Therefore, to a certain extent, we were pleasantly surprised when a fairly lengthy response appeared on the web site of the Central Election Commission. However, it only took a quick glance to see that the CEC's hyper-defensive reaction was a malicious, even juvenile, smear at the motives of The Moscow Times, rather than a reasoned and substantive rebuttal to the questions raised in our report.

We were, frankly speaking, particularly disgusted by the CEC's assertion that we had somehow used the tragedy of the sinking of the Kursk last August as a pretext for issuing our report, even though the CEC's own response acknowledges that we were working on our report 10 weeks before the disaster. The CEC's insinuations in this regard are simply contemptible.

Further, the CEC declares that The Moscow Times report was "clearly ... part of a coordinated information campaign by those who wish Russia ill to discredit the Russian government and its leadership." This, of course, is a serious accusation, certainly one that we — as responsible journalists and citizens — would never so casually throw about in our newspaper. Certainly, it is a charge that we categorically deny.

It is hard to believe that, at this late date in Russia's transition, the CEC has not realized that people who are devoted to Russia and who want to see an open, accountable and fair political system emerge here — a system that would be far more credible than the one we currently have — might publish a report such as the one we published.

The questions we raised and the way that we raised them, given the lack of cooperation from the CEC and other authorities, are, in our opinion, an example of how far this country has come over the last decade and an indication that substantial and institutionalized public accountability may yet be established in Russia. The CEC's response, in contrast, is irresponsible, paranoid and retrograde.

We make no apologies for what we have done. But whenever the CEC is ready to join us in the new Russia, we'll be ready to accept one.

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No Slump Lasts Forever

By David Ignatius

The economic version of the Perfect Storm continued to gather force last week with Friday's news of a sharp fall in the Japanese economy and a big jump in U.S. unemployment.

Reading these gloomy stories, you sense that the global economic mess is going to get a good deal worse before it gets better. And you suspect, too, that it's time for the Bush administration and its economic partners to get serious about dealing with the dangers of "synchronized sinking" — a process that is now evident from Tokyo to New York to Frankfurt.

But no storm lasts forever. And too much pessimism can be disorienting, in addition to being depressing. So maybe it's a good time to be contrarian and look for the positive trends that are likely to shape the global economy once the worst is past and the rubble is cleared away.

Two especially intriguing and counterintuitive insights have appeared in recent issues of Wired magazine. I mention these not so much because they're rays of hope (it's too early for those, I'm afraid) but because they stand conventional wisdom on its head.

The first of these mind-benders argues that Japan — currently the industrial world's leading basket case — is likely to emerge from its decade-long slump as a newly vigorous competitor. This month's cover headline says it all: "Japan Rocks: The Liberation of Disintegration."

"Japan is still the future," writes novelist William Gibson in the issue's lead article. He argues that during the past decade of stagnation, the Japanese have shed the illusions of the past and learned to live with the 21st century. "They've made it out the far end of that tunnel of prematurely accelerated change," Gibson says.

Another article in the Japan package notes that the Japanese company NTT DoCoMo is likely to lead the wireless revolution that will — some day, when the dust of the telecommunications crash finally settles — be a hugely profitable business.

A similarly revisionist portrait of Japan was sketched by journalist Thomas Fuller in an article last April in the International Herald Tribune. After interviewing dozens of young Japanese who make up what he termed "Generation Slump," Fuller concluded that these youths no longer have the same conformist ambitions as their parents. They don't aspire to be "salarymen" and "office ladies," he noted. They want to be independent and creative.

"If they stick to their promises and dreams, the

Japan of tomorrow could look very different from the rigidly corporatized country the world has come to know," Fuller observed.

Now, I cannot easily imagine a Japan in which conformity and order do not remain social virtues. Cultures don't change that easily.

But it is surely a mistake to write off Japan on the basis of its recent difficulties, just as it was to write off the United States during the malaise of the late 1970s. America's explosive prosperity in the

'90s was founded partly on the lessons learned during the earlier slump. Americans learned to be more entrepreneurial and risk-taking, just as the Japanese are now learning.

The other contrarian insight comes from an interview with Andy Grove, the former chief executive of Intel, that appeared in the June issue of Wired. The cover line on that one was "Believe in the Internet More Than Ever."

Grove's point is that when the Nasdaq bubble burst early last year, the hundreds of billions of dollars that had been sucked into the technology sector didn't just vanish. Much of the money has gone to build a new communications infrastructure: the broadband network that will provide a basis for growth and prosperity once the slump ends. There's too much of that broadband capacity now — that's why the telecom bubble burst. But the millions of kilometers of fiberoptic cable will eventually be valuable, and they will enable a new surge of growth.

"The boom was healthy too, even with its excesses," explains Grove. "Because what this incredible valuation craze did was draw untold billions of dollars into building the Internet infrastructure."

What's ironic is that the Internet's vast highway was built almost entirely with private money — plunked down by investors who later lost their shirts when the bubble burst. It's as if private investors, rather than U.S. taxpayers, had built the interstate highway system that was the basis for American prosperity in an earlier generation.

The lesson of these contrarian articles is that it's essential to keep your eyes on the fundamentals. Things are never as good as they seem during a boom. And, fortunately, they are never as bad as they seem when things go bust. Japan will come back; so will the Internet; and so, in time, will the global economy.

David Ignatius is a member of the editorial page staff of The Washington Post, to which he contributed this comment.

INSIDE RUSSIA

Oligarchs
Make Good
Governors

At Lipetsk TV channel TVK there are now two general directors: Alexander Lykov and Dmitry Kolbasko.

Just two months ago, there was only one general director and a controlling share in TVK belonged to Nobl Trust — a company affiliated with Novolipetsk Metallurgical Plant, NLMK, which provides the regional budget with 60 percent of its revenues.

Everything was just fine until rumors started to circulate in Lipetsk that the de facto owner of NLMK, Vladimir Lisin, had his sights set on the governorship. These rumors — not unnaturally — displeased the incumbent governor.

Thus, when NLMK donated tractors and combine harvesters to villages, it was simply forbidden to accept them. And when NLMK invited the popular singer Lyudmila Zykina to the Lipetsk region to give free concerts, the concerts were banned in some of the 14 districts where she was due to sing. On the pretext that they would disrupt the harvest.

Then one day TVK's general director arrived at work to discover that the front entrance was closed. He knocked on the door and was asked to identify himself. "General director Lykov," he replied.

"You are no longer general director — you are fired," came the reply from Colonel Lebedev, deputy head of the police guard.

From a legal perspective, the attempt to seize TVK was executed in a provincial, cack-handed fashion.

There is little doubt that the de facto owner of NLMK, Lisin, is snapping at the heels of Lipetsk Governor Oleg Korolyov. What's more interesting is that Lisin is the third oligarch — after Roman Abramovich and Alexander Khloponin — who would rather be the governor than pay the governor. A few years ago, NLMK's tax contribution made up 25 percent of the Lipetsk regional budget, not the 60 percent that it makes up today.

In other words, NLMK's tax bill has increased three-fold and this is a feather in the oligarch's cap. Meanwhile, tax payments from the rest of the region's industry have not increased an iota — and the governor is to blame for this.

Russia's governors sucked money out of vodka, tobacco and markets. Steamroller-like, they rode rough-shod over their regions' economies. They ensnared any small enterprise in a web of orders, licenses and bribes. Then sharks appeared in the economy and ripped apart the net that was put in place to catch the small fry.

Don't be mistaken — the oligarchs are no gift. They descended on enterprises like robber-baron and spirited all profits away to off-shore bank accounts. They fought with their partners and in the process grew armor-clad claws and lost their souls.

Then, the oligarchs started to invest in their enterprises. For example, last year NLMK invested \$118 million in reconstruction, and this year it will invest \$200 million. Then they even started paying their taxes.

And then it transpired that the governors — to whom the robber-baron were paying taxes — were still behaving as though they were in a slash-and-burn economy.

In Chukotka, gubernatorial candidate Abramovich paid out of his own pocket for children to have vacations at the seaside. But then-Governor Alexander Nazarov issued an order that a fee be collected for delivering the children from far-flung districts to the steps of the airplane.

The Kremlin encourages oligarchs in their striving to become governors — and this is an entirely sensible policy in the absence of anything better.

Your average governor engages in petty theft, such as pocketing the money for a boiler-house — and then accuses Moscow of stinginess.

Oligarchs don't go in for petty thievery. They have no interest in administrative rackets and pre-election "requisitions" from small business. An oligarch will always be an obedient governor — because his business is just too vulnerable.

It would seem that oligarch-governors are the only real chance for liberalization and centralization in this country.

Yulia Latynina is a journalist with ORT.



Yulia Latynina

Condolences Mixed With Celebration

By Beth Gardiner

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Most world leaders expressed solidarity with an America that looked more vulnerable than ever after Tuesday's attacks and offered a stream of condolences. But there were celebrations on the West Bank, and Iraqi television played a patriotic song that begins "Down with America!" as it showed the World Trade Center's towers falling.

Afghanistan's hardline Taliban rulers condemned the attacks and rejected suggestions that Osama bin Laden could be behind them.

"It is premature to level allegations against a person who is not in a position to carry out such attacks," said Abdul Salam Zaef, the Taliban ambassador in Pakistan. "It was a well-organized plan, and Osama has no such facilities."

In the West Bank, thousands of Palestinians celebrated, chanting "God is Great" and distributing candy to passers-by, even as their leader, Yasser Arafat, said he was horrified.

In the town of Nablus, about 3,000 people poured into the street shortly after the string of attacks began to unfold. Demonstrators distributed candy in a traditional gesture of celebration. Several Palestinian gunmen shot in the air, while other marchers carried Palestinian flags.



Boys near east Jerusalem's Old City showing victory signs after news of the attacks.

Many countries beefed up security at U.S. embassies, and in Oslo, Norwegians began leaving bouquets of flowers in a park near the U.S. Embassy. At the consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, the U.S. flag was lowered to half staff, and flags were lowered in many other nations.

"It is impossible to fully comprehend the evil that would have conjured up such a cowardly, depraved assault," said Canadian Prime Minister Chretien.

"This mass terrorism is the new evil in our world today," said British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who called an emergency Cabinet meeting. "It is perpetrated by fanatics who are utterly indifferent to the sanctity of human life."

Queen Elizabeth II said she was watching developments in "growing disbelief and total shock" and offered her thoughts and prayers to Americans.

"I hope that people of faith will take

time to pray for those who are suffering in the aftermath of these terrible events," Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey said in London. "I pray that God's presence will be with them."

China, whose relations with the United States have been rocky, said it was "horrified" and condemned the attacks, the official Xinhua news agency said. An update quoted Chinese President Jiang Zemin expressing "grave concern for safety of Chinese in the U.S."

"This outrageous and vicious act of violence against the United States is unforgivable," said Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

President Jacques Chirac of France called the attacks "monstrous."

Arafat and his top aides followed the events at his seaside office in Gaza City, gathered around a TV set.

"I send my condolences to the president, the government and the people for this terrible incident," Arafat said. "We are completely shocked."

Condolences and condemnations of the violence came from officials in Northern Ireland, Germany, Italy, Greenland, Romania, Poland, Venezuela, Brazil, Finland, Mexico, Thailand, Yugoslavia, Congo, Philippines, Kenya, Lebanon, South Africa, Colombia, Singapore, South Korea and Jordan, among many other countries.



A trader at Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

Attacks Paralyze American Markets

By Lisa Singhania

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The U.S. financial markets came to a halt Tuesday after two planes crashed into the World Trade Center and similar assaults hit Washington in what President George W. Bush called an apparent terrorist attack.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said all exchanges had decided to close. The announcement followed a suspension of trading on the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq Stock Market. The American Stock Exchange had already decided to close for the day.

"As a safety precaution while the tragic events of today are sorted out, the securities markets have decided not to open for trading today," SEC Chairman Harvey Pitt said in a statement. "We strongly support that decision."

The reports of attacks on the State Department and on the Pentagon in Washington and the collapse of both of the World Trade Center skyscrapers added to the paralysis and terror already engulfing the financial district.

"The two explosions were incredible, and at the point of explosions all you could see outside were personal belongings and office supplies raining outside," said Bob Rendine, an American Stock Exchange spokesman, whose office is down the block from the NYSE. "We're staying here. We think it's safer to stay inside then go outside at this point."

Much of the downtown district, including the World Financial Center, which houses the NYMEX, were evacuated. It was also difficult to make phone calls to the downtown business district and throughout Manhattan.

Thousands of companies sent their employees home for the day, putting tens of thousands of New Yorkers into the streets after public transportation was shut down as a precaution against further attacks.

The Chicago Board of Trade suspended all trading.

Overseas, the London Stock Exchange evacuated its building, but said trade will continue from an alternate site. The Toronto Stock Exchange ended its trading in mid-morning.

Around the country and world, the investment community was focused on the fate of people working in the World Trade Center affected by the apparent terrorist attacks. There were reports of people jumping out of buildings.

"I'm just worried about people who are there," said Robert Harrington, head of listed block trading at UBS Warburg's office in Connecticut.

Two buildings housing the Frankfurt Stock Exchange were evacuated Tuesday after a bomb threat, a spokesman said. Police were on the scene and the exchange stepped up security on the trading floor in central Frankfurt after the attacks on the World Trade Center, spokesman Walter Allsicher said.

Airlines Juggle Flights, Step Up Security

COMBINED REPORTS

LONDON — International airlines scrambled to divert or cancel flights to the United States on Tuesday following the airborne terror attacks on New York and Washington. Some airports tightened security, notably in Israel.

The cancellations and diversions caused confusion and congestion at many European airports, where airlines ordered flights bound for the United States to do U-turns or find alternate landing points outside America.

The U.S. atrocities provoked fears of similar strikes elsewhere, nowhere more so than in Israel, where authorities barred any foreign airlines from landing at the nation's four airports. Israel's own airlines were excluded from the ban.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Tuesday he had stopped all civil flights over central London, saying Britain stood "shoulder to shoulder" with Washington. Blair announced the extraordinary precaution after chairing a high-level security meeting.

Some international passenger jets bound for U.S. destinations reversed course only after being denied permission to land by the Federal Aviation Administration, which ordered U.S. air space shut down in response to the apparent hijacking of U.S. passenger jets by suicide bombers.

The German Flight Security Agency in Frankfurt ordered all U.S.-bound flights by Lufthansa canceled. A Finnair flight out of Helsinki turned around and returned home. Air France Group ordered its U.S. flights closed or rerouted.

In Belgium, a Sabena Air spokesman said two flights en route to the United States were "turning around in mid-flight and returning to Brussels."

In Spain, national carrier Iberia said four scheduled flights from Madrid to the United States were in the air and three of them — destined to New York, Chicago and Miami — were ordered to return. The fourth, from Barcelona to New York, was awaiting clearance into a Canadian airport, an Iberia official said.

Scandinavian Airlines System ordered three flights bound for New York, and another flight bound for Washington, to divert while over the Atlantic. They were expected to land instead in Iceland. A SAS spokesman in Copenhagen said he wasn't sure when flights to the United States would resume.

At Cairo International Airport, officials were told that flights Wednesday to the United States would be canceled. An EgyptAir flight landed at New York's JFK Airport shortly after the attacks on the World Trade Center in Manhattan, but it was prevented from heading to its next destination in Montreal.

1701	23	8:00	DEPARTED	SAN DIEGO
573	26	8:05	DELAYED	PHOENIX ONTARIO
850	22%	8:10	DELAYED	BURBANK
2192	20	8:10	DELAYED	LAS VEGAS LOS ANGELES
229	21%	8:25	DELAYED	SAN DIEGO
1700	14	8:30	DELAYED	PORTLAND
1127	23	8:40	DELAYED	PHOENIX BURBANK
2185	17	8:40	DELAYED	LAS VEGAS LOS ANGELES
2054	26	8:40	DELAYED	SEATTLE
378	27	8:45	DELAYED	PHOENIX
786	21	9:00	DELAYED	ORANGE COUNTY

Flight delays on a monitor in California. All FAA-regulated U.S. flights were canceled.

Pakistan International Airlines also canceled its Wednesday flight from Manchester, England, to New York.

At Heathrow Airport, several flights bound for the United States diverted to Canada, while those that hadn't taken off were delayed indefinitely.

British Airways said all services were being canceled, diverting to the nearest airport outside the United States, or returning to London. Prince Andrew, second son of Queen Elizabeth II, was aboard a flight to Atlanta that was turned back, Buckingham Palace said.

Virgin Atlantic also canceled its daily services to New York and other U.S. cities. Swissair diverted nine flights out of Cyprus.

Flights were canceled, too, from all African airports. In Liberia, an airline worker gruffly dismissed passengers waiting to board a Ghana Airlines flight to New York.

"There'll be no flights to New York. Anybody who's going to New York, go home," the man said in the dingy terminal. "New York's been attacked." (AP, Reuters)

Phone Lines, Internet Jammed but Still Working

By Ben Klayman and Jeremy Pelofsky

REUTERS

CHICAGO/NEW YORK — Millions of callers jammed telephone lines across the United States on Tuesday after devastating aircraft attacks in New York, Washington and Pittsburgh, but despite the clogged lines the U.S. national telephone networks continued to operate.

With telephone lines jammed, scores of Americans turned to the Internet to e-mail friends and relatives alerting them that they are alright.

"We're experiencing double call volume of a normal busy day, which is generating network congestion. The network is fine. There's just too many calls," said Dave Johnson, a spokesman for AT&T Corp., the nation's biggest long-distance carrier.

"There's absolutely no damage to AT&T's local and long-distance networks," he said.

In Manhattan, the streets were clogged with pedestrians making calls on their cellphones, although many said they were unable to get signals, and long lines formed at pay phones.

"The long-distance networks are experiencing heavy calling volume and it's just way too early to tell if there are any problems," said Mark Marchand, a spokesman for Verizon Communications, the nation's biggest local phone company and the dominant service provider in the northeast corridor.

Verizon had a switching center, which routes telephone calls, on the 10th floor of one of the World Trade Center towers that collapsed. The switching center had served about 40,000 lines in the building.

Verizon has emergency operations staff monitoring its system, but no reported network failures.

Sprint Corp., the No. 3 U.S. long-distance company, also had network equipment in one of the destroyed World Trade Center towers. The company was not clear how many lines or customers were served by that equipment. "There's been some blocked calls, and calls are being rerouted," said Sprint spokesman Mark Bonavia.

There was also heavy call traffic on wireless networks, with few calls going through, and the nation's second-largest wireless carrier pleaded with Americans to limit their calls so emergency calls can be made.

"In light of today's tragedies, Cingular Wireless has experienced increased traffic levels on its wireless network and

asks that customers please limit use of wireless phones to help keep lines clear and open for emergency (911) calls," the company said in a statement.

Meanwhile, others are turning to the Internet. Corey Menscher, of New York, e-mailed his family and friends in Texas to let them know he was all right.

"Just so you know, I was not downtown when the World Trade Center was attacked. I am in shock, the city is in shock," he said in the e-mail.

Phone companies in Europe reported a huge number of calls to the United States after the attacks.

British Telecommunications Plc said there has been a 10-fold increase in phone traffic across the Atlantic Ocean but no problems. Cable & Wireless PLC said it was cooperating to manage the traffic load.

Angered Putin Calls for Coordinated Response

COMBINED REPORTS

President Vladimir Putin expressed sympathy and anger over attacks on U.S. targets on Tuesday, summoning security chiefs and calling for a coordinated international response to terrorism.

In a "Dear George" telegram to President Bush, Putin said "barbarous terrorist acts aimed against wholly innocent people cause us anger and indignation."

"I ask you to pass on our deepest sympathies to the relatives of the victims of this tragedy and the entire suffering American people. We understand their sorrow and pain as Russia has also suffered from terrorism," he wrote.

"There is no doubt that such an inhuman act must not go unpunished. The entire international community should unite in the struggle against terrorism."

Kremlin spokesman Alexei Gromov said Putin was immediately informed of the attacks and described them as a "terrorist act, this terrible tragedy." Television pictures issued by the Kremlin showed Putin meeting with top security officials.

Putin also spoke by telephone with U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

The Russian Transport Ministry suspended all flights to the United States in the wake of the attacks.

Aeroflot diverted a New York-bound flight already in the air to a Canadian airport, likely Montreal, an airline spokeswoman said. A later flight from Moscow to Chicago may be turned around or

set down in Canada as well, she said.

All flights above Moscow and St. Petersburg were banned as a precautionary measures, said the head of the air defense forces, Alexander Drobyshevsky.

"Also, tougher control has been introduced over foreign and Russian aircraft flying through Russian territory," he was quoted by Interfax as saying.

A group of people gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and inserted red flowers in the fence outside it. "Americans, we mourn your loss," a poster put up near the embassy read.

The embassy will be closed to the public Wednesday and the Anglo-American School will also be closed, an embassy official said. But he stressed that there was "no credible threat to American citizens in Russia."

A moment of silence was held at the Champions Cup soccer match in Moscow between Lokomotiv Moscow and Anderlecht, and the live broadcast of the match was canceled because all Russian television stations were running footage of the attacks.

The Interior Ministry heightened security around all major government buildings and put troops on increased alert around the country, the head of the Interior Ministry troops Vyacheslav Tikhomirov was quoted as saying by Interfax.

The Emergency Situations Ministry said it was ready to offer rescuers or other help, Itar-Tass reported. (Reuters, AP, MT)

Dollar Plunges in Street Trade

By Torrey Clark and Kirill Koriukin

STAFF WRITERS

The dollar plunged against the ruble at several exchange points throughout central Moscow on Monday following the largest terrorist attack in American history.

People lined up late into the night to sell dollars at prices as low as half the official Central Bank rate of 29.46, causing several exchange points to run out of rubles.

One point, run by Bank Paritet, set its buy rate at 27 rubles to the dollar at 6:30 p.m., after Russian radio and television reported the collapse of the World Trade Center towers in New York. As the line slowly moved, a worker briefly posted a rate of 20 rubles, but accepted dollars at the previous rate — then removed the sign completely just a few minutes later and closed for "technical reasons."

"All our rubles have been sold. The rush started this evening after the news broke. The bank called and said to lower the rate to 20, but we'd already closed," said a manager at an exchange point near the Sokol metro station. "I sympathize with the United States," he added.

The sell rate for rubles remained at above 29. Few were buying.

"At 8 o'clock I heard the news. I had \$500 on me and decided to exchange it. I was just about to sell my flat, thank god I didn't," said Igor Fillipov, 45, a construction worker. "Still I think the drop is temporary," he added.

"I think the dollar will rise. Anytime there is war, crisis, there is a lot of work to be done. Imagine how much has to be rebuilt. Employment will rise, the dollar will rise," said Sergei, 33, a businessman who declined to give his last name. He had come to the exchange point because he "just needed some rubles. That's all."



An exchange point near the Sokol metro station offering 20 rubles to the dollar.

The U.S. Federal Reserve released a statement to reassure markets that it is ready to protect the U.S. banking system if necessary. "The Federal Reserve is open and operating. The discount window is available to meet liquidity needs," the Associated Press reported.

Several traders said the events in America were unlikely to have any immediate effect on the market.

"It is difficult to predict at this stage

what is going to happen. ... If America sees this as a terrorist act and leaves it at that, people will continue to buy dollars," said Kirill Tolcheyev, head of the hard currency department at Rosbank. "If America declares war, they'll continue to buy dollars. There could be a massive attack on the ruble. ... People would invest in dollars to reinvest in other currencies later, and they are likely to prefer the yen to the euro."



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KAMIKAZE TERRORISTS DEVASTATE AMERICA



The World Trade Center as it towered above lower Manhattan until Tuesday.



A second hijacked passenger aircraft, a Boeing 767, approaching the World Trade Center seconds before it struck one of the towers.



People outside St. Patrick's Cathedral gasping as they look down 5th Avenue.



New Yorkers running from a giant dust cloud as one of the towers collapses.



People walking away from the World Trade Center.



Firemen working near the fallen remains of the landmark 110-story towers.



Up to 8 centimeters of ash covered the area.



People running down the street as dust flies through the air after the towers fell.

Plot Thickens Over Massood Bombing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, Afghanistan — The hard-line Islamic Taliban denied Tuesday that they were behind the suicide bombing that critically injured Ahmed Shah Massood, the opposition leader they regard as an enemy on the battlefield.

"We condemn all terrorist activities," said Abdul Rehman Ottaq, a senior foreign ministry official. "He was our direct enemy in the bunkers ... he is an enemy of the Islamic emirate of Afghanistan, but we had no hand in this terrorist attack."

There were conflicting reports about Massood's condition.

Itar-Tass reported his death. However, his brother, Ahmed Wali, the opposition's representative in London, said in a telephone interview Monday that Massood's condition was critical. Wali said Massood had undergone an operation for shrapnel wounds to the head Sunday and had not regained consciousness since.

Wali left Britain late Monday for Tajikistan, where it was believed Massood had been taken. Some reports said he was operated on at a Russian field hospital on the Tajik border with Afghanistan. Others said he was too badly wounded to be moved from northern Afghanistan.

Analysts say the fragile opposition led by Massood would collapse if he died, and without an obvious successor it was likely the anti-Taliban alliance would want to regroup and plot a strategy before talking extensively about his condition, or death.

The suicide bombing occurred Sunday when two men, believed to be from Africa but traveling on Belgian passports, posed as television journalists to get close to Massood.

The bomb was hidden in the television camera. It exploded shortly after the interview held at Massood's base in northern Takhar province began, according to his spokesman, Abdullah. The two bombers were killed,



Massood

as well as a spokesman of Massood's.

Three other people, including Massood, were hurt.

Massood's northern alliance, called the United Front, is made up of smaller organizations largely representing the country's minority ethnic and religious groups.

Former enemies who fought bitterly against each other when they ruled Kabul between 1992 and 1996, they rallied together under Massood's charismatic leadership to try to stop the Taliban from gaining full control of the country.

Successive battlefield victories by the Taliban forced Massood's alliance out of key strongholds and restricted them to pockets of control in the Panjshir Valley and a handful of provinces in northern Afghanistan. Massood is often referred to as the "Lion of the Panjshir."

In the beleaguered capital of Kabul, there was sadness at the news of the suicide bombing and the prospect of Massood's death.

"Even if you don't support him, he was someone who could maybe force the Taliban to soften their attitude toward the people," said Mohammed Idrees, an ethnic Pashtun.

Idrees belonged to the same ethnic group as most Taliban, who are largely made up of ethnic Pashtuns, the country's largest ethnic group. Massood is an ethnic Tajik.

Most people were afraid to talk about Massood, worried the ruling Taliban would be nearby.

The anti-Taliban alliance has been fiercely critical of the Taliban, accusing the Islamic militia of sending militant Moslems from Arab countries as well as Pakistan, Chechnya and Uzbekistan to fight his alliance.

Israeli Tanks Roll Into West Bank

By Wael al-Ahmad

REUTERS

JENIN, West Bank — Israeli tanks rolled into the outskirts of the Palestinian-ruled city of Jenin and encircled it Tuesday in what the army said was an attempt to prevent suicide bombers reaching Israel.

Israeli-Palestinian truce talks planned for Tuesday night fell through amid arguments over a venue and over the advance into the West Bank city from which several suicide bombers have embarked on missions, the latest of which was last Sunday.

Calls for resistance rang out through loudspeakers on minarets as the tanks advanced, and hospital officials said eight Palestinian gunmen were hurt in gun battles. The army said it responded with automatic weapons and one tank shell.

The Israeli army did not say how long it would stay, and tanks still stood on streets a few meters inside Jenin and on hills around it hours later.

Israel has made many brief raids into Palestinian territory in almost a year of violence, the longest of which lasted two days.

In separate fighting, Palestinian gunmen killed two Israeli paramilitary border policemen on sentry duty at a

base near the West Bank, police said.

Palestinians wounded an Israeli civilian and two soldiers near Jenin, Israeli officials said, and the army conducted a raid in the Gaza Strip, which it said was retaliation against gunmen who fired several mortar shells early Tuesday.

In a move likely to anger Palestinians, the army announced it had closed Palestinian security offices in several villages near Jerusalem which are under Israeli security control. It said the offices were in breach of interim peace deals.

Hopes that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would meet Tuesday faded as they failed to agree a venue for talks on implementing a truce that was brokered by Washington in June, but never took hold.

Palestinian Cabinet member Nabil Shaath told reporters in Damascus the meeting would not go ahead until after Arafat visited Syria on Wednesday.

"Talk about the Arafat-Peres meeting is postponed until the visit is completed," said Shaath. "There has been no agreement so far on either a venue or a time for the meeting."

Israel favors a meeting at the Erez border crossing with Gaza, which it re-

gards as neutral ground. The Palestinians say it should take place in Egypt and that Israel has reneged on an agreement to hold the first of three planned meetings there.

"They [Israel] don't want to go to Egypt. It's a shame for us to bow to Israeli attempts to bypass the role of our brother Egypt," said Arafat.

Even if Arafat and Peres do hold the first of at least three planned meetings, hopes are slim of a breakthrough to end 11 months of bloodshed that has killed more than 700 people.

Peres' powers have been limited by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to talking only about ending the violence. The Palestinians show no sign of halting their uprising against 34 years of Israeli occupation.

Israel's inner Cabinet met after the advance into Jenin to review options for tackling the Palestinian revolt. Israel Radio said one right-wing minister wanted a discussion on whether Arafat should be expelled from the Palestinian territories.

Israel mounted the tank operation around Jenin, which it described as a "terrorism nest," two days after a suicide bomber believed to be an Israeli Arab killed three Israelis in the northern town of Nahariya.



Two Israeli soldiers on Tuesday manning one of the tanks that entered the Palestinian-ruled city of Jenin in the West Bank area.

I N B R I E F

Refugees Target PNG

■ SYDNEY, Australia (Reuters) — Australia said Tuesday a navy ship carrying 433 unwanted asylum seekers would hold its course for Papua New Guinea despite a court order that the boat people must be taken to the Australian mainland.

The Federal Court ruled earlier Tuesday that Australia had acted illegally in denying entry to the asylum seekers after they were rescued Aug. 26 in the Indian Ocean by a Norwegian freighter. Australia will appeal against the court ruling.

Airman Denies Rape

■ NAHA, Japan (Reuters) — A U.S. airman accused of raping a woman in a Japanese parking lot pleaded not guilty Tuesday, two months after the incident that threatened to fray the strategic alliance between the two nations.

U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Timothy Woodland, 24, was charged with raping the woman in June in a case that revived resentment toward U.S. forces on southern Okinawa island.

The prosecution charged that Woodland raped the woman on the hood of a car at around 2:00 a.m. on June 29 in a shopping center parking lot in Chatan town, central Okinawa.

Child Sex Epidemic

■ WASHINGTON (Reuters) — As many as 400,000 children in the United

States are victims of a growing sex trade each year, from juvenile pornography and street prostitution to selling sex at school, a study released Monday said.

"We project one out of every 100 American children is involved in sexually exploitative activities. This is an epidemic," said Richard Estes, a University of Pennsylvania professor of social work and co-author of the report on the sexual exploitation of children.

Estes and his team visited 17 U.S. cities, which amounted for 40 percent of the U.S. population, meeting with federal and local law enforcement agencies, human services departments and hundreds of children both living at home and on the streets.

Labor Clings On

■ OSLO, Norway (AP) — The once-dominant Norwegian Labor Party clung to power Tuesday despite suffering its worst election since 1924, an apparent backlash by voters angry with high taxes and poor public services despite the country's vast oil wealth.

With 98.2 percent of the vote counted early Tuesday, projections gave Labor 43 seats in the 165-member parliament, a stunning decline from the 65 seats it had after the last parliamentary elections in 1997.

A final official count from the election was expected by Wednesday. Turnout was about 74 percent of Norway's 3.3 million voters.

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Hewitt proudly discussing his win at the Australian Consulate in New York on Monday.

U.S. Open Title Leaves Hewitt Hungry for More

NEW YORK — Lleyton Hewitt awoke Monday morning to the realization that he had achieved one of his two life goals and was fast closing in on the other.

"It's starting to sink in, that's for sure," the 20-year-old said of his U.S. Open victory at a news conference at the Australian Consulate.

"I'm starting to reflect on what it means to be a Grand Slam champion now and to actually win the U.S. Open," Hewitt said a day after his 7-6, 6-1, 6-1 whipping of 13-time Grand Slam champion Pete Sampras earned him his first major title.

"Every kid's dream I think is to win a Grand Slam, at least one, and to be No. 1 player in the world. I've achieved one of those goals now and hopefully I can get the next one."

Sampras said the Australian possessed the best passing shots, return of serve and court speed he had ever seen — at least on that near-perfect Sunday for the youngster from Adelaide.

Hewitt is fast realizing what champions in all sports have long known — that tasting ultimate victory, like an addictive drug, is a high that leaves you wanting more.

"I'm on top of the world at the moment. I think I'm going to be more hungry. I want this feeling back. I want to get more of these," he said, glancing at the U.S. Open trophy.

"I'm getting closer and closer," He-

witt said of the No. 1 ranking.

"I'm No. 3 now, it's a career high, two spots to go. It doesn't sound like much but it's a big step, that's for sure. That would be great.

Hewitt was far more alert and bright-eyed than countryman Patrick Rafter had been the day after he won his first U.S. Open in 1997.

Rafter had turned up for his next day media obligations with bright red bloodshot eyes and a grin that never left his face, having been dragged directly from all-night celebrations.

Hewitt's restrained celebration by Aussie standards may have been the result of being a year younger than the legal drinking age in New York, and of having his parents around.

"I went and had dinner with my family and friends," he said, adding that he was simply too "knackered" to cut loose. But the usually fiery Australian was even restrained during the biggest match of his life, showing little of the demonstrative fist-pumping against Sampras that often punctuates his matches.

"I really was in shock those last few games. I had to look up at the scoreboard a couple of times to see if it was match point," he admitted.

"Everything's come so quickly. To get in the top 10 as an 18 year old, to be top three now as a 20 year old and be holding this thing up [U.S. Open trophy], it's just happened so quickly for me," he marveled.

Replacement Referees Blasted For Bad Calls in Kansas Game

NEW YORK — Replacement referees got mostly passing marks or, even better, no notice at all after the opening day of the NFL regular season but were blasted for their performance in the Raiders-Chiefs game in Kansas City.

Newspapers around the United States reported Monday that the new referees had made no more mistakes than would be expected from the locked-out regular officials, and the mistakes they did make had no impact on game outcomes.

A breakdown in contract negotiations between the NFL and its regular officials, after the referees rejected a proposed 60 percent pay raise, meant the season had to start with replacements hired from college and junior college as well as from NFL Europe.

In the Kansas game, where the local newspaper said that two plays involving instant replay were "botched," the main complaints came from the winner.

The Kansas City Star said "these were not the sour grapes of losers. The negative comments were coming from the victorious locker room."

California's Contra Costa Times, which reported that the referees in the San Francisco 49ers' victory 16-13 over-

time win over the Atlanta Falcons "performed without any major gaffes," said that in Kansas City "the Raiders got shortchanged on as many as five calls by the replacement officials."

Most scathing of all was the San Francisco Chronicle, which said the Raiders "had to brush aside the errors of a bumbling group of replacement officials" and "the scab officials were bad."

The first indication something was different about this group of replacement officials came when referee Randall Beesley shook hands with new Raider and all-time NFL leading receiver Jerry Rice, telling him it was an "honor" to be on the field with him.

"That was comical," said Oakland guard Steve Wisniewski. Call reversals, re-reversals and mangled explanations surrounded a sideline catch by Oakland's Charlie Garner on a play that drew wide receiver Tim Brown's protest.

Brown said referee Beesley swore at him, then gave him a 15-yard penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct when he asked the official to repeat the comment.

That further enraged the veteran defensive back, who had to be restrained by teammates. "Being a guy who doesn't curse, I just went ballistic," said Brown.

Russian Stars Head to Tashkent

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Beaten U.S. Open semifinalists Marat Safin and Yevgeny Kafelnikov must shake off the disappointment of their Grand Slam defeats as they head the field at the \$550,000 President's Cup in Tashkent this week.

Top-seeded Safin had little trouble rising to the challenge 12 months ago,

TENNIS

arriving full of confidence after his U.S. Open victory to defeat Italy's Davide Sanguinetti to capture the fifth of his seven titles in 2000.

After suffering a number of injuries on the ATP circuit this year, Safin finally found his form and confidence in New York last week when he reached the semifinals before losing to Pete Sampras.

The defending champion begins his quest for the traditional *tubiteyka* hat and *chapan* robe awarded to the winner against Israeli qualifier Noam Okun.

Second seed Kafelnikov streaked into the semis at the U.S. Open but was then destroyed 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 by eventual champion Lleyton Hewitt.

He must repair his battered confidence and begins his challenge for a

first President's Cup title against Germany's Lars Burgsmuller.

The Russian, who reached the final in the tournament's second year in 1998, will be hoping to capture the second title of his ATP Champions Race 2001 campaign following his victory in Marseille.

The first round of the competition started Monday as Czech veteran Daniel Vacek scored his first tour win in more than a year when he beat fifth-seeded German Nicolas Kiefer 7-5, 6-4.

Vacek, who has been troubled by a back injury for the last 18 months, had an 0-3 record coming into the \$550,000 tournament in the Uzbek capital after losing in the first rounds in Halle, Germany, at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

"It's a good win for me because I haven't played much for over a year," said 30-year-old Vacek. "Tonight my best point was my serve."

Kiefer, 24, who went to see a doctor after complaining of a wrist injury, said that Vacek's serve played a key role in the 100-minute match.

Third seed Slovakian Dominik Hrbaty overcame local wild-card entry Dmitry Tomashevich 7-6, 6-4 after a 1-1/2-hour battle.

Germany's Markus Hantschk lined up a probable meeting with world No. 1 Gustavo Kuerten by beating Britain's Jamie Delgado 6-3, 7-5 in the opening round of the \$400,000 ATP Brazilian Open, also Monday.

Hantschk is now set to face the winner of Tuesday's clash between Kuerten and fellow Brazilian Flavio Saretta on the fast courts of Costa do Sauipe in Bahia state.

A lack of heavyweight rivals means Kuerten is expected to win the first ATP tournament played on Brazilian soil for eight years.

The first upset of this year's tournament was caused when third-seeded Vladimir Voltchkov of Belarus fell 7-5, 7-5 to Paraguay's Ramon Delgado.

Second seed Guillermo Canas of Argentina overcame raucous home support to eliminate Brazil's Thiago Alves 6-3, 6-4. He now faces Britain's Martin Lee in the second round.

Argentina's eighth-seeded Mariano Zabaleta needed three tiebreakers to win the most exciting match of the opening day.

He edged out France's Cyril Saulnier 6-7 (6-8), 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-4), saving a match point on the way.

(For other results, see Scorecard.)

SOCCER

Continued from Page 24

"It's all OK here," said Magomed Magomedov, assistant to the club's head of security, in a telephone interview. "We don't have any problems with safety."

While Rangers have been nervously looking at the map of the Caucasus, the city of Makhachkala has been talking about nothing but the game since the draw two weeks ago. More than 400,000 people — Makhachkala has a population of only 500,000 — have requested tickets with long lines when the 100- and 150-ruble seats went on sale Tuesday.

"The situation is stable and the weather is beautiful," said a local official from the Federal Security Service, or FSB, adding with a sigh, "We've been so eagerly waiting for them."

The Dagestani side has prepared pre-match entertainment including local dancers and the presentation of traditional sheepskin coats and *papakha* hats to each of the Rangers players.

The match is Anzhi's debut in European competition and the biggest soccer match it has ever played, as well as a huge sporting event for one of the poorest regions in Russia. Dagestan's government is eager to prove that the republic can handle an event of this stature.

"It'll be a big tragedy if the game doesn't take place," said Murad Kanayev, a Dagestani journalist for the Novoye Delo newspaper, in a telephone interview from Makhachkala.

But it is not surprising that Rangers are worried. Dagestan is a small republic of 2 million people on the Caspian Sea that shares a border with Chechnya. Violence from both Chechen wars has more than once spilled over the border, including a wave of kidnappings that hit both Russians and foreigners.

Since the beginning of the second Chechen war in 1999, kidnappings have stopped, as the federal army sealed off the border. But Rangers got a reminder of the potential danger last week when a gang of kidnappers was arrested in a village in Dagestan, Interfax reported.

Makhachkala Mayor Sayid Amirov has survived more than 12 assassination attempts, and there have been two bomb explosions in the city in the last week.

"There have been explosions everywhere," said Anzhi coach Alexander Makarov. "There were explosions in Moscow two years ago, but nobody changed any match from Moscow."

Sweden's national team went to Macedonia within 30 kilometers of the war zone and nothing happened, said Makarov, referring to a World Cup qualifying match last year.

"We also, with worry, watch the events in Northern Ireland," Makarov said.

Anzhi, founded in 1992, is only in its second season in the Russian top division. A fourth-place finish last year gave it a UEFA Cup place, but it has faltered this season.

When Anzhi was promoted from the first division in 1999, Russian clubs and fans also weren't too keen on playing in Dagestan. "They're already so used to automatic machine guns in Dagestan that they view it as part of the scenery and no more than that," Sport-Express newspaper wrote at the time.

Despite the ticket rush, not everyone is so enthusiastic. In terms of wealth, Dagestan ranks 88th out of Russia's 89 regions, and rumors of money laundering have dogged Anzhi. But those allegations aside, with an official budget of \$6 million to \$7 million, and players getting up to \$10,000 a month, one journalist said the money rivals what the republic spends on education.

MLB, PGA Postpone Sports Events

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball postponed its entire schedule of 15 games Tuesday night following terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

The U.S. PGA Tour canceled Thursday's starts of the World Golf Championship and two other tournaments, also due to the attacks.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig made the decision about 3 1/2 hours after the attacks began in New York.

"In the interest of security and out of a sense of deep mourning for the national tragedy that has occurred today, all major league baseball games for today have been canceled," Selig said in a statement.

Selig did not make any decisions about Wednesday's games.

The minor leagues — their regular seasons over — postponed postseason games in all nine leagues that were to play Tuesday.

Commissioner Tim Finchem said the American Express Championship, featuring Tiger Woods and top players from tours around the world, would begin Friday with 36 holes.

The Tampa Bay Classic will open with 18 holes on Friday and Saturday and a 36-hole conclusion. The same schedule has been applied to the Buy.com Tour event in Oregon.

The Senior Tour was due to remain on course, with all of the schedules subject to further change.

S C O R E C A R D

BASEBALL

Monday's Games

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Chicago White Sox 7, Cleveland 1
Seattle 5, Anaheim 1
Minnesota 3, Detroit 2
Oakland 7, Texas 1
Boston at NY Yankees p.p.d.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Chicago Cubs 8, Cincinnati 2
St. Louis 8, Milwaukee 0

TENNIS

PRESIDENT'S CUP

Singles

First Round

D. Vacek, Cz. Rep., d. N. Kiefer (5),
Ger., 7-5, 6-4
T. Dent, U.S., d. J. Siemerink, Neth.,
7-6 (10-8), 7-5
R. Schüttler, Ger., d. A. Stoliarov,

Rus., 6-2, 6-3
K. Pless, Den., d. T. Ketola, Fin., 3-6,
6-3, 6-1
J. Krosjak, Slova., d. M. Kratochvil,
Swit., 6-2, 6-3
D. Hrbaty (3), Slova., d. D.
Tomashevich, Uzb., 7-6 (7-5), 6-4

BRAZILIAN OPEN

Selected Results

Monday's Games

Men's Singles

First Round

G. Canas (2), Arg., d. T. Alves, Bra.,
6-3, 6-4
R. Delgado, Par., d. V. Voltchkov (3),
Bel., 7-5, 7-5
M. Lee, Brit., d. N. Thomann, Fra., 6-
4, 6-2
M. Hantschk, Ger., d. J. Delgado,
Brit., 6-3, 7-5
M. Zabaleta (8), Arg., d. C. Saulnier,
Fra., 6-7 (6-8), 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-4)

Women's Singles

First Round

J. Kruger, S. Afr., d. P. Schnyder (7),
Swit., 7-6 (7-4), 6-4
N. Dechy, Fra., d. G.L. Garcia, Spain,
6-2, 6-2
C.T. Valero (6), Spa., d. M. Diaz-Oliva,
Arg., 6-4, 6-2
T. Panova (8), Rus., d. A.M.
Garrigues, Spain, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3

ATP CHAMPIONS RACE

STANDINGS

1. (1) G. Kuerten, Bra.
2. (2) A. Agassi, U.S.
3. (5) L. Hewitt, Aus.
4. (4) P. Rafter, Aus.
5. (3) J.C. Ferrero, Spa.
6. (8) Y. Kafelnikov, Rus.
7. (19) P. Sampras, U.S.
8. (6) S. Grosjean, Fra.
9. (7) T. Henman, Brit.
10. (9) R. Federer, Swit.

11. (10) A. Corretja, Spa.
12. (11) G. Ivanisevic, Cro.
13. (12) A. Clement, Fra.
14. (25) M. Safin, Rus.
15. (=17) A. Roddick, U.S.

WTA RANKINGS

1. (1) M. Hings, Swit.
2. (2) J. Capriati, U.S.
3. (3) L. Davenport, U.S.
4. (4) V. Williams, U.S.
5. (5) K. Clijsters, Belg.
6. (7) A. Mauresmo, Fra.
7. (10) S. Williams, U.S.
8. (6) J. Henin, Belg.
9. (8) M. Seles, U.S.
10. (9) N. Tauziat, Fra.
11. (12) M. Shaughnessy, U.S.
12. (13) J. Dokic, Yug.
13. (14) A. Coetzer, S. Afr.
14. (15) M. Maleeva, Bul.
15. (11) Y. Dementieva, Rus.

Oakland Makes it 8 in a Row in Texas

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — While Seattle tries to set a record for wins in a season, the second-place Oakland Athletics have become baseball's hottest and most consistent team.

Barry Zito pitched a four-hitter and struck out 10 as Oakland beat the Texas

BASEBALL

Rangers 7-1 Monday night for its eighth straight win.

The A's (87-57) moved a half-game ahead of New York (86-57) for the majors' second-best record and are 52-17 since late June. They have an 11-game lead over Minnesota in the AL wild-card race.

"We're just going to try to stay sharp," Johnny Damon said. "We know we're the best team — we've been playing the best baseball since the All-Star game. We just want to continue it."

Zito retired the first 10 hitters before Gabe Kapler's fourth-inning single, and he took a two-hit shutout into the ninth before Mike Young homered. He is 7-1 with an 0.83 ERA and 61 strikeouts since July 29.

"He was outstanding," said Texas manager Jerry Narron. "He was in command of all his pitches, and he threw strikes where he wanted. The three best games against us this season were [thrown by Tim] Hudson here, [Mark] Mulder at our place, and now Zito tonight."

Jeremy Giambi hit a two-run homer to lead Oakland's 12-hit attack. Aaron Myette (3-4) gave up six runs and six hits in 1 2/3 innings.

"It would be nice to have an outstanding record, but we're pleased with what we've accomplished," said Oakland manager Art Howe. "We want to finish this off as soon as possible and get some guys some rest."

Mariners 5, Angels 1. Freddy Garcia (16-5) allowed three hits in eight shutout innings and matched his season high with eight strikeouts as visiting Seattle (104-40) lowered its magic number for clinching the AL West to two.

The Mariners, on their sixth winning streak of five or more games, have a chance to break the major league record of 116 wins in a season, set by the 1906 Chicago Cubs.

Troy Glaus hit an RBI single with two outs in the ninth off Arthur Rhodes, who completed the six-hitter.

David Bell keyed Seattle's 13-hit attack by driving in three runs. Ismael Valdes (9-10) gave up three runs and nine hits in 6 2/3 innings.

White Sox 7, Indians 1. Rookie Dan Wright (4-2) allowed one run — a homer by Jim Thome — and six hits in seven innings as visiting Chicago won the season series from Cleveland 10-9.

Jeff Liefer homered off Bartolo Colon (12-11) shortly after replacing injured right fielder Magglio Ordonez, who injured his wrist on a check-swing



The White Sox's Carlos Lee breaking up a double play attempt at second as the Indians' Omar Vizquel tries to complete the play.

strikeout. Pinch-hitter Tony Graffanino had a two-run single in the eighth.

Thome hit his AL-leading 47th homer for the Indians, whose division lead slipped to six games over second-place Minnesota.

Twins 3, Tigers 2. Torii Hunter tripled off Luis Pineda (0-1) in the ninth inning and scored the tiebreaking run on Matt LeCroy's sacrifice fly as visiting Minnesota won its third straight win and improved to 11-2 against Detroit this season.

Joe Mays (15-13) got the win by allowing two runs and four hits in eight innings, and Eddie Guardado finished for

his sixth save in eight chances.

Cubs 8, Reds 2. Roosevelt Brown homered and drove in four runs as the Cubs snapped a five-game losing streak with a win over Cincinnati.

Jon Lieber struck out seven and won his 18th game as the Cubs closed within 1 1/2 of games of San Francisco in the NL wild-card race.

Brown, who won the Pacific Coast League's batting title with a .346 average for Iowa, was hitting just .211 in 57 at-bats entering the game.

Cardinals 8, Brewers 0. In Milwaukee, Mark McGwire hit a two-run homer and Darryl Kile won for the first

time in almost a month as St. Louis won in Milwaukee.

Kile (14-10) scattered nine hits over six innings to win for the first time since Aug. 12. He had been 0-3 in his previous four starts.

St. Louis (79-64) closed within a half-game of San Francisco (80-64), the NL wild-card leader, and moved within five games of Houston, which leads the NL Central.

Mike Matthews finished for his first career save, his first in four chances this season.

Jamey Wright (9-11) was rocked for eight runs on six hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Michael Jordan Set to Fly Again

By Jim Litke

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Michael Jordan all but confirmed Monday he would return to play in the NBA, and said the world will know for sure within 10 days.

In a 30-minute conversation with three journalists, Jordan said the news conference to announce his decision would be held in Washington by the middle of next week.

Asked whether he was definitely coming back, Jordan smiled slyly. A moment later, he looked up and said, "I'm doing it for the love of the game. Nothing else. For the love of the game."

Jordan, who led the Chicago Bulls to six championships, has worked out all summer preparing for the expected comeback with the Washington Wizards. He is president of basketball operations for the team and a part owner, meaning he has to divest his ownership under NBA rules before returning to the court.

Jordan has tested himself and his game repeatedly in scrimmages against top-caliber NBA players, with league referees officiating. The only question remaining is whether the tendinitis in his right knee would limit his effectiveness.

Jordan, however, said the knee was sound. If it remains that way over the next few days, he said, "I'll be ready to go."

Reached by The Washington Post later Monday for comment that he has all but decided to return, Jordan said, "I didn't say that. I have not said it."

This would be the second comeback for the 38-year-old Jordan.

He stunned the basketball world by retiring in October 1993, saying he had nothing left to prove in basketball and wanted to give baseball a try. He played a season of Double-A ball for the Chicago White Sox team in Birmingham, Alabama, but returned to the Bulls in March 1995.

In the half-hour conversation on a curb outside his restaurant, Jordan dropped the conditional tense for the first time since acknowledging in April that he was serious about coming back.

"I want to play for years," he said.

But Jordan made clear he wasn't coming back to fulfill any expectations but his own. "Winning isn't always championships. What's wrong with helping kids find their way, teaching them the game."

UEFA: Rangers Must Go to Dagestan

By Kevin O'Flynn

STAFF WRITER

Glasgow Rangers are set to go to court after UEFA, the European soccer association, ruled that the Scottish club would have to travel to Dagestan to play Anzhi Makhachkala, despite the team's security concerns.

UEFA ruled Tuesday that the Scottish club must go ahead with the UEFA Cup third round first leg Thursday, despite Rangers' protests that their security

will not be guaranteed in the tense southern republic.

The British Foreign Office has advised the club not to travel to the region, with the Scottish Football Association

SOCCER

chipping in to UEFA to move the game to a different location. Although Dagestani authorities have guaranteed safety for the players with thousands more police drafted in for the match, the club has

been unable to get insurance for the trip.

Rangers said in a statement Tuesday that they plan to appeal the decision and are willing to go to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which has overruled UEFA in the past, due to a "risk assessment of an unsatisfactory nature."

Anzhi Makhachkala, though, has laughed off suggestions that the city is too dangerous for Rangers' million-pound stars.

See **SOCCER**, Page 23

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