

# WORLD WATCH



News from around Britain and the globe

## Grim search continues

Rescuers were today carrying out a grim search for more than 50 bodies after one of South Africa's worst gold mine disasters.

Emergency services described scenes of horror and devastation as President Nelson Mandela said his government had declared a day of mourning on Wednesday.

Police said the mangled bodies of at least 47 miners had been pulled from the crushed lift cage.

The bodies of more than 50 other men killed in one of South Africa's worst mining disasters remained trapped.

The accident happened at Vaal Reef Mine outside Orkney, 95 miles west of Johannesburg.

A locomotive and carriage used to ferry men, equipment and ore along underground galleries plunged down a shaft on to a crowded lift.

Rescuers Garth Ellis told South African Broadcasting Corporation the bottom of the pit was "full of blood and water".

## Bomb equipment found

FBI agents say they have found bomb-making equipment in the house of a second suspect linked to the Oklahoma City bombing.

Authorities said they found detonator cord, blasting caps and other materials at the home of Terry Nichols following the blast last month.

Yesterday Nichols, 40, made his first court appearance in Oklahoma to hear charges of conspiring to blow up the federal office building with a huge fertiliser and fuel oil truck bomb.

More than 160 people died in the attack on April 16.

Nichols is a close friend of the first man arrested for the attack, Timothy McVeigh, 27.

Magistrate Ronald Howland ordered Nichols to be held in custody until a preliminary hearing on May 18.

## UN inspectors in Baghdad

The United Nations has sent inspectors to Baghdad amid suspicions that Iraq may have hidden material used to make chemical weapons.

The UN Special Commission said last month it could not account for materials used to produce 250 tons of a nerve agent known as VX.

Further discrepancies have now been found after new data submitted by Iraq was analysed by UN officials.

Destruction of Baghdad's most dangerous weapons is linked to lifting sanctions on exports such as oil, according to the ceasefire resolution following the 1991 Gulf War.

## Clinton pledges aid

US President Bill Clinton has pledged at least £18m aid to Ukraine during a visit to Kiev.

He offered wholehearted support to Ukraine's reforms in talks which contrasted sharply with a bruising summit in Russia.

Mr Clinton was today scheduled to close his two-day state visit with an open-air address at Kiev University.

He was also expected to stop at Babi Yar, a ravine in the capital where the Nazis killed 180,000 people, most of them Jews.

## Murdoch in Berlusconi deal

Rupert Murdoch was today reported to have formally offered to buy former Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi's TV stations for about £1.8 billion.

The Italian financial daily Il Sole 24 Ore said the proposed deal with Mr Murdoch's News Corporation would also include the TV advertising agency operated by Mr Berlusconi's Fininvest media group.

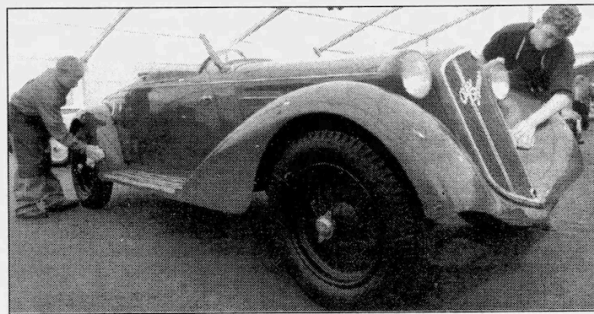
The newspaper said Mr Murdoch was offering to buy 51 per cent outright at an agreed price.

## Defence contract scandal

NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes was today questioned by Belgium's highest court over a murky defence contract scandal when he was a Belgian minister.

He has been named in a corruption scandal involving the Italian arms firm Agusta which allegedly paid kickbacks to his Flemish Socialist Party to secure a helicopter contract with the Belgian army in the late 1980s.

Mr Claes, who was Belgian economic affairs minister at the time of the Agusta deal, has denied any wrongdoing in the affair.



## Mussolini's car sold at auction

Italian dictator Benito Mussolini's sports car has been sold for more than £200,000.

The Fascist leader's 1935 Alfa Romeo 6C 2300 Sports Spider yesterday went under the hammer for £217,800 at a sale organised by classic car auctioneers Coys in London.

Il Duce's red car, which came 13th in the 1936 Mille Miglia race, was used for official parades and his own personal use.

It was snapped up by a middle-aged Italian collector who wanted to remain anonymous.

# West pleads not guilty

Alleged serial killer Rosemary West today denied ten charges of murder - including those of her daughter and step-daughter.

She also pleaded not guilty to two counts of rape and two of indecent assault.

West, 41, formerly of 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, spoke clearly to confirm her name and enter her not guilty pleas during a 20-minute hearing at Winchester Crown Court, Hants.

After the pleas were taken, Mr Justice Mantell adjourned the case and the court went into private session.

A provisional date of October 3 has been set for West's trial at the same court. The trial is expected to last between six and eight weeks.

West is said to have committed the alleged offences jointly with her late husband Fred West.

The 53-year-old builder was found hanged in his cell at

By Simon Osborne

Winson Green Prison in Birmingham on New Year's Day.

He was on remand facing 12 murder charges but the cases against him were discontinued after his death.

West is charged with the murders of her daughter Heather, 16; step-daughter Charmaine, eight; Shirley Robinson, 18; Lynda Gough, 19; Carol Cooper, 15; Lucy Partington, 21; Therese Siegenthaler, 21; Shirley Hubbard, 16; Juanita Mott, 17 and Alison Chambers, 16.

The other charges against her involve the alleged rape and indecent assault of a young girl between June and December 1977.

And the rape and indecent assault of a second young girl between January 1976 and December 1977.

## Wintry blast

The UK shivered in wintry temperatures today as the thermometer plunged.

The mercury plummeted as southerly winds which generated the recent heatwave gave way to freezing blasts from the north.

Heavy snow today caused delays on roads in Scotland and motorists were urged to take extra care.

Police in the Strathclyde region said rush-hour traffic on the A8 and M8, linking Glasgow and Edinburgh, had been badly hit.

Across the country experts said the weather would be cloudy with the likelihood of rain and thunderstorms in some regions.

## 'Policy to blame for closure'

The Government today denied claims privatisation caused the closure of a plant run by train-makers ABB Transportation with the loss of 700 jobs.

Ministers went on the defensive after angry Labour MPs and unions claimed Conservative policy was to blame for the shutdown of the works in York.

The closure will end 150 years of locomotive production in York.

The depot is to close at the end of the year, with a phased programme of redundancies between July and December.

The Swiss/Swedish group blamed the closure on a "significant production gap due to lack of orders".

## Day of action

Burton nurses today were joining more than half a million nurses staging a nationwide day promoting their pay demand.

Staff from throughout the nursing profession, including schools, hospitals, and GP practices, were backing Nurses' Day.

They were all supporting the move aimed at gaining support for their pay demands.

The Government has offered a national increase of one per cent.

But the Royal College of Nursing is demanding three per cent nationally.

## Mum felt she was 'possessed'

A church minister today told how he begged tormented mother Joy Senior to get professional help.

Pastor Bernie Holford, of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, said he believed Mrs Senior's obsession with "evil influences" led her to slaughter her three children and kill herself.

Mr Holford tried to persuade Mrs Senior to get professional help for her mental anguish, but she told him she did not need it.

The minister said the 28-year-old mother "flipped" and "went berserk" after becoming convinced she was possessed by demons.

Mrs Senior asked him to carry out a blessing on her home in Thetford, Norfolk, just days before she stabbed her children to death.

The minister counselled Mrs Senior when she turned to the church for help after splitting up from her boyfriend.

Police investigating the deaths of Mrs Senior and her three children - Kurtis Porter, seven, Cherelle Porter, five, and Clinton Porter, three - have confirmed they are looking at her religious links.

## Virus spread

Health officials in Zaire today warned of a rising epidemic involving the deadly virus sweeping part of the nation.

They said infection by the Ebola virus was spreading in the south-west of the country.

World Health Organisation spokesman Richard Leclair warned: "The epidemic is still growing. It is in its ascendant phase."

The disease causes fever, haemorrhage and vomiting as tissues dissolve. It kills 90 per cent of its victims.

There is no known antidote.

## MAIL WEATHER brought to you by Uttoxeter Racecourse — next meeting May 25, evening racing

### UK Factfile

Warmest ..... Hove 13C (55F).  
Coldest ..... Lerwick 06C (43F).  
Wettest ..... Minehead 0.24in.  
Sunniest ..... Tiree 11.0 hours.

### Regional Factfile

Temperature .. (Thursday): Max: 9.4C (49F) Min: 1.4C (34F) (Derby). Max: 9.7C (49F) Min: 2.1C (36F) (B'ham).  
Sunshine ..... (Thursday): 0.2 hours (B'ham).  
Rainfall .. (Thursday): Trace (Derby). Trace (B'ham).  
Pressure (Friday): 1012 mb (8am Derby). 1010 mb (8am B'ham). Trend: Steady.

### UK tonight/tomorrow

Tonight, any showers should become confined to north facing coasts. Saturday will be another cold day with a mix of sunny spells and showers.

### Region tonight/tomorrow

A cool evening with cloud and one or two light showers, but there should also be sunny spells. Tonight it should be mainly fine but cold with a slight frost in places by daybreak. Tomorrow, another cool day with a chilly wind. There should be plenty

of dry weather but a few showers may break out in the afternoon and evening.

### UK Sunday

Staying cold with sunny spells and a few showers by day and a continuing risk of frost at night.

### Air quality

Central England: Good.

### Lighting-up

8.50pm to 5.15am.

### World yesterday

Athens	23	73
Barcelona	22	72
Bermuda	19	66
Cairo	28	82
Hong Kong	24	75
Los Angeles	17	63
Moscow	04	39
New Delhi	37	99
New York	11	52
Paris	15	59
Peking	19	66
Rome	21	70
Sydney	20	68
Tokyo	19	66

### UK yesterday

London	11	52	cloudy
Manchester	09	48	cloudy
Birmingham	10	50	cloudy
Leeds	09	48	cloudy
Tynemouth	07	45	sunny
Skewness	09	48	cloudy
Bournemouth	13	55	showers
Plymouth	11	52	rain
Jersey	12	54	rain
Kendal	08	46	bright
Cardiff	08	46	rain
Aberdeen	09	48	hail
Stormway	07	45	hail
Belfast			N/A



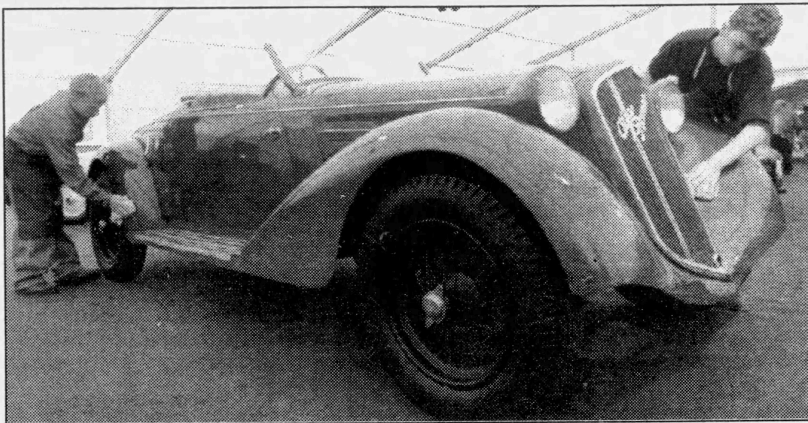
## Mussolini's car sold at auction

Italian dictator Benito Mussolini's sports car has been sold for more than £200,000.

The Fascist leader's 1935 Alfa Romeo 6C 2300 Sports Spider yesterday went under the hammer for £217,800 at a sale organised by classic car auctioneers Coys in London.

Il Duce's red car, which came 13th in the 1936 Mille Miglia race, was used for official parades and his own personal use.

It was snapped up by a middle-aged Italian collector who wanted to remain anonymous.



h for  
worst

and  
gov-  
sday.  
iners

ne of  
ped.  
inside

quip-  
down

isting  
d and

Wintry