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BC-WORLD-HIGHLIGHTS 05-15 0475

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REUTER WORLD NEWS HIGHLIGHTS AT 1800 GMT FRIDAY MAY 15

BAKU, AZERBAIJAN - THOUSANDS OF NATIONALISTS SEIZED AZERBAIJAN'S PARLIAMENT AFTER A FIERCE GUNBATTLE AND DECLARED THE OPPOSITION POPULAR FRONT IN CONTROL OF THE FORMER SOVIET REPUBLIC. A CROWD OF SOME 30,000 JAMMED INTO THE SQUARE OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT, CHEERING AND SHOUTING TO CELEBRATE WHAT THEY SAID WAS VICTORY OVER PRESIDENT AYAZ MUTALIBOV. THE FRONT ALSO TOOK CONTROL OF AZERBAIJAN'S TELEVISION AND ONE OF ITS LEADERS WENT ON THE AIR TO DECLARE VICTORY.

LONDON - BANK CREDITORS OF THE BRITISH SIDE OF PROPERTY GIANT OLYMPIA AND YORK DECIDED NOT TO FORCE IT AT THIS STAGE TO ACCEPT COURT ADMINISTRATION AS THE PRICE FOR ITS SURVIVAL, A BANK OFFICIAL SAID.

SARAJEVO - MOSLEM, CROAT AND SERB LEADERS AGREED TO AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AND FRESH PEACE TALKS TO HALT FIGHTING IN BOSNIA, A UNITED NATIONS SPOKESMAN SAID. IN THE UNITED NATIONS, THE SECURITY COUNCIL PREPARED TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION URGING SECRETARY-GENERAL BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI TO RESUME HIS PEACE EFFORTS IN BOSNIA DESPITE HIS WARNING THAT CURRENT U.N. OPERATIONS MAY FALL APART.

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN - SIX FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS SIGNED A DEFENCE PACT BUT THE COMMONWEALTH'S SECOND LARGEST MEMBER, UKRAINE, WAS AMONG FIVE OTHERS THAT REFUSED TO JOIN.

JOHANNESBURG - THE FIRST DAY OF A FALTERING SESSION OF SOUTH AFRICAN DEMOCRACY TALKS ADJOURNED WITHOUT HEARING EXPECTED SPEECHES FROM PRESIDENT F.W. DE KLERK AND AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC) LEADER NELSON MANDELA.

OTTAWA - AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EAST REFUGEES ENTERED ITS FINAL SESSION WITH THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA OPPOSING DEMANDS TO ISSUE A FINAL COMMUNIQUE REAFFIRMING THE PALESTINIAN RIGHT OF RETURN.::

KABUL - A RIFT HAS OPENED AMONG AFGHANISTAN'S NEW LEADERS OVER THE FATE OF FORMER PRESIDENT NAJIBULLAH, ENJOYING SANCTUARY IN U.N. OFFICES IN KABUL A MONTH AFTER GUERRILLA ARMIES DROVE HIM FROM POWER.

LOS ANGELES - A JUDGE ORDERED A NEW TRIAL FOR ONE OF THE FOUR WHITE POLICEMEN ACQUITTED IN THE VIDEOTAPED BEATING OF

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BLACK MOTORIST RODNEY KING, A VERDICT THAT TOUCHED OFF THE WORST U.S. RIOTS THIS CENTURY.

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WASHINGTON - U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTOR ROBERT GATES SAID THAT RELEASING DOCUMENTS ON LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS THE FIRST STEP IN HIS EFFORTS TO CLEAR THE AGENCY OF SUSPICION IN PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION.

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NUSA DUA, INDONESIA - IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ALI AKBAR VELAYATI URGED THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT TO BACK LIBYA AGAINST U.S. PRESSURE TO SURRENDER TWO SUSPECTS IN THE LOCKERBIE AIRLINER BOMBING.

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SRINAGAR - INDIAN SECURITY FORCES CAPTURED ONE OF THE TOP MILITANTS FIGHTING NEW DELHI'S RULE OF HIMALAYAN KASHMIR, PROMPTING A DAY OF MILITANT ATTACKS IN WHICH AT LEAST SEVEN PEOPLE WERE KILLED.

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