

World and Nation

Tape sheds light on jetliner crash

From Associated Press reports

GRAPEVINE, Texas — A cockpit tape recording recovered from a shattered Boeing 727 showed the pilots talked about an engine problem right after takeoff, seconds before the jetliner crashed in flames, killing 13 people, a federal spokesman said Thursday.

Investigators on the scene of the crash at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport scrutinized a rear engine of the plane and crawled through its charred hulk searching for more clues on why Flight 1141 crashed Wednesday. Nearly 100 people survived.

The recording of the cockpit conversations from one of the "black boxes" showed that the pilots dis-

cussed engine trouble, said Lee Dickinson, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

"Shortly after takeoff there was a sound, (apparently) warning a stall condition may be approaching," Dickinson said. He said the sound came from the shaking of the "stick," a device similar to the steering wheel that automatically makes a sound when a problem develops.

"This indicates the plane may be approaching a point where it won't be able to fly," he said. "Shortly after that, there was some conversation about an engine problem."

But he stressed that the warning sound could have stemmed from

something besides an engine problem. He would not elaborate, except to say, "In this case, we're talking about hydraulics."

"Every accident in its own way is unique," said NTSB spokesman Michael Benson. "You have to start from the beginning, put together a mosaic and slowly discover what went wrong."

The same flight Thursday from Dallas-Fort Worth to Salt Lake City was aborted when the pilot detected a problem with his plane. Most of the 102 passengers, including six survivors of the crash Wednesday, left about two hours later on another plane, Delta officials said.

On Wednesday, the 15-year-old

Boeing 727 failed to gain sufficient altitude, bounced three times on the runway and burst into flames.

At least 95 people aboard survived by clambering or being pulled through emergency doors or through cracks in the burning fuselage into the hazy sunshine.

"Why? Why did it happen? That's the question we have to answer now," Delta spokesman Bill Berry said in Atlanta, Delta's headquarters.

Thirty to 40 investigators from the NTSB, Delta, Boeing and Pratt & Whitney, which manufactured the plane's three engines, fanned out over an area about the size of two football fields, examining pieces of the wrecked aircraft.

Burma leader denies request for an interim government

From Associated Press reports

RANGOON, Burma — President Maung Maung Thursday rejected protesters' demands for an interim government but said he will allow the formation of student unions, which have been illegal in Burma.

Earlier Thursday, striking employees closed the capital's airport despite a government warning, but only a few thousand demonstrators showed up for an anti-government protest called by striking public employees.

In a speech broadcast over state-run Rangoon radio, Maung Maung said any changes in Burma's one-party government must follow constitutional procedures.

Afghan war heats up

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Moslem guerrillas launched rockets at Kabul and its airport Thursday, and Afghan fighter planes struck deep into Pakistani territory in one of the most violent days of Afghanistan's 10-year-old civil war.

Western diplomats, quoting dispatches from missions in the Afghan capital, said the airport was shrouded in "thick black and gray smoke" from the rocket attack.

Earlier in the day, Pakistani authorities said seven Afghan fighter-bombers struck the deepest to date into Pakistani territory, killing one person and injuring seven.

Libyan army may be replaced

TRIPOLI, Libya — Col. Moammar Gadhafi told military cadets he will organize civilian militias to maintain order and will dismantle the regular army and police.

News in Brief

The Libyan leader gave no timetable for eliminating what he called the "classical army and the traditional police." His meaning also was unclear because he said military service still would be mandatory.

Gadhafi spoke Wednesday at a graduation ceremony for the cadets at Tripoli stadium. He has made several calls in the past for ending the military, but this was the first time he publicly gave details.

Gadhafi also said 1 million Libyans have used their salaries to pay for weapons. He said the arms would be kept in barracks and used by the civilians in case of security threats.

Bakker may return to TV

FORT MILL, S.C. — PTL founder Jim Bakker may be back on television as soon as next week, the ministry's bankruptcy trustee said Thursday as lawyers worked on details of Bakker's \$165 million plan to buy back PTL.

Trustee M.C. Benton said he received offers of \$120 million and \$114 million Thursday, the last day he was taking bids for the ministry's assets. Both were larger than the previously announced offer of \$113 million from Canadian real estate magnate Peter Thomas, chairman of Samoth Capital Corp.

A \$3 million letter of credit that should be ready in a day or so will secure Bakker's deal, his attorney Ryan Hovis said at a news conference at the World Outreach Center at Heritage USA, headquarters for the PTL.

Walesa urges end to strikes in Poland

From Associated Press reports

GDANSK, Poland — Shipyard and steel workers ended strikes Thursday, and Lech Walesa urged other workers to stop the worst labor turmoil in seven years now that the government has agreed to discuss Solidarity's future.

Walesa met with ranking officials Wednesday for the first time in six years and the government agreed to discuss the outlawed union and other

issues. Restoring Solidarity's legal status was the main demand of the strikers.

Workers at the Stalowa Wola steel mill in southern Poland began leaving the plant at 7 p.m. after receiving a telephone appeal from Walesa and a message from the Roman Catholic episcopate, a strike committee spokeswoman said.

At least 3,000 strikers were in the Lenin shipyard, where Walesa works

as an electrician, including workers from other yards in this Baltic port. They hoisted Solidarity banners as members of their strike committee led them out.

More people lined the route to St. Brygida's Church, a headquarters of sorts for the men of the shipyard where Walesa led a strike eight years ago that gave birth to Solidarity.

In the packed church, the Rev. Henryk Jankowski declared: "In your

wisdom which you showed today you decided about suspending the protest, but it is only the end of the physical protest. The strike goes on through dialogue."

Shipyard workers gave up their strike after an appeal by Walesa, who said an end to the labor turmoil will open the way for talks the government promised. The strikes began Aug. 16 and at their height idled 20 sites employing 100,000 people.

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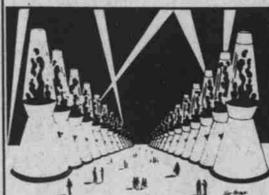
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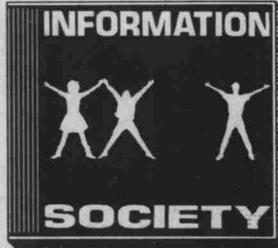
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