

NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world



Debris from front of Flight 800 key to bomb theory

1 EAST MORICHES, N.Y. — Investigators trying to learn whether a bomb brought down TWA Flight 800 awaited the arrival Monday of an underwater vehicle that can lift 6 1/2 tons.

Investigators, a source told The Associated Press, are operating on the theory that a bomb in the front cargo hold exploded about 10 miles off Long Island, blowing off the cockpit and first-class cabin.

The source said investigators need one key piece of evidence to prove their theory, such as the plane's aluminum skin pierced by the blast.

Search and salvage vessels assembled over the area where investigators believe the first debris, from the front of the plane, landed after the explosion at 13,700 feet.

Eight people arrested on explosives charges

2 BELLINGHAM, Wash. — Eight people, including four members of an antigovernment militia, were arrested on weapons and explosives charges and accused by the FBI on Monday of arming themselves for a clash with the government.

The FBI gave no details of what the defendants, seven men and one woman, were allegedly planning. But it said the arrests were not related to Saturday's bombing at an Olympic park in Atlanta.

All eight were charged with conspiracy to make and possess explosive devices. Four also were charged with making explosive devices.

The eight planned to use the devices "to arm themselves for what they believed would be an eventual confrontation with the United States government or the United Nations," according to court documents.

Hurricane Douglas hits Pacific coast

3 GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala — A Caribbean-born hurricane emerged newly potent in the Pacific on Monday, leaving at least 35 people dead in its sweep across northern Colombia and Central America.

Renamed Hurricane Douglas from Hurricane Cesar because of the change in oceans, the storm was about 330 miles west of Guatemala City at midday Monday, menacing Mexico's Pacific Coast.

After dissipating during its trip across the isthmus, the storm reorganized Monday in waters considerably warmer than its Caribbean birthplace, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

Warmer waters mean more energy for the hurricane, although Douglas' sustained winds of 75 mph just barely lifted it to hurricane status.

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