

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
High: 52 Low: 41 Precip: 30%	High: 54 Low: 48 Precip: 50%	High: 52 Low: 38 Precip: 70%

IN BRIEF

Iran says it has halted Uranium enrichment

VIENNA, Austria — Iran said Monday it has frozen all uranium enrichment programs, weakening a U.S. effort to refer Tehran's suspect nuclear activities to the U.N. Security Council. President Bush said he hoped the statement is true but "there must be verification." Europe welcomed Iran's claim and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. atomic watchdog agency, cautiously endorsed it. But

even if the IAEA verifies the claim, such a freeze falls short of European and U.S. hopes of an Iranian commitment to scrap enrichment ambitions.

Powell makes new push for Mideast peace

JERUSALEM — Secretary of State Colin Powell made a new push for Mideast peace Monday, promising Palestinians full American support for elections to replace Yasser Arafat and receiving Israeli assurances of a smooth path to the ballot box, including eased travel restrictions and letting Palestinians in east Jerusalem vote by absentee ballot. In one of his last overseas trips as the top U.S. diplomat, Powell sat down with both Israeli and Palestinian leaders, seeking to capitalize on new realities created by Arafat's death.

Thousands protest Ukraine runoff election

KIEV, Ukraine — Tens of thousands of demonstrators jammed

downtown Kiev in freezing temperatures Monday night, denouncing Ukraine's presidential runoff election as fraudulent and chanting the name of their reformist candidate who authorities said was trailing in the vote count. Viktor Yushchenko stood beaming on a platform with campaign aides and flashed a "V" for victory sign — even though the Central Election Commission said earlier that with nearly all the votes counted, he was losing to Kremlin-backed Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

Bush under heavy security in drug-infested Colombia

CARTAGENA, Colombia — Under a security web of warplanes, battleships and 15,000 troops, President Bush praised Colombia's war against drugs and Marxist guerrillas Monday and pledged to continue U.S. aid so "this courageous nation can win its war against narcoterrorists."

In a country that is the world's largest producer of cocaine and a major supplier of heroin, Bush said President Alvaro Uribe is achieving results with a massive aerial fumigation program against coca — the main ingredient in cocaine — and an aggressive military buildup against insurgents, who fund themselves through drug trafficking, kidnapping and extortion.

"The number of acres under cultivation are down significantly," Bush said, standing with Uribe in shirt sleeves at seaside lecterns. "The number of arrests are up. The number of murders is down. In other words, this man's plan is working."

Uribe said Colombia is winning the fight, but has not yet won. "We have made progress but the serpent is still alive," Uribe said.

Bush's pledge reaffirms U.S. commitments to a \$3.3 billion, five-year military aid program known as Plan Colombia.

Trump casino business files for bankruptcy

NEWARK, N.J. — Donald Trump, who has made prime-time entertainment out of firing people, proved that the real business world can be ruthless: He sought Chapter 11 bankruptcy for his casino empire because of a crushing \$1.8 billion in debt.

Trump Hotels & Casino Resorts and related operations filed for bankruptcy Sunday after months of negotiations with bondholders. Chapter 11 enables a business to hold off its creditors and continue operating as it tries to put its finances in order.

"I don't think it's a failure; it's a success," Trump said in a telephone interview Monday. "In this case, it was just something that worked better than other alternatives. It's really just a technical thing."

It is the second time Trump casinos filed for bankruptcy.

— The Associated Press

# Three dead after Bush Sr.'s private plane goes down

Two pilots and one flight attendant were killed when the jet's wing collided with a light pole in thick fog

BY JUAN A. LOZANO  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — A private jet that was en route to Houston to pick up former President Bush clipped a light pole and crashed Monday as it approached Hobby Airport in thick fog, killing all three people aboard.

The Gulfstream G-1159A jet, coming into Houston, went down at about 6:15 a.m. in an undeveloped area one and a half miles south of the airport, officials said. The former president had been scheduled to travel to Ecuador for a conference.

"I was deeply saddened to learn of the plane crash this morning," Bush said through spokesman Tom Frechette. "I'd flown with this group before and know them well. I join in sending heartfelt condolences to each and every member of their families."

The names of the three crew members were not immediately released.

The National Transportation Safety Board said the "black box" flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder had been recovered, and appeared to be in good enough shape to read the data.

Mark Rosenker, the NTSB's vice chairman, said the agency would examine a number of factors, including the aircraft's condition, what the pilots were doing and the weather.

He said standard toxicology tests

would be performed on the bodies and FBI agents joined the investigation at the NTSB's request, as is routine.

"We are treating this at this moment as a transportation accident. We have no reason to believe it is anything other than that," Rosenker said.

Bush, who lives in Houston, was going to give a lecture for the Guayaquil, Ecuador, Chamber of Commerce, Frechette said, adding, "It's very sad." He said he was to have accompanied Bush, along with a Secret Service agent.

Earlier, Jack Williams, a district chief with the Houston Fire Department, confirmed three people had died.

The jet, en route from Love Field in Dallas, was approaching the runway when it clipped the light pole, losing part of a wing, authorities said. Wreckage extended about 100 yards from there, Williams said.

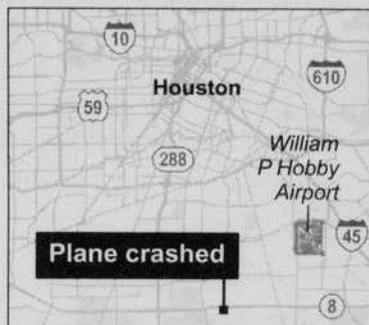
The crash site is a field near the Beltway 8 tollway. No one on the ground was injured, but one car was hit with debris and another was hit with jet fuel, Williams said.

Roger Smith, a spokesman for the Houston Airport System, said the pilot didn't indicate any problem, and the landing was routine until communications abruptly stopped. Dense fog blanketed most of the area.

Robert Randall, operations manager with the plane's owner, Jet

Private jet crashes

A private jet en route to Houston to pick up former President Bush crashed Monday, killing all three people on board.



AP

Place Inc. of Tulsa, Okla., said it had two male pilots and a female flight attendant aboard. The company has a fleet of 18 jets and employs about 150 people, he said.

Flight operations at Hobby Airport were not affected by the crash, officials said, but a portion of the heavily traveled tollway was closed.

Eduardo Maruri, president of the Guayaquil Chamber of Commerce, said that Bush postponed his visit until next month.

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