

Police doubt political link in Iranian student's death

HOUSTON — Police have confirmed a 22-year-old slaying victim found shot and repeatedly stabbed last week was an Iranian student, but an assistant chief Tuesday doubted any connection with seizure of American hostages in Tehran.

"As far as our investigation has indicated so far, there's nothing political about the killing at all," Assistant Chief B.K. Johnson said. Mahmood Dehle Hosseinzadeh, a Texas Southern University student, was found Thursday in a ditch. He had been stabbed 34 times and shot twice. Friends suggested the political revenge motive, but Johnson disputed it.

Johnson said, although Hosseinzadeh's pockets were turned out, robbery did not appear to be the motive. He said the killing conformed with other recent killings of men and investigators were focusing efforts in that direction.

Controllers avoid air collision

United Press International
BURBANK, Calif. — For the second time in three days, controllers at a Los Angeles area airport prevented the collision of two planes headed straight toward each other.

The latest near miss occurred Monday afternoon. A Pacific Southwest Airlines jetliner aborted a landing at Hollywood-Burbank Airport to avoid hitting a small private plane that was taking off in the opposite direction, apparently without clearance.

An eyewitness to the incident told radio station KHS that it looked as though the PSA jetliner had to pull "straight up" to avoid the Cessna. "It's a miracle he avoided the

crash," said Dennis Parsekin, a truck driver from West Covina, Calif., who saw the incident while parked nearby.

Federal Aviation Administration officials confirmed the near collision between the PSA Boeing 727, flight No. 702 from Reno, Nev., with 58 passengers and a crew of seven, and a Cessna 210 heading for Seattle with an unknown number of people aboard.

A spokesman at the Hollywood-Burbank tower said the PSA jetliner was ordered to bank to the right and the airborne Cessna was ordered to the left. Both planes then circled the field and landed safely.

He said the unidentified pilot of the Cessna apparently misunderstood the controller's instructions and was taking off without clearance. The visibility at the airport was good, he said, and "fortunately a number of people in the tower saw the incident."

Albert Piehl, chief of the General Aviation District office with authority over the airport, said the FAA had asked for control tower tapes in an effort to learn exactly how the PSA jet and the Cessna ended up on a collision course.

PSA spokesman Bill Hastings said the jetliner was making an instrument approach at an elevation of ab-

out 200 feet when instructed to tower to pull away. He said the plane's pilot, Capt. Bill Young, not yet filed a formal report on the incident.

Hastings said the aborted landing was "very rare."

The FAA confirmed Sunday investigating an "operational incident" the day before at Los Angeles International Airport where a Pan American Airlines Boeing 707 aborted takeoff to avoid a Hughes Aircraft DC-9, taxiing about 1,000 feet from the runway.

The Hughes jet, headed for Phoenix, Ariz., carried 34 passengers while the American Airlines jet, headed for Nashville, Tenn., had 50 passengers. No one was injured and both

Deepwater port hopes still dim

United Press International
FREEPORT — The Texas Deepwater Port Authority chairman says prospects for success of TDPA's offshore supertanker terminal appear dim despite its endorsement by environmental officials over a Galveston onshore plan.

"No one has signed up yet to use the port," Bob Casey said Monday. "We have to have some commitments from some oil companies for what they would use if they sign the agreement."

"We will have to make up our mind soon, before the month is over. If we delay any further, the engineers will not have time to complete their work so construction could start next summer."

"We're on the edge right now. I don't want to throw in the towel prematurely, but I don't want to spend taxpayers' money unnecessarily," he said. "I'd hate to see it go down. The state needs the port."

Casey said TDPA needs preconstruction promises from oil companies to pump 1.4 million barrels daily through the port to make it economically feasible and to attract financing to build it.

The Texas superport plan calls for a floating terminal located in the Gulf of Mexico 25 miles south of Freeport.

Oil would be pumped from giant tankers and then piped from the terminal to onshore storage and transshipment facilities at Oyster Creek, a village near Freeport.

Casey's remarks followed an announcement by Adlene Harrison, the Environmental Protection Agency's Dallas region administrator, that EPA would prefer an offshore port terminal to a proposed onshore port on Pelican Island at Galveston.

Harrison said the offshore facility would reduce tanker traffic into environmentally sensitive bays, decrease the risk of spills and explosions, and cut the threat to life and property.

Despite the EPA action, Casey said time was growing short for going ahead with the Texas offshore superport. Louisiana has a similar project under construction and, Casey said, already is talking about expansion.

Cancer study aided by dogs

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Dogs get breast cancer, too, and the result could be new information for human breast cancer treatment.

The usual treatment for canine breast cancer has been surgery, but scientists at the University of Texas Health Science Center have now begun a program in which they will study the effectiveness of additional treatments in family pets. Results may furnish new information for human breast cancer treatment, the scientists said.

"We are studying the effectiveness of combining immunotherapy with surgery in the treatment of early-detected, canine breast cancer in family pets," said Dr. Steven D. Harris, assistant professor of pathology. "Immunotherapy is an attempt to bolster the body's natural immune system to recognize the cancer cells as foreign and to destroy the tumor."

4 men, dope seized off Texas coast

United Press International
GALVESTON — Coast Guard and Customs Service officers said a fishing boat seized near Freeport, Texas, Monday was loaded with an estimated 15 to 20 tons of marijuana.

Lt. Gabriel Kinney said four men were arrested and jailed in Galveston, where they face state and federal drug smuggling charges.

Kinney said a Coast Guard vessel on a routine patrol stopped the 58-foot-long fishing boat El Cobre, registered in Miami, Fla., about 16 miles southeast of Freeport about 5 p.m. Monday. Its point of origin was not known immediately.

Kinney said the boat probably was headed for a rendezvous point on the Texas coast, where its cargo would have been unloaded Monday night.



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