

Focus on Taiwan crash shifts to cause, victims

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Investigators reconstructing the route of China Airlines Flight CI676 focused Tuesday on why the jet veered off a seemingly routine approach at the last moment, crashing and exploding into flames just short of the runway.

It was Taiwan's worst plane crash, killing 203 people — everyone on board, including at least four Americans, and seven on the ground — and destroying a string of homes near Taipei's airport Monday.

Soldiers, police and firefighters picked through shoes and engine parts Tuesday, looking for remains and personal items to help identify the victims. Cries of grieving relatives mixed with Buddhist funeral chants at a blue-and-orange tent nearby.

Most of the dead were tourists returning home from the resort island of Bali, but Taiwan's respected Central Bank governor, his wife, and four other finance officials also were aboard.

Dazed by his loss, Chien Ming-hsing looked Tuesday for the remains of 13 relatives, including his son, daughter and his grandchildren. They were vacationing together on Bali.

Eighty-six victims had been identified by Tuesday.

Although the plane crashed in fog and a light rain, investigators were looking elsewhere for a cause. Initial

information suggested that despite the weather, the veteran pilots had been on a routine approach until just before the accident.

Flight data records had been recovered and sent to the United States for analysis, airport officials said.

A recording of cockpit conversations with the control tower indicated that the pilot of the twin-engine Airbus sought permission to land when the jet still was on course.

He then lost touch and did not answer a question about whether he would try a second approach. The recording offered no information to confirm reports from the airline that the pilot was trying a second approach when the plane crashed.

Two beeps were then heard on the tape. Chang Kuo-cheng, Taiwan's deputy director of civil aeronautics, said they could have been from the plane's warning system.

Chang said the plane touched ground off the runway, hit a utility pole and a highway median about 200 feet from the runway. It then skidded into several houses, surrounded by fish farms, rice paddies, factories and warehouses, and exploded.

A resident near the airport told a radio station that he saw the jetliner apparently preparing to land, "as if the pilot mistook the spacious highway for the runway."

Voters turn out for Indian election despite threats of rising violence

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Indians voted in large numbers despite bomb explosions and shootings during parliamentary elections, prompting government officials and analysts to declare Tuesday that the world's largest democracy is thriving.

More than 55 percent of registered voters turned out Monday to elect 222 deputies in the first phase of staggered voting, similar to turnout figures in previous elections. It will take five more days of balloting to complete the elections for India's 545-seat lower house of parliament.

"In the turbulence of a maturing democracy, the elections are a resounding success," said B.G. Verghese, political analyst at the Center for Policy Research.

Election-related violence killed 22 people Monday. Twenty died in eastern Bihar state amid land mine explosions and clashes among rival political groups. One person died in the northeastern Assam state and another in southern Andhra Pradesh.

At least four boys were killed by a bomb blast Tuesday in the southern town of Coimbatore, police said. The boys were playing cricket in a neighborhood park dominated by Muslims when they opened a bag containing the explosive. Explosions in the same

town killed 54 people Saturday.

In the northern state of Punjab, 20 political activists were injured Tuesday in fighting between armed members of the governing local Akali Dal party and the influential Congress Party.

The voting went ahead in as many as a quarter million polling stations. Polling will have to be scheduled again in several hundred districts because of violence or other problems. More than 600 million Indians were registered to vote in the staggered ballot, choosing from among some 5,000 candidates from more than 100 political parties.

In the remote northeastern Tripura state, where an ongoing insurgency and decades of ethnic conflict has claimed hundreds of lives, turnout was 85 percent, officials said. In Assam — where a banned separatist group, United Liberation Force of Assam, threatened violence if voters ventured out — turnout was 43 percent.

"People defied the boycott call," said Assam Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta.

Violence did have an impact. In 1996, about 69 percent of the electorate voted in Assam. In Tamil Nadu, where a series of bomb blasts Saturday killed 54 people and in-

India's elections turn violent

More than 55 percent of India's registered voters participated in the first phase of parliamentary elections Monday, despite bomb explosions, threats of violence and shootings.

- Violent incidents**
- 1 **Bihar:** Twenty die amid land mine explosions, snatching of ballot papers and intimidation of voters
 - 2 **Assam:** One dead
 - 3 **Andhra Pradesh:** One dead
 - 4 **Coimbatore:** At least four boys killed Tuesday. Explosions Saturday killed 54 people.
 - 5 **Tamil Nadu:** Bomb blasts Saturday killed 54 people and injured nearly 200



jured nearly 200, only 45 percent of the electorate voted Monday.

N. Bhaskar Rao at the Center for Media Studies said turnout was also affected by apathy from voters who believe the elections will only result in another deadlocked parliament.

Elections were called three years early after 1996 voting resulted in no party winning a majority in parliament. Politicians tried and failed

to form an enduring minority coalition government.

The Congress Party, which governed India for all but five years since independence, has been dented by accusations it is corrupt and out of touch. The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party is expected to win the most seats in these elections, but not the majority needed to govern alone.

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7:00 p.m. Rudder Theater

Golden Key National Honor Society

General Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 18th • 7:00 p.m. MSC 201

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Applications due by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 19

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WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

The Women In Science and Engineering (WISE), an organization of women graduate and undergraduate students, staff and faculty will host its fifth annual all-day professional and career development conference.

The conference "Designing Your Career" which will take place on Saturday, February 21, 1998, at the MSC on the Texas A&M campus, will focus on giving participants the skills and insights needed to succeed in the scientific and technological workplace of the year 2000 and beyond.

Participants will select from topics such as:

- Outsmarting Entropy
- What is Professionalism?
- Visual Thinking: Entering Through the Back Door

This year's keynote speaker will be the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Programs and Academic Services at Texas A&M University, Dr. Sallie Sheppard.

Contact Nancy Magnussen at (409) 845-5587 or via e-mail at nancy@isc.tamu.edu for registration information. Free child care will be provided on site. Registration deadline is February 19.

Sponsors: Office of the Vice President for Research and Associate Provost for Graduate Studies, College of Engineering, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Geosciences & Maritime Studies, College of Veterinary Medicine

Corporate Sponsors: GTE, Bayer Corporation, Schlumberger, DuPont, and TI (corporate sponsors will have representatives at the conference)

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Schedule:	Feb. 18
MSC 342	March 4 & 25
7 PM	April 8 & 22

For more info call: 862-9452 or email: islam101@tam.u.edu

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ORDER OF OMEGA PRESENTS

GREEK WEEK

UNITED COLORS

Tuesday, February 17 - Greek vs. Corps - 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Basketball Game at G. Rollie White, admission \$2.

Wednesday, February 18
Penny Wars begin outside the MSC by Rudder Fountain. Sign-in tables will be set up. Your chapter must supply their own decorated container.

Thursday, February 19 - Intramurals Begin - 3-6 p.m.
Duncan Field - Your chapter can set up Greek Letters of the field!

Pat Green - 8:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.
Pat Green at the Texas Hall of Fame!!
Elvis T. Busboy & Blues Butchers will be opening. \$10 in advance/\$12 at the door.

Friday, February 20 - 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Intramurals at Duncan Field - Flag Football Only!!!
WHOOH!

Saturday, February 21 - Philanthropy Event - 12:00 p.m.
We will accompany the Boys & Girls Club to the A&M Basketball game at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

First Ever Greek Week Finale and Awards! - 8 p.m.
At the Tap

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