

Plane carrying 302 Iranian soldiers crashes in Iran, killing all aboard

By Ali Akbar Dareini THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEHRAN, Iran — A military plane carrying 302 members of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards crashed in the mountains of southeastern Iran on Wednesday...

government has blamed on U.S. sanctions, arguing that they have prevented the country from repairing and replacing its aging fleet.

Trade between Iran and the United States has been frozen under sanctions Washington imposed after the 1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

The news agency said the plane's passengers and crew were all members of the Revolutionary Guards, an elite group under the direct control of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The Russian-made Antonov airliner operated by the Iranian military lost contact with the control tower at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, according to the reports.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency said rescuers at the crash site had confirmed all 302 people on board were killed.

It was also the latest in a string of plane accidents the Iranian

Plane crash in Iran

A plane on a domestic route from Zahedan to Kerman crashed near Shahdad on Wednesday.



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESRI AP

anonymous official as saying the forces had visited the impoverished Sistan-Baluchestan province, of which Zahedan is the capital, for an "important mission."

The government issued a statement offering condolences to the families of the victims, television and radio reports said.

Iranians were preparing for an Islamic holiday on Thursday, the

feast of Velayat, when Shiites believe Islam's prophet Mohammad appointed his son-in-law, Ali, as his successor.

Wednesday's crash was the deadliest in Iranian history with the toll surpassing the 290 killed on July 3, 1988, when an Iran Air A300 Airbus was shot down over the Persian Gulf by the USS Vincennes.

In December, Transportation Minister Ahmad Khorram acknowledged that Iran's air industry was suffering from U.S. sanctions on purchase of American-made planes and warned of air disasters if the trade ban wasn't lifted.

The minister, speaking days after the Dec. 23 crash of a Ukrainian An-140 plane that killed 46 scientists, said several of Iran's aging Boeing and Airbus planes have been grounded because of technical problems and lack of spare parts.

crowds it's time sign off

rights leader run for president

Illinois Sen. Moseley-Braun, the nation's first black female to run for president, plans to bid for the Democratic nomination.

Moseley-Braun said she would "take the message" off the White House.

she was criticized for an inheritance from her late husband, for a monthlong post-trip to Africa with her wife, and accusations that she had used federal funds for a fancy clothes.

offer consumers a phone service. announces training pilots

Commercial pilots in the cockpit would be selected for a program under a plan by the Transportation Dept.

48 pilots could begin preliminary and could on Tuesday's deadline rules for the program by Congress last year.

training to include on legal policies and agency spokesman Robert

NEWS IN BRIEF

Affirmative action suit biggest in decades

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, Nike Inc., the American Psychological Association and the New York City Council all want to have their say in the biggest affirmative action case to reach the Supreme Court in decades.

Hundreds of groups and individuals filed their views on the use of race in college admissions policies before the Wednesday midnight deadline.

By the time the friend-of-the-court briefs are processed, the court will have mounds of paperwork to review in addition to the fat file in the long-running University of Michigan case.

Whether the briefs will have much influence on the nine justices is up for debate, but the drafters hope they will at least prompt questions during the April 1 arguments.

Senate

Continued from page 1A

give regents more flexibility in spending state funds.

The senate also defeated a resolution to rebuke Student Body President Zac Coventry for lobbying state legislators in support of tuition deregulation.

Coventry and other student leaders spoke in support of deregulation during meetings with legislators at the state capitol on Feb. 11.

Coventry accused the sponsors of the resolution of taking a "soft, aim, fire approach" and "kissed them" for not resolving the matter privately.

"The (media) coverage on this has bordered on personal attacks on my character," he said. Coventry said he supported the senate's resolution opposing deregulation.

Student Senator Jeff Graham, one of the sponsors of the resolution rebuking Coventry, said he had accomplished the goals of the resolution.

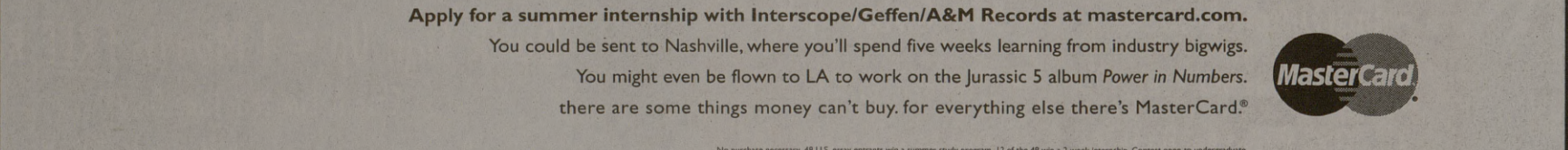
"We wanted to bring this matter to the attention of the senate and to bring about a real debate on tuition deregulation, and I think we've done that," he said.

Shortly after Graham introduced the resolution last week, Senate Speaker Brooks Landgraf requested that senators get students' opinions on deregulation.

Then, this week, Capps drafted his resolution on tuition deregulation. However, Landgraf said the senate's deregulation debate was not prompted by Graham's resolution.

Advertisement for Interscope/Geffen/A&M Records featuring a record store scene and various items for sale with prices: cds (this year alone): \$300, vintage rock posters: about \$40 each, frame for concert ticket stubs: \$13, letter from neighbor complaining about music: \$0, used turntable: \$20, guitar pick necklace: \$.75.

finding out there's an internship for people like you: priceless Apply for a summer internship with Interscope/Geffen/A&M Records at mastercard.com. You could be sent to Nashville, where you'll spend five weeks learning from industry bigwigs.



Official Rules: No Purchase Necessary to Enter or Win. Eligibility: Open to legal residents of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia who are 18 to 25 years of age and are enrolled as full- or part-time undergraduates students in a U.S. Department of Education accredited 2-year or 4-year college/university as of 1/26/03 and at the time of winner selection and notification.