

The Boston Globe

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2001

DRIP TRY CYCLE

TODAY: Cloudy, p.m. showers likely, 65-70

TOMORROW: Cloudy, high in the low 70s

HIGH TIDE: 1:45 a.m., 2:07 p.m.
FULL REPORT: PAGE D8

US orders warplanes to Gulf



FATEFUL CONNECTION — The Portland, Maine, Jetport yesterday released this photo it said was of suspected hijackers Mohamed Atta (right) and Abdulaziz Alomari heading for their flight to Boston.

Bush presses allies; will address Congress

By Peter J. Howe and Anne E. Kornblut
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon approved orders yesterday to move as many as 100 US warplanes to bases near the Persian Gulf, as President Bush scrambled on the diplomatic front to assemble "overt and covert" allies for sweeping retaliation against terrorist groups.

After meetings with top officials from Indonesia, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Russia who declared strong disapproval of terrorism — but no clear support for US military action — Bush expressed confidence he will get some backing. Some countries whose leaders Bush has canvassed may provide only covert help and information, the president said, but others may "take a more active role."

Seeming to tone down his rhetoric yesterday, the president is set to speak to a joint meeting of Congress tonight about what the Pentagon has dubbed "Operation Infinite Justice."

Yesterday, Bush previewed his message, explaining that "the first objective is to bring people to justice who ... committed this particular set of atrocities and to hold the organization accountable and to hold those who harbor them accountable."

But Bush added: "The mindset of war must change. The challenge is to redefine the terms of the conflict, the campaign, in a way that the leaders understand and in a way that the people of the world understand."

It also appeared likely the president would propose economic measures to keep the economy from spiraling into a deep recession.

Officials at the US Central Com-



REUTERS PHOTO

Navy pilots preparing for duty in the Mideast aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise.

Return to Saudi Arabia
Area relatives of Osama bin Laden depart because of safety concerns. **A29.**

40,000 more layoffs
United Airlines, American Airlines, and Trans World Airlines announce deep job cuts. **Business, C1.**

Question of rebuilding
Values clash in a discussion of what, if anything, to put in the place of the World Trade Center. **Living/Arts, D1.**

Full coverage, **A21-35, B1, B4-5, C1, C4, C7-8, Index, A2.**

Airlines fought security changes

Despite warning, companies wanted to avoid delays

By Walter V. Robinson and Glen Johnson
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Despite recurrent warnings from official watchdog agencies and presidential commissions that airport security lapses could have catastrophic consequences, government efforts to remedy the problems have been frustrated repeatedly by cost-conscious airlines.

A new commission has now been empaneled to look at airport security after last week's devastating attacks with hijacked jetliners on New York and Washington.

But specialists wonder whether reform might be imperiled by the same political factors that have undermined security over the last two decades: Airlines that have successfully resisted many critical, sometimes costly security improvements; ineffectual federal oversight; and politicians of both parties who, like their constituents, have been more concerned about flight delays than terrorism.

Major airlines often fail to de-

liver on-time performance. But in Washington, the Globe has found, their lobbying record is the envy of other regulated industries.

In 1990, when Congress sought to impose 10-year criminal background checks on all airport workers, the airlines hired former FBI and CIA director William H. Webster to lobby against the measure, which was later weakened substantially.

Five years ago this month, a presidential commission led by Vice President Al Gore backedpedaled on a tough baggage-screening proposal, after a flood of airline contributions to the Democratic Party in the closing weeks of the 1996 presidential election.

Just yesterday, the FAA disclosed that later this month it will require new training and performance standards for the near minimum-wage workers who staff security checkpoints at airports as subcontractors to the airlines. The new standards were proposed by the White House in February 1997.

"We're going to spend over \$100 billion before this is over," said Billie H. Vincent, a former FAA security chief. "We're going to lose good military personnel, because of the stupidity of the [air-

SECURITY, Page A34

Swift special panel to review Massport

By Frank Phillips
GLOBE STAFF

Acting Governor Jane M. Swift will appoint a special panel to determine whether to overhaul the management of the Massachusetts Port Authority, saying the state has a duty after the Sept. 11 hijackings to rethink the way it runs Logan International Airport.

"Airport operations will never be the same anywhere in America, and certainly we have a moral responsibility at Logan to take that very seriously, because of the tragic consequences of the security lapse at Logan last week," Swift said yesterday.

The announcement comes as Swift tries to restore confidence in the operation of the airport and her administration's oversight of it. The special commission will be made up of aviation, transportation, and management specialists and will examine, among other things, whether Massport should alter its hiring policies. The agency has been criticized for favoring the politically connected over those

SWIFT, Page A24



JANE M. SWIFT
A "responsibility"

FBI asks banks to look for records of terrorists

By Beth Healy
GLOBE STAFF

The FBI has dramatically widened its probe of the financial activities of the terrorists believed responsible for the World Trade Center bombing, asking FleetBoston Financial Corp. and other major US banks to search their databases for any records linked to the suspects.

"We've received requests from the Treasury Department and the Justice Department related to the investigation of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington," Fleet spokesman James Mahoney said. "The requests contained a number of names and we've been asked to provide information from our systems related to those names."

Another Boston bank executive

said there were 19 names on the list. The regulators are seeking records that show money transfers, purchases, deposits, and other information that could help lead them to the terrorists' backers, bankers said.

The requests are part of a worldwide investigation into the banking and investment activities of the suspected terrorists in the days and weeks leading up to the deadly hijackings. The US Securities and Exchange Commission is looking into suspicious trading in several stocks in the days before the attacks, a source familiar with the investigation said, including United Airlines parent UAL Corp., American Airlines owner AMR Corp., and two Wall Street giants, Merrill Lynch & Co. and Goldman Sachs

BANKS, Page C8

Inside Today

New trial ordered

A judge tosses out the conviction of former Boston police officer Kenneth Conley for lying to a federal grand jury about the 1995 beating of Officer Michael Cox by fellow officers who mistook him for a suspect. **City & Region, B1.**

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In critical test, Pakistan ruler urges support for America

By Indira A.R. Lakshmanan
GLOBE STAFF

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan's military ruler last night soberly braced his nation for "the most critical moment" since a breakaway war split this Islamic republic 30 years ago, calling for national unity behind a United States-led war on terrorism as the only way to "save ourselves from danger."

But just hours before President Pervez Musharraf warned in a live, televised address that "if we make the wrong decision, we will face the worst consequences," his radical Muslim critics rallied in several cities, burning his effigy and vowing holy war if Afghanistan is attacked for sheltering suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden.

Facing his greatest test and potential challenge to his leadership since he came to power in a bloodless coup two years ago, Musharraf has spent days trying to rally opinion makers, clerics, and politicians behind his decision to back the



AFP PHOTO

Store patrons in Karachi, Pakistan, viewing the speech yesterday in which President Pervez Musharraf called for support for US military action.

United States, even as his top military and diplomatic envoys tried to persuade Afghanistan's fundamentalist Taliban leaders to turn over bin Laden to save themselves and their country from ruin.

A council of Afghan clerics met in Kabul to decide whether to surrender the Saudi fugitive whom they have sheltered from extradition. They didn't reach a decision last night, and were expected to

continue discussions today.

But with hopes fading that the clerics will bow to US demands and Pakistani entreaties, Musharraf took his case to the nation in an effort to neutralize domestic opposition to siding with a widely distrusted superpower over a friendly Muslim neighbor.

Dressed in full military uniform and

PAKISTAN, Page A33

Not all are moved as stars visit the towers' grave

By Fred Kaplan and Brian MacQuarrie
GLOBE STAFF

NEW YORK — Celebrities and political figures have been flocking to the smoldering site of the rubble where the World Trade Center once stood. They want to help the workers, give moral support, and just say thanks.

As far as city officials are concerned, it would be better if the celebrities stayed away.

But as for the politicians, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani and Governor George Pataki have been actively encouraging dignitaries to come see the damage.

President Jacques Chirac of France flew over the site yesterday in a helicopter with the Republican mayor. Today, British Prime Minister Tony Blair is scheduled to visit. Senator John F. Kerry, Democrat of Massachusetts, walked around yesterday with Pataki, a Republican. Kerry plans to offer legislation today that would make airport security a federal responsibility.

On Tuesday, Senator James Jeffords, the Vermont Independent who chairs the Senate committee that oversees emergency relief, came with

TOURS, Page A26