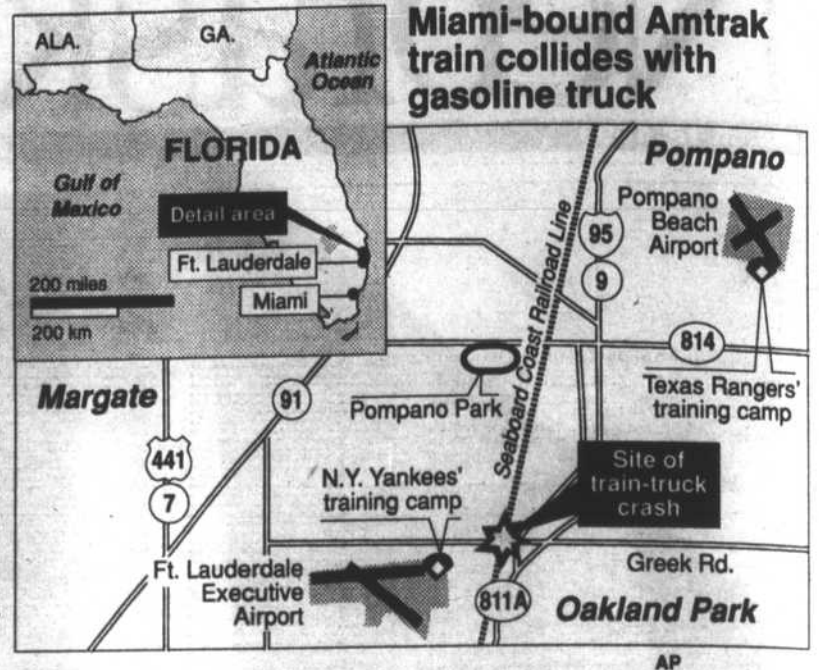


Train collides with tanker, kills 6, sets fire to 9 cars

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A gasoline tanker trapped in traffic at a railroad crossing was struck by an Amtrak train Wednesday and exploded in a giant fireball that set nine other cars and trucks ablaze. The tanker driver and five others died in their vehicles. Fifteen people waiting at the crossing were injured, and six of the 118 aboard the train were taken to a hospital for observation, officials said. The 11-car Silver Star from New York City remained upright after the midafternoon crash at a crossing near Interstate 95, but the lead locomotive was blackened and the luggage and dining cars caught fire. Witnesses described panic as people stuck in traffic scrambled for their lives after the blast. "I just saw some people screaming all over the place," said Billy Rodriguez, 25, of Coral Springs. A Broward County sheriff's deputy in his patrol car at the time was able to pull the driver out of a burning vehicle behind him, said Sonya Friedman, a Fort Lauderdale police spokeswoman. "He tried to rescue another but couldn't because of the fireball," she said. The crash occurred at about 3 p.m., and the fire continued to burn more than two hours later. A witness, Barbara Freeman, said the truck became trapped in slow traffic and could not move when the warning lights came on and the gate lowered. The train hit the back of the truck. The cars of the train remained upright, but the lead locomotive stopped several hundred yards down the track. The train had been starting to brake and was traveling at 30 mph to 35 mph when it hit the truck, said Friedman, the police spokeswoman. The Amerada Hess Corp. tanker was carrying about 8,500 gallons of gasoline when it was struck, said Carl Tursi, a spokesman for the company.

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U.N. convoys allowed in Muslims' brawl for food

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Serbs eased their blockade of U.N. relief convoys Wednesday, allowing three into devastated eastern Bosnia. Tank, artillery and mortar fire shook Sarajevo's airport and Bosnian forces cut a vital Serb supply route. International efforts to send aid to Muslims in Serb-occupied eastern enclaves remained troubled. Four people were reported killed in besieged Srebrenica as gun and knife fights broke out among hungry crowds trying to reach food bundles dropped by U.S. planes. "The town has been besieged for 11 months. The authorities are too physically and mentally exhausted to rein people in," U.N. aid spokesman Peter Kessler said in Sarajevo. In Washington, the State Department accused ethnic Serbs of bombing Srebrenica last Saturday in the first aerial attack on the former Yugoslav republic since last fall. Bosnian Serbs, under U.N. pressure, gave permission for three con-

voys of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to cross into Bosnia from Serbia. Two bound for Sarajevo and Gorazde to the southeast crossed the border at Mali Zvornik, but the third decided it was too late to head for Tuzla. Serbs continued to block another convoy, which was trying to reach Srebrenica. The Bosnian Army's 1st Corp said there was very heavy shelling Wednesday on all sides of the Sarajevo airport, forcing the cancellation of some relief flights. About 2,000 shells landed on Butmir, Hrasnica and Dobrinja, three government-held towns around the airport, killing at least two people, Bosnian radio said. In Sarajevo, the government said 25 people were killed in Bosnian-controlled territory in the 24-hour period ending Wednesday afternoon. Bosnian government soldiers cut the main supply road from the Serbian border at Zvornik to Pale, the Bosnian



Serbs' headquarters outside of Sarajevo, according to the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug. The troops killed three Serb soldiers in a surprise raid, the agency said. Kessler, a UNHCR official, quoted co-worker Larry Hollingworth in Srebrenica as saying there was savage fighting among people seeking to get at airdropped food bundles.

Hotel fire survivors count their blessings

CHICAGO — J.D. Thompson lost everything in one of Chicago's deadliest fires in years, and that wasn't much. He would trade in his meager belongings for his life any day. "I got out. I can always get more money," the 62-year-old said quietly. Gone were his wallet, his clothes and a sheaf of precious family pictures, a radio, a television and a few more odds and ends. Already, Thompson was mapping out his life anew Wednesday after surviving the fire in a residential hotel on the city's Near North Side that killed 16 people. Two dozen of the approximately 100 survivors of the five-alarm blaze in the Paxton Hotel early Tuesday moved two miles north to the Bel-Ray Hotel. The Red Cross and the Salvation Army offered food, shelter and a helping hand. "The first thing we do is make sure they're warm, safe and dry, that they have clothes to wear, food to eat and

What good is it to be bitter? You just start over again. —Thompson hotel resident

place to stay," said Red Cross spokeswoman Randi Killian. Tuesday's fire was the city's deadliest since March 1981, when 19 people died at another residential hotel. Thompson's supervisor at his warehouse job sent a bag of clothes. Now, he said, he has to buy a pair of glasses so he can return to work and buy a radio when he gets his first paycheck. "What good is it to be bitter?" Thompson asked, shielding his ears from the noise. "You just start over again. You just catch up."

WORLD WIRE

2 Palestinians charged in bombing

NEW YORK — Two Palestinian suspects were indicted Wednesday on charges they "willfully, knowingly and maliciously" bombed the World Trade Center, killing six people. The one-paragraph federal indictment of Mohammed Salameh, 25, and Nidal Ayyad, 25, gave no details about their alleged roles and shed no new light on a motive for

the bombing of the world's second-tallest buildings. The federal grand jury also didn't mention other suspects, although authorities have said they hope for more arrests. A published report Wednesday said three suspects may have fled the country within 48 hours of Salameh's arrest, but the FBI chief for New York disputed the account.

10 Muslim militants killed in shootout

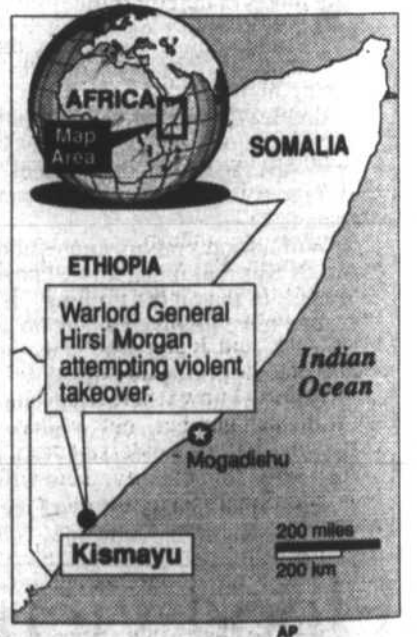
CAIRO, Egypt — The body count is rising as shootouts between government security forces and Muslim extremists become more frequent, with both sides quick on the trigger. In the bloodiest clash so far this year, 10 extremists and one policeman were killed Wednesday, and 11 militants and 10 policemen were wounded. The extremist al-Gamaa al-Islamiya — the Islamic Group —

in 1981 launched its drive to install an Islamic government. Fueled by suspicions that they will receive no mercy, the extremists have resisted government raids. "They have orders to fire on police. We fire back. Sometimes one or two get killed," said Maj. Gen. Galal el-Shamy, an Interior Ministry spokesman. He said the militants would rather die fighting than be arrested.

U.S. soldiers sent back to Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Two weeks after a U.S. pullout from Kismayu began, 500 American soldiers were heading back to the southern port Wednesday to try to mend a shattered truce that has jeopardized nationwide peace talks. The talks suffered another blow Wednesday when one of the country's top warlords pulled out of the negotiations, which started Monday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Mohamed Farrah Aidid said he would not return to the bargaining table until the situation in the southern port city of Kismayu "is completely reversed." Aidid supports Col. Omar Jess, a warlord whose 40 backers in Kismayu were forced to retreat from the city Tuesday after an attack by 300 supporters of Mohamed Said Hirsi, also known as Gen. Morgan. Jess' followers fled to a village 10 miles north. At least 49 people were treated for injuries, and fatalities were likely, according to the international relief agency Doctors

Without Borders. Aidid's faction issued a statement condemning "renewed aggression on the city of Kismayu by Morgan and his henchmen." Aidid accused the peacekeepers of failing to maintain security in Kismayu and demanded that the area be cleared of Morgan's "invaders." Col. Pete Dotto, an American representing the U.S.-led force at the peace talks, said the attack had been staged to disrupt the negotiations, and that Aidid would "be playing into Morgan's hand if he pulled out" of the talks. The U.S.-led allied coalition arrived in December to safeguard aid deliveries in Somalia. The Americans have handed over most areas of control to other troops ahead of turning over the entire operation to the United Nations in May. Belgium's 900 soldiers in the Kismayu area took control of the city on March 5.



Overtime work soars while others can't find jobs

WASHINGTON — At a time nearly 9 million people can't find jobs, other Americans are putting in the most overtime since the government started keeping records in the 1950s. With factory workers averaging 4.2 hours of overtime a week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics says more than a tenth of all work done in the nation's factories is performed on overtime. The factory work week grew by 24 minutes in the last five months and by 12 minutes in February alone. The bureau does not measure overtime hours in the non-factory work force but does say the work week is expanding in many fields. "If we could go back to the amount

of overtime worked in 1982, we would create 3 million new jobs without increasing the federal deficit," said John Zalusky, an economist at the AFL-CIO. He said many workers were putting in extra hours for extra pay against their wishes. One reason employers are going the overtime route, economists say, is that overtime pay doesn't cost much extra. Fringe benefits are mostly covered by the first 40 hours worked. And the overtime hours generally are worked by employers' most skilled and productive people. Using overtime avoids the cost of hiring and training new workers, finding space for them and dealing with the added paperwork. "Because of all those factors,

Zalusky calculates that paying a skilled worker time-and-a-half actually costs employers only about 3 percent extra. The reluctance to add to permanent payrolls explains another phenomenon in the job market: the increasing use of part-time and temporary workers. Although the economy created 380,000 new jobs in February — dropping the unemployment rate to 7 percent, lowest in 15 months — 348,000 of them went to temporary or part-time workers. "At some point, it makes more sense to hire more workers," Labor Department economist Chris Singleton said. "I'm not sure why employers are holding out. Part of it is uncertainty about the recovery."

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