

# Argentina crash kills at least 64

■ **Survivors speak of being 'born again,' after airplane goes down seconds after liftoff.**

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Investigators pulled badly burned bodies from the charred wreckage of an LAPA airlines Boeing 737 on Wednesday, the day after a fiery crash claimed at least 64 lives in Buenos Aires.

The jetliner lifted only a few feet off the ground Tuesday evening before roaring through an airport fence, skimming across a busy roadway and striking cars and heavy machinery before stopping beside a golf course.

"It took out everything in its path before stopping, and the plane broke in half," said businessman Julio Arevalos, who jumped from the burning wreckage. "The flames were coming from the front of the plane, and there was smoke everywhere."

At least 64 of the 100 people aboard domestic Flight 3142 were killed, said government spokeswoman Olga Riugord. The Buenos Aires-based Lineas Aereas Privadas Argentinas said 95 passengers and five crewmembers were aboard the Boeing 737-204C.

The crash near downtown Buenos Aires' Jorge

Newbery airport was Argentina's worst aviation disaster in memory.

"I feel like I'm born again. When I see the images on television, I can't believe I was there," Arevalos told The Associated Press. He said the plane dropped to the ground seconds after liftoff, bouncing three times as it broke apart.

People on the golf course screamed for the passengers to get out of the wreckage, which came to rest on land beside the Rio de la Plata River.

"There were shouts, cries of desperation, people on fire. It was hell," said another survivor, Jose Gamallo, who spoke with Buenos Aires reporters.

Workers in white gloves zipped bodies into plastic bags as investigators scoured the rubble Wednesday. A crane lifted up what appeared to be an engine and later removed a section of fuselage from near two sandtraps.

LAPA spokesman Ricardo Wilson said the plane took off at 8:55 p.m. and lost contact with the tower a minute into its scheduled flight to Cordoba, 475 miles northwest of the capital.

Neither he nor investigators released a possible cause. A team of Boeing investigators flew to Argentina on Wednesday to assist in the investigation.

One of the plane's two black boxes has been found, according to media reports. There was no

“*There were shouts, cries of desperation, people on fire. It was hell.*”

JOSE GAMALLO  
survivor

immediate word on the fate of the pilot or the co-pilot.

At least 10 survivors had only minor injuries and were released from hospitals, doctors said. Others were critically injured.

"Many had severe burns over much of their bodies. Others had broken limbs, arms or legs," said Dr. Julio Comando, from the Juan A. Fernandez Hospital, where most survivors were taken.

"Today is a day of mourning for all of Argentina," said Interior Minister Carlos Corach.

Another LAPA official, Guillermo Capotti, would not speculate on local media reports focusing on one of the plane's engines. The plane was delivered to LAPA in April 1970 and had logged more than 67,000 flight hours.

■ **Turkey**  
**One dead after tremor, aftershock rock Turkey**

IZMIT, Turkey (AP) — Mobbing bus stations and jamming roads, panicked residents fled the center of Turkey's earthquake zone after two strong jolts rocked buildings weakened by a quake earlier this month.

At least one person was killed. Many of the 166 injured hurt themselves jumping from balconies and windows when Tuesday's 5.2-magnitude tremor hit, followed by a 4.6-magnitude aftershock 20 minutes later.

The new tremor, like the 7.4-magnitude Aug. 17 earthquake, was centered in Izmit, a city of 300,000 on the Sea of Marmara.

Falling debris struck a 30-year-old man in Izmit, adding to a two-week death toll that has topped 14,300. Thousands more are missing.

■ **Jerusalem**  
**Study says El Nino did more good than harm**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite all of the bad publicity it garnered, last year's El Nino may have saved hundreds of lives and was a major boon to the economy, a new study by a leading climatologist indicates.

Overall, the 1997-98 El Nino can be blamed for 189 deaths — but it saved nearly 850 lives that would otherwise have been lost, the study said.

And its \$4.2 billion to \$4.5 billion in damage is far outweighed by nearly \$20 billion in benefits, according to the September issue of the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society.

The El Nino weather phenomenon produced an exceptionally mild winter in the Northern states and blocked Atlantic Coast hurricanes.

■ **Tanzania**  
**Plane carrying American tourists crashes in Tanzania**

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — A charter aircraft carrying 10 American tourists from a game lodge in northern Tanzania crashed Wednesday near Mount Meru, police and an air rescue organization said.

Isabel Mbugua of the Nairobi, Kenya-based African Medical Research Foundation, or AMREF, said villagers spotted the downed aircraft near Africa's fifth-highest mountain. The plane was on its way from the Serengeti National Park to Kilimanjaro Airport.

The rescue pilot, whom Mbugua contacted by radio, reported movement near the wreckage, but it was not clear who or what was moving — survivors or villagers.

There was no immediate word on the identities of the American tourists.

# Serbian police absent in Kosovo schools

NEGROVCE, Yugoslavia (AP) — The blackboard stands in a puddle, and the desks are piles of lumber, barely sheltered by a roof of blue plastic sheeting.

But the first day of school Wednesday was a happy occasion for Shaban Morina and his pupils at Jusuf Gervalla school — it's the first time in nearly a decade that they are attending classes in a Kosovo not ruled by Serbs.

"The one good thing is that the police won't come into the classrooms," Morina said, looking out at the drizzly landscape through the open walls. "Every first day of classes for the past seven years, the Serb police have come to the school to terrorize the children."

The only disruption during Morina's first class Wednesday was the snapping of the plastic roof tacked above the skeletal walls of the unfinished building, which sits next to the

schoolhouse Serbs burned to the ground a year ago.

The absence of Serbs meant that ethnic Albanian pupils could return to schoolrooms they had not used since 1989, when Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic revoked Kosovo's autonomy and introduced Serbia's curriculum in its schools.

Rather than send their children to classes held in Serbian, parents took their schools underground, holding classes in homes. Other ethnic Albanian pupils stayed in their schools but used only half the building. On the other side — often separated by walls — the Serb students had their own schooling.

Serb security forces inhabited the Hasan Pristina elementary school in Kosovo's capital during the 78-day NATO bombing campaign aimed at forcing President Slobodan Milosevic to end his repression of ethnic

Albanians. After international peacekeepers arrived on June 12, British troops lived there for a month.

Still, by Wednesday, the concrete, yellow-painted building was clean, and the barrier that had separated the Serbs from the ethnic Albanians had been removed. Excited 11-year-olds raced up the stairs, marveling about the absence of the metal grill that previously kept them out.

"Today we are a fully free school and an entirely different school from the one inhabited by Serbs," said Ali Gashi, the school principal.

U.N. officials were uncertain how many students — ethnic Albanians and Serbs — would show up for the first day of class. Most Serb children and their parents have fled Kosovo for other parts of Serbia.

School also resumed across the rest of Serbia on Wednesday, and pupils

were lectured about NATO's "monstrous aggression" against the nation. Students were told the alliance's bombing campaign against Yugoslavia was "incomparable in its bestiality, monstrosity and ignorance of international law with any other event in history."

Lessons about suffering were being taught in Kosovo schools as well.

At the Jusuf Gervalla school — in the Drenica region, where some of the most bitter fighting during the Serb crackdown on ethnic Albanian rebels occurred — children recited a poem about the poverty and suffering of the Albanian people earlier this century.

"So you see we have similar conditions," explained teacher Sefer Krasniqi, motioning to the broken walls and makeshift roof. "But we are not under occupation any longer, so we are able to speak freely and speak our opinions."

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