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ATTACK ON AMERICA

BULLISH ON AMERICA

■ Small investors shore up markets; shares fall slightly

■ Giuliani says there's little hope of more survivors

■ Investigators probe Iraq link to hijackers' leader

■ 75 people in custody; 190 being sought

■ Five more of New York's Bravest are laid to rest

By Deborah Orin, Kirsten Danis, Niles Latham, Kate Sheehy and Maggie Haberman. Written by Devlin Barrett.

Patriotic small investors came to the rescue of the stock market yesterday, as Mayor Giuliani warned there was little chance of finding any more survivors amid the WTC rubble.

The markets held firm following the previous day's plunge. The Dow Jones industrial average, which plummeted nearly 700 points on Monday — the largest one-day point drop ever — leveled off and ended down just 17.30 points, to 8,903.40. The technology-laden Nasdaq composite index fell 24.47, to 1,555.08.

Financial firms said individual traders were doing most of the buying, and attributed the surge to clients betting on America.

The welcome stability came on the same day President Bush signed a $40 billion aid package to help recovery efforts, promising to reimburse New York City and state 100 percent of the cost of cleanup and extra security.

"We are moving from a week where we dealt with rescue efforts to dealing with the broader responsibilities of the long-term effects on the economy," said White House aide Karen Hughes.

The next move will likely be a package to help airlines and other businesses weakened by the attacks.

Sources said last night that Boeing will lay off between 20,000 and 30,000 employees, or roughly a quarter of its work force.

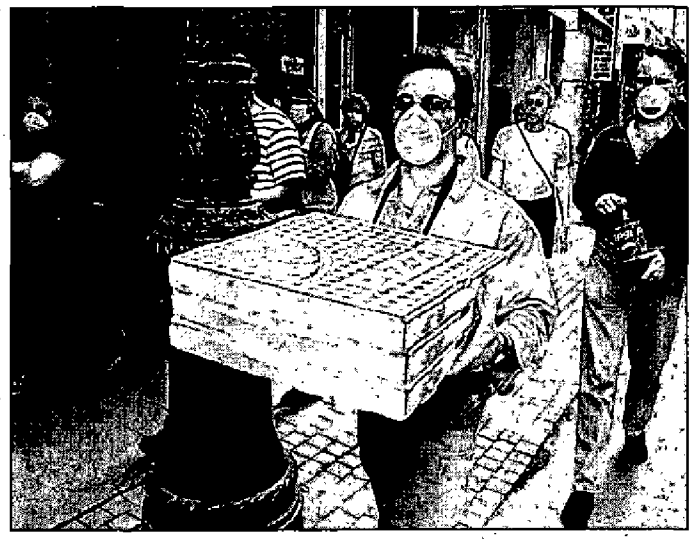
The House is mulling a $15 billion aid package to the airlines, which have asked for $24 billion.

While the nation's leaders looked to rebuild, Afghanistan's Taliban rulers promised a *jihad* — or holy war — against America by Muslims around the world if the United States launches military strikes there against Osama bin Laden.

"If America attacks our homes, it is necessary for all Muslims, especially for Afghans, to wage a holy war," said Mullah Mohammed Hasan Akhund, the deputy Taliban leader.

"God is on our side, and if the world's people try to set fire to Afghanistan, God will protect us and help us," he said on national radio.

Amid the war cries, Islamic clerics convened in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, to weigh whether to hand over bin Laden to a third country — an option discussed with senior Pakistan officials earlier this week.



BUSINESS AS (UN)USUAL: Despite efforts to get back to normal, workers in the Financial District make concessions to the crisis yesterday as they don masks in what would otherwise be a typical lunchtime scene on Nassau Street. Robert Miller

In exchange for bin Laden's expulsion, Afghanistan wants all U.N. sanctions lifted and international recognition of the Taliban, which is now recognized only by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, a Pakistani official said.

The Taliban is apparently considering whether to turn bin Laden over to a Muslim country that would then hear evidence against him — although it seemed unlikely that the Bush administration would agree to that.

The U.N. Security Council issued its own demand to the Taliban that it surrender bin Laden "immediately and unconditionally."

The Taliban has long defended the exiled Saudi millionaire, arguing he is not responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks or other terror acts against the United States.

"Give us proof that he did it, because without that, how can we give him up?" the Taliban's information minister, Qudrutullah Jamal, said.

Bush has vowed to strike any group that harbors or helps bin Laden's nefarious al Qaeda terror network.

In response to the calls to war, angry demonstrators in northern Pakistan railed against their leaders, allied with the United States, and vowed to join the *jihad*.

"We will die for Osama!" they shouted. "We will destroy all of America. We will die for Taliban. We will die for Islam."

A prominent Shiite religious leader in Beirut issued an edict banning any Muslims from helping the United States.

"It is not permissible for any Islamic party, country, ruler or political movement to extend any military, security or economic assistance to the United States in its war against any Muslim country or any Muslim faction," said Sheik Mohammed Fadlallah.

In other developments:

■ Investigators suspect kamikaze hijacker Mohamed Atta met with an Iraqi intelligence official in recent months, suggesting that bin Laden and Saddam Hussein may be working together.

Atta has emerged as a leader in the terror cells that commandeered four planes Sept. 11, flying two into the World Trade Center and one into the Pentagon. The fourth crashed in a Pennsylvania field.

■ Attorney General John Ashcroft said 75 people have been detained for questioning in the attack investigation and for immigration violations, and 190 are being sought.

Authorities also warned that papers left behind by some of the hijackers hinted at a second wave of attacks, and that Sept. 22, this Saturday, seemed to be an important date in their planning.

The FBI sent out an advisory to all rescue personnel, warning them to keep a close eye on their firetrucks and ambulances, which could be stolen and used to carry a bomb into a secure area.

To help in the investigation, Ashcroft said he had granted Immigration and Naturalization Service officials the authority to hold someone for 48 hours instead of the usual 24.

■ Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen said rescue workers would keep digging for survivors for at least a few more days.

Giuliani said there was a "very, very small" chance of finding anyone alive, but that determined rescuers have not given up hope of uncovering a miracle survivor.

"We don't have any substantial amount of hope we can offer anyone that we will find anyone alive," Giuliani said. "We have to prepare people for that overwhelming reality."

No one has been found alive in the wreckage since Sept. 12. There are 5,422 people missing in the 16-acre disaster area.

■ Funerals were held yesterday for five of the firefighters killed trying to save people after the WTC attack.

■ A memorial service also was held in Pennsylvania for the pilot of the second plane to strike the Twin Towers.

Victor Saracini's 13-year-old daughter, Kirsten, sang Sarah McLaughlin's "I Will Remember You," and read a poem she had written for her father on his last birthday.

"You will always be my daddy and I will always feel the same. I love you," she said.

Saracini's United Flight 175 was hijacked from Boston and steered into the south tower, killing all 65 people aboard.

■ United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan toured the scene of the devastation, along with four U.S. senators who promised to help New York rise from the ashes.

Annan said 62 countries have lost citizens in the rubble.

"This is why no one can remain indifferent," said Annan, who also hinted that the international anti-terrorism coalition is fragile.

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