

Two Indian passenger planes crash in bad weather

AHMADABAD, India — A Boeing 737 jetliner and another Indian passenger plane crashed in bad weather within two hours of each other Wednesday, and authorities said 164 people were believed killed. The Indian Airlines jet was trying to land in heavy fog at the western city of Ahmadabad when it slammed into a tree, hit a power line and crashed. All but five of the 135 people aboard were killed, and three of the survivors were in serious condition with burns and broken bones.

About 1 1/4 hours later, a 30-year-old Fokker Friendship propeller plane leased by Indian Airlines to the domestic carrier Vayudoot hit the side of a hill in eastern India during a severe rainstorm, and all 34 people aboard were feared dead, officials said. Indian Airlines Flight 131, was flying from Bombay with 129 passengers and six crewmembers when it crashed at 7:40 a.m. on its final approach to Ahmadabad airport, about 500 miles southwest of New Delhi. Federal Aviation Minister Shiv

Raj Patil said the death toll of 130 was the worst in the carrier's 26-year history. It was the airline's 16th major accident. The government-run airline, which flies to 73 airports in India and to nine other countries, has come under fire for allegedly failing to maintain pre-flight safety procedures. The cause of the crash was not immediately known, but one airline official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the airline suspects a

technical malfunction complicated by bad weather. Patil said he did not rule out sabotage and ordered an investigation headed by a high court judge. A recording between the pilot and the Ahmadabad control tower gave no indication of trouble. Rescue workers found the flight data and cockpit voice recorders in smoldering wreckage and blood-stained debris. The Fokker Friendship crashed into a 1,400-foot hill near Guwahati airport, about 960 miles east of New

Delhi. It was nearing the end of a flight from Silchar, about 112 miles to the southeast. The plane, made in 1958, reported zero visibility, then lost contact with the Guwahati control tower two minutes before the 8:55 a.m. crash, said C. Das, the top civil administrator for Guwahati district. All 31 passengers and three crew members were feared dead, he said. The crash site, in a dense forest, could not be reached because of rain.

Suicide bomb kills 7 Israeli soldiers near 'Good Fence'

METULLA, Israel — A suicide car bomb exploded Wednesday near Israel's "Good Fence" border crossing in south Lebanon, killing seven Israeli soldiers and wounding eight others and two Lebanese civilians, the military command said. In Beirut, the Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility. The same coalition of pro-Iranian fundamentalist groups claimed responsibility for a

car bomb that wounded three Israelis in August. The military wing of Hezbollah, the Party of God militia based in Beirut, also claimed responsibility, according to Middle East Television, a Christian-run station. Hezbollah belongs to Islamic Resistance. The TV report, monitored in Metulla, said, "The car bomb tore apart a minibus full of soldiers."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Israeli leaders vowed to retaliate. Maj. Gen. Yossi Peled, head of Israel's northern command, told a news conference the bomb exploded 300 yards north of the border at 1:25 p.m. (7:25 a.m. EDT) as two groups of army vehicles passed each other, one headed home and the other into Lebanon.

Peled said the blast was so powerful "nothing remained of the car bomb." An Israeli officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a white Toyota truck, driven by an Arab "apparently from Hezbollah," exploded amid two convoys totaling seven vehicles. "The commanders got out to talk.

The Toyota came in between the two groups of vehicles and exploded," he said. The blast left a crater more than 15 feet wide. Witnesses said the attack vehicle was unrecognizable. Israel created the "Good Fence" in 1976 to provide medical and other aid to refugees from Lebanon's civil war. It is used today mostly by Lebanese workers who travel to Israel daily.

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Candidates trade charges; polls favor Bush

Democrat Michael Dukakis complained bitterly Wednesday that his record has been distorted by the Republicans and said "that seems to be what the Bush campaign is all about." George Bush accused his rival of "a rather unrealistic view of America's role" in foreign affairs. The Democratic presidential nominee traveled by bus through small farm communities of Illinois and Missouri, aiming for the rural vote and charging Bush with favoring "corporate operators" over family farmers. Bush, flush with a new batch of good-news polls, called for bipartisan congressional agreement on foreign policy concerns. He promised to

convene an early summit of NATO allies if elected president. Dukakis flashed anger when he was shown a Republican brochure attacking him as soft on crime. The brochure said that a convicted Illinois mass-murderer, John Wayne Gacy, would be "eligible for weekend passes" in Massachusetts, under Dukakis' prison furlough program. It asserted that "murderers and rapists and drug pushers and child molesters in Massachusetts vote for Michael Dukakis." "Friends, this is garbage," Dukakis said, holding aloft the item mailed by Republicans. "This is political garbage."

With Democrats urging him to step up his responses to Bush's charges, Dukakis said: "My positions are being distorted on a number of these issues. That seems to be what the Bush campaign is all about." On the one-year anniversary of the 1987 stock market crash, a rumor about the presidential race was blamed in part for a sudden afternoon drop in the stock market. The rumor making the rounds of Wall Street was that the Washington Post would publish on Thursday a story potentially damaging to Bush. "There is no such story," said Robert Kaiser, assistant managing editor for national news at the Post.

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Mock lockup draws praise and complaints

WHEATON, Ill. — A teacher who wanted to show what life could be like under despotic rule staged a 27-hour mock lockup for students, including strip-searches and a meal of fish-head soup, but the exercise was attacked by parents as too harsh.

The voluntary field trip over the Columbus Day weekend was intended to give juniors and seniors at Wheaton North High School a taste of criminal-justice systems, including — for volunteers — that of an imagined Third World country.

Many of the students and some parents praised the experience. But one parent said she hadn't realized when she gave her son written permission to participate that he would be hog-tied and left alone in a room for 2 1/2 hours for refusing to eat fish-head soup.

"This is not anything I would have signed a consent for," said Connie Northrop at a school board meeting Monday. Her son was among the 34 students who participated in the mock, 27-hour lockup at Wheaton College.

"This is an outrage. The word 'outrage' doesn't even begin to touch how I feel," said another parent, Kay McKeen, whose teenager didn't participate but whose concern prompted her to address the panel.

The Board of Education has asked school administrators to re-evaluate the program, arranged by American government teacher David Oliphant, and report back by Nov. 14, board President James Carr said Wednesday.

"The intent of the program was to have the young people learn and gain an appreciation for our system of democracy and our system of laws," Carr said.

"Also to give them somewhat of an understanding of what it would be like to be in prison other than perhaps in Du Page County. Example: a Third World situation," he said.

"I believe conceptually it's a very good one (program), but we certainly can improve on our communication on some of the specifics" of what students were to be subjected to.

Among those specifics were strip-searches, handcuffs, fish-head soup and chants of "you're the scum of the earth" and "you're dirty."

The simulation was held on the fifth floor of the Billy Graham Center in connection with the Christian college's Institute for Prison Ministries.

It was supervised by Institute Director Don Smarzo, who acted as "warden," and two Wheaton College students, who acted as "guards."


Students from the college have participated in simulated lockups through the sociology department since 1983. Other high school students have gone through it, and it has been the topic of feature stories in the Chicago Tribune and the Chronicle of Higher Education.

School Superintendent Richard Short said of Oliphant, whom he and Carr both described as an outstanding teacher. "The objectives that he had were all satisfied. My concern, and that of the parents, was that he went beyond experiences reasonable for high school students. Particularly when the parents were not fully aware of what was going to happen."

But students who participated were almost unanimous in their praise.

"I'm shaking, I'm so angry at these parents," senior Kelly Kyles, 18, said at a recent meeting on the exercise. "It's not that I ever wanted to go to prison. But now I have a view of what these (incarcerated) people went through. I learned about myself."

"I think it's very unfair Mr. Oliphant has got to go through this."



HEY WARDEN, THERE'S A FLY IN MY SOUP!

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan