

Indian airline crash kills 55, injures 12

AURANGABAD, India (AP) — An Indian Airlines jet carrying 118 people crashed on takeoff in this western city after hitting a truck beyond the runway Monday. Officials said 55 people died, but most of the 63 survivors walked away with scratches.

Twelve people were hospitalized. The Boeing 737-200 lost height after its undercarriage and a wheel hit the truck, piled high with cotton bales, just past Aurangabad's Chitlakthana airport, 680 miles southwest of New Delhi, said S.T. Deo, airline regional director.

The survivors said the jet hit a power line while losing altitude. Deo said the plane caught fire and broke into three pieces as it mashed down on its belly four miles from the airstrip.

"The plane was in flames minutes after takeoff. . . I heard a thud. . . then the plane began to break up," survivor Nagar Sethi told United News of India. His nationality was not known.

Passenger Niranjan Mohanka, a New York City resident, said "passengers at the back simply had no

chance to escape."

Internal Security Minister Rajesh Pilot told Parliament one of the two engines burst into flames after take-off.

Foreign embassies were told that at least four U.S. citizens, two French, a Japanese and a German were on board, diplomats said. But the U.S. Embassy said it had no confirmation any Americans were on the plane.

The airline said one foreigner survived. Airline spokesman Matin Khan told reporters in New Delhi the names of three survivors indicated they were foreigners, but he could not confirm that they were.

The truck was on a road abutting the runway, Deo said. A five-foot wall separates the airfield from a highway.

"The plane couldn't have been more than 20 feet high when it hit the truck," Deo said. The usual height during takeoff is from 50 to 100 feet, he said. Trucks are routinely overloaded in India and police enforcement is lax.

Arab-Israeli peace talks open

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new round of negotiations between Israel and the Arabs is opening under the watchful eye of the Clinton administration, which may do more than just glance over the shoulders of the bargaining diplomats.

In its first brush with the intractable Arab-Israeli dispute, the administration has declared its intention to be a "full partner" in the talks without saying how U.S. involvement may differ from the coaxing and cajoling of the Bush administration.

After a four-month recess, all the participants except possibly the Palestinians are understood to be eager to get down to the hard issues, and Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher has tried to encourage the Palestinians by saluting them as courageous and suggesting self-government could be the result.

In a little noticed speech to Arab-Americans on Friday night, Christopher pledged that the United States would "actually be evenhanded" between Israel, its closest friend in the region, and the Arabs who are demanding territorial concessions.

On Sunday, concessions to the Palestinians came from Jerusalem. Israel said it would permit 30 deportees to be repatriated and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin offered Palestinians a role in directing \$75 million in investments toward the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians reluctantly agreed last week to return to the talks Tuesday after mounting a boycott to demand the immediate return of the 396 exiles dispatched to Lebanon in December on suspicions of promoting violence.

Russian opinion of Boris Yeltsin

How various Russians responded, by percentage, when asked...

"Do you have confidence in Russian President Boris Yeltsin?"

	YES	NO
Sex		
Men	62.2%	37.7%
Women	64.2	35.6
No answer	51.7	48.3

	YES	NO
Age		
18-25	68.4	31.6
25-40	66.4	33.5
40-55	62.0	37.7
55-90	58.7	41.3
No answer	50.9	49.1

	YES	NO
Level of education		
Higher education	66.7	33.1
Secondary education	62.6	37.4
Below secondary education	60.0	39.9
No answer	48.5	50.0

	YES	NO
Profession		
Businessman	63.8	36.2
Manager	64.7	35.3
Expert, clerk with higher education	65.7	34.0
Army officer, soldier, policeman	64.6	35.4
Clerk with secondary education	71.8	28.2
Blue collar, highly qualified	62.2	37.8
Blue collar, low qualified	60.9	39.1
Student	63.9	36.1
Pensioner	56.6	43.3
Housewife	65.6	34.4
Unemployed	62.7	36.4
No answer	48.3	51.7

	YES	NO
Regions		
Northwest	62.5	37.3
Central region	57.2	43.0
North caucasus	53.4	46.6
Volga region (north)	60.8	38.8
Volga region (south)	68.8	31.2
Ural	72.7	27.3
Western Siberia	56.6	43.4
Eastern Siberia	66.8	33.2
Far East	63.9	36.1
Moscow (city)	78.2	21.2
Volga central	57.0	43.4
Vladimir region	66.2	33.0
Moscow (surrounding region)	55.2	44.8
No answer	0.0	0.0

Source: An exit poll of voters on the Russian referendum, conducted Sunday by the Russian Center for Public Opinion and Market Research. Based on interviews with about 5,000 adults after they cast their ballots. Margin of error is plus or minus 3.5 percent.

Yeltsin claims 'massive support'

MOSCOW (AP) — A new round in Russia's power struggle began Monday as Boris Yeltsin's team claimed "massive support" from a weekend referendum while his opponents said the vote had hurt the country.

Preliminary official results and exit polls showed that a majority of voters in Sunday's referendum gave the 62-year-old Russian president a vote of confidence and endorsed his painful free-market reforms.

Hard-liners pointed to the fact that only about 35 percent of Russia's 105.5 million eligible voters actually expressed confidence in Yeltsin.

"In less than two years after Yeltsin was elected president of Russia, millions of his former supporters deny him support," said a statement by the All-People's Union of Russia, headed by hard-line lawmaker Sergei Baburin.

Yeltsin made no public appearances Monday, his press office said.

Presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov issued a victory statement saying the results showed that Russia was rallying around Yeltsin and his reforms.

"The massive support given by the people of Russia to the president and his policy show that a nationwide will for revival through democratic reforms has emerged and is strengthening in Russia," Kostikov said.

"The referendum demonstrated that broad circles of the population are consolidating around the president's policy and the goals of building a great Russia," he said.

Yeltsin's rival, parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, said the referendum had worsened the political crisis, which pits the president against hard-line lawmakers who are steadily eroding his authority and blocking reforms.

"There were no clear winners or losers," Khasbulatov said during a leadership meeting of the Supreme Soviet legislature.



"This referendum has split society," he said. "This referendum is another stage on the road of weakening Russia's statehood."

Kostikov shot back, saying that Khasbulatov and his allies ignored the will of the people and were "out of touch with reality."

"As the Supreme Soviet leaders feel the ground slipping from under their feet, they may push the legislators into hasty aggressive actions that can do harm to democracy in Russia," Kostikov warned.

In a statement released by his press office, Yeltsin also rejected Khasbulatov's interpretation.

"The attempt by the Supreme Soviet leadership to disrupt the expression of the people's will, under the pretext that the population is tired of politics, did not succeed. Efforts to discredit the people's (vote) will not succeed," Yeltsin said.

On Monday, Ilya Konstantinov, a conservative legislator, called for a session of the Congress of People's Deputies to be convened as soon as official results are announced.

Pro-Yeltsin legislators urged the president to push ahead with reforms.

Yeltsin has said he will also press for a new constitution to replace the Congress with a Western-style, bicameral legislature.

Angry shareholders vent frustration at IBM's leaders

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Angry IBM shareholders on Monday unleashed a torrent of pent-up frustration at new Chairman Louis V. Gerstner Jr., who promised to revive the computer maker but asked for patience.

In just his 18th workday at IBM, Gerstner tried to use the annual meeting to focus on a broad outline of goals.

Instead, he heard impassioned calls by a dozen stockholders for the ouster of the board of directors that were greeted with loud applause.

"If I were a director I would be embarrassed to even show up here and have my name on a list to be elected," said Dr. Gilbert Jannelli of Clearwater. "How can you work with that group of people when their attitudes, their trusted decisions caused this company's demise?"

About 2,300 shareholders attended an unusually contentious meeting that reflected just how far International Business Machines Corp. has fallen.

The meeting capped a remarkable four months at 79-year-old IBM, whose founder's

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—Jannelli
IBM shareholder

credo — "Think" — set a standard of excellence for corporate America. In addition to hiring Gerstner as its first outsider chairman, IBM laid off workers for the first time and lost \$285 million from January through March.

IBM has lost more than \$7 billion in the past two years, cut a quarter of its work force since 1987, and lost significant market share amid growing competition. The company has sought to reverse itself through restructurings that have given IBM business units more free-

dom.

Gerstner, the 51-year-old former RJR Nabisco chairman, took over on April 1 after a closely watched search for a successor to now-maligned former Chairman John F. Akers.

Gerstner said slow demand and poor economies had reshaped the computer industry, but he defended IBM's technological and market power.

"IBM has changed, but most people would say not fast enough," Gerstner said. "This slowness and failure to act quickly is really the root cause of IBM's problems."

Gerstner listed four priorities for 1993: completing major staff reductions, defining what businesses IBM will pursue, improving customer relations and decentralizing. He said he hadn't been working long enough to be more specific. "I don't have answers for you yet and we can't expect quick fixes," Gerstner said. But he promised: "I can tell you the steps we will take will not be pussyfooting but bold strides."

IBM stock rose 62 1/2 cents to \$48.37 1/2 a share on the New York Stock Exchange. That's still well off last summer's peak of \$100 a share.

Before the meeting, IBM's board declared a 54 cents-per-share quarterly dividend. In January, IBM cut the dividend for the first time, from \$1.21 per share.

Shareholders vented anger over IBM's fallen stock price, the rapid and drastic nature of its cuts, and a pay package under which Gerstner can make tens of millions of dollars in stock options if the company's stock rebounds.

Their sharpest criticisms were directed at IBM's 18 board members. The directors were re-elected but the company did not say by how much. When a proposal came up to halt generous retiree benefits to directors, 28 percent of the shareholders supported it, reflecting an unusually high level of dissatisfaction.

"Most of them come from the era of manual typewriters and carbon paper," shareholder Bill Steiner complained.

Homze

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student and let me go home," he said. "They mistreated their own people as well as foreigners."

The souvenir Homze brought back to the university classroom from his travels is an excitement and love for Germany, but what he said the journey had taught him more than anything was about people.

"I can see the differences between culture. Behind the Coca-Cola and blue jeans are different people," he said. "I would not be the same type of person . . . had I not been there at that time."

Because he was there shortly after World War II, Homze was fascinated by Nazi Germany and an era he considers the most interesting of the 20th century.

But the quick pace of European politics makes every aspect of Homze's field exciting, he said.

"I'm at an advantage as a teacher because I'm not teaching about people like Abraham Lincoln," he said. "Most of the people I talk about are still alive because it is contemporary Europe," he said.

Homze said his subject was too interesting to be bound within the straight and proper lecture, he said.

"Every lecture is kind of like a performance because this is exciting stuff," he said.

If he can generate enough excitement about German history to get students caught up in what he's teaching, Homze said, then he feels he's done his job.

Homze's favorite subject may be Nazi Germany, but his favorite students were those he taught in the 1960s. He said he enjoyed seeing people trying to figure out what's going on politically.

But the hippies of the past have been replaced in his heart by the young students of today. Homze said he loved teaching freshmen

courses.

"Freshmen aren't quite as jaded," Homze said. "They go into a senior-year slump where they think they know everything and then they get here and think, 'Oh my God, I don't know anything!'"

"They have a curiosity and an eagerness to know."

Curiosity is something Homze can relate to. He said his own eagerness to know everything about German history was unlimited. His office is filled from floor to ceiling with books on European history, several of which he wrote. He has researched his next book, about the German air industry during World War II, for more than eight years.

"What could be more interesting than Hitler?" he asked. "It's got great issues — moral, cultural and economic issues."

"You can wake up each morning and think, 'What are the Germans up to today?'"

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