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Afghan jet carrying 300 hit by Moslem rebel fire

United Press International
NEW DELHI, India — An Afghan jumbo jet carrying 308 passengers was hit by Moslem rebel fire and forced to make an emergency landing at the Kabul airport, Kabul radio and a Western diplomat reported Tuesday. No casualties were reported.
The state-run radio said the pilot safely landed the crippled Ariana Airlines DC-10 Friday at the end of a flight carrying pilgrims from the Moslem holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia via the southern Afghan city of Kandahar.
According to the Western diplomat in New Delhi, the attack was the third on Afghan airliners in a week. It came less than a month after a rebel bomb ripped through Kabul airport Aug. 30, killing 28 people and injuring as many as 350 others.
The diplomat said the jumbo jet "was struck on the wing or tail section by machine gun fire or a rocket between Gazni and Kabul."
"The plane circled Kabul five times and was seen dropping its fuel before making an emergency landing," said the diplomat, who asked not to be identified. Gazni is 75 miles south of Kabul in southeastern Afghanistan.
Kabul radio said in a broadcast monitored in New Delhi, "The DC-10 plane of Ariana Afghan Airlines coming from Kandahar with 308 passengers was attacked with an explosive bullet made in America. As a result, hydraulic systems numbers 1 and 3 were damaged and the engines of the left side along with the wing were damaged as well."
"Captain Wali had informed the ground personnel of the damage and attack but was able to land the plane safely. The damage to the plane runs into thousands of Afghan dollars."
The diplomat said rebels have tried out two other attacks at the port during the past week.
"On Sept. 19, two Yak-40 prop planes of Afghanistan's domestic Bakhtar Airlines were targeted by rocket and gunfire," Western source said. "Three soldiers were killed." He gave no details of the second attack.
Soviet occupation forces stepped up security around the Afghan capital to counter some of the fiercest attacks in Kabul since the December 1979 Soviet invasion, diplomat said.
Guerrillas fired six rockets during a 20-minute span on Sept. 17—hitting the grounds of Radio Afghanistan and two others damaged houses of Afghan officials near back gate of the U.S. Embassy.

U.S., Nicaragua renew talks aimed at reducing tension

United Press International
MEXICO CITY — The United States and Nicaragua opened a new round of talks Tuesday in the Mexican Pacific port of Manzanillo, Mexican diplomatic sources said.
The latest meeting between the two countries comes three days after Nicaragua announced that it had signed the Contadora peace plan for Central America.
The peace plan was formulated by the Contadora Group — Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela—in consultation with the five Central American nations.
U.S. Special Envoy Harry Shlaudeman and Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco have represented their governments at the previous talks.
Mexican diplomats said they could not confirm which United States and Nicaraguan officials were meeting in Manzanillo, some 330 miles west of Mexico City.
Sources in El Salvador reported that Shlaudeman left San Salvador Tuesday morning en route to Mexico.
Relations between the two countries have been tense for several years.
Nicaragua says the United States should stop backing rebels fighting to overthrow the government.
Tuesday's talks are the fifth meetings held at Manzanillo aimed at reducing tensions between the two nations.
The dialogue between the two nations got started when Secretary of State George Shultz made a surprise visit to Nicaragua June 12 and met with Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega.
The first direct talks between officials of the two governments in the aim of reducing tensions since June 25 at Manzanillo. The second meeting was held in Atlanta, other sessions between the two countries have been held in Manzanillo.
The talks have been shrouded in secrecy. Both U.S. and Nicaraguan officials have consistently declined comment about the talks.
Mexico has no official representation at the talks but had pressed the United States in May of this year to initiate a dialogue with Nicaragua.

Soviets criticize Reagan speech

United Press International
MOSCOW — The Soviet Union sharply criticized President Reagan's speech to the United Nations as an election ploy, and President Konstantin Chernenko said Tuesday the United States fails to grasp the need for normal relations with the Kremlin.
Reagan, at Monday's opening of the General Assembly, called for "constructive negotiations" with Moscow, a call dismissed by the official news agency Tass as "a vessel with nothing inside of it."
Tass said "his speech contained no indication of any change in the essence of the present U.S. policy" and was "only meant to camouflage Washington's basic foreign policy guidelines and its interventionist policy in all regions of the world."
Reagan's policy, according to Tass, continues to be directed at aggravating international tension, achieving military superiority and interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.
"The U.N. rostrum was actually used by Reagan for his political, electioneering aims," the official news agency said. "That was the reason behind his attempt to present his old policy in a new, more attractive package without changing its essence."
Chernenko, in a speech to the 50th anniversary plenum of the Soviet Writers' Union, said the Reagan administration does not understand the importance of normal superpower relations.
"The grim truth of the present international situation is such that the nuclear threat is, regrettably, great," Chernenko told the union.
"One cannot hide from it, nor turn it into a joke," he said in an apparent reference to Reagan's reference to the cuff microphone test last summer saying he had outlawed Reagan and the bombing would begin in minutes.
Chernenko made no mention of Reagan's U.N. call for talks on a wide range of issues.

West Texas aridity studied

United Press International
AUSTIN — Israeli consultants will survey state-owned West Texas land to determine if their country's much heralded irrigation methods can turn the arid acreage into productive farmland, Land Commissioner Garry Mauro said Tuesday.
Mauro said his agency had agreed to pay an Israeli consulting firm — Consulting Engineers Ltd. of Tel Aviv — \$14,000 to study the West Texas land and determine if there were two or three large tracts suitable for water management projects.
The state owns nearly 800,000 acres of West Texas land, but much of it can only be leased for grazing because the high cost of irrigation makes farming unprofitable.
"They (the Israelis) are probably the most experienced water engineers in the world," Mauro said. "But this is not an academic project. We want something we can put in place right away."
Mauro said the Israeli firm would try to locate land in the Trans-Pecos area that would be suitable for raising cotton, corn or other products using both fresh and brackish water.
"We know the desert will bloom if you spend enough money," Mauro said. "That's not what we want to do. I'm going to be very pessimistic and skeptical about this project."

Police Beat
The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Tuesday:

- MISDEMEANOR THEFT
- A black Huffly Wind 12-speed bicycle was stolen from outside the University Police Department.
- A silver Schwinn 10-speed bicycle was stolen from outside the Oceanography and Meteorology Building.
- A blue Premier 12-speed bicycle was stolen from outside Moore Hall.
- A black Schwinn 10-speed bicycle was stolen from E-Ram at Walton Hall.
- A white Kia 10-speed bicycle was stolen from the bike rack at the east end of Dunn Hall.
- A blue Ross Grand Tour 10-speed bicycle was stolen from the bike racks at Dorm 12.
- A brown Schwinn Traveler 12-speed bicycle was stolen from the bike rack at the north end of Dorm 12.
- A maroon Sears Free Spirit 10-speed bicycle was stolen from the southwest corner of the Langford Architecture Center.

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