Vietnam plane crashes at Cambodian airport

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) A Vietnam Airlines jetliner shed in a ball of flames today a landing approach to Phnom h's international airport. Police at least 62 people were killed. The Soviet-built Tupolev 134 ne, arriving from Ho Chi Minh y, went down in a rice paddy ut a half-mile south of the way during a heavy down- r, clipping palm trees and ex- ding into flames on impact, nesses said.

The cause of the crash was un- wn. The wreckage was still ning more than one hour after 1:40 p.m. crash.

Access for firetrucks and rescue kers was made difficult by a nar- flooded dirt road that was the way to the crash. A plume of oke rose over the airport.

South Korean Ambassador Park ng Tai said 18 passengers from th Korea were on board. Tai- nese state radio, citing Tai- nese businessmen and lawmak- Tseng Chen-nung from Phnom h's airport, said at least 21 Taiwanese had been aboard.

Khieu Kanharith, Cambodia's secretary of state for information, said the passengers were also believed to include an unspecified number of Germans.

Bodies from the crash were strewn around the fire-blackened wreckage. Witnesses some police officers joined civilians in trying to loot scattered luggage and pieces of the plane until they were chased off by other officers blowing whistles.

Police, speaking on condition of anonymity, gave the initial number of dead at 62, and said there were four survivors, two adults and two children. It was not known how many people were aboard.

Police were looking for scraps of paper and passports that might help identify the victims.

Witnesses said that the plane appeared to be making a landing approach when the pilot realized he had overshot the runway. The nose started to rise, but then the plane crashed.

"I was playing and I heard the sound of the plane, and then a very noisy BOOM!" said Roeun Phirum, a 12-year-old boy. "The plane hit a bunch of trees and went into the paddy and slid about 200 meters (yards). It hit a cow tied to bamboo trees."

Rescue workers rushed one of the survivors, a small child, covered in mud and debris, to an ambulence.

Thousands of Phnom Penh residents converged on the crash scene. Some looting broke out, but was stopped by police and Cambodian soldiers.

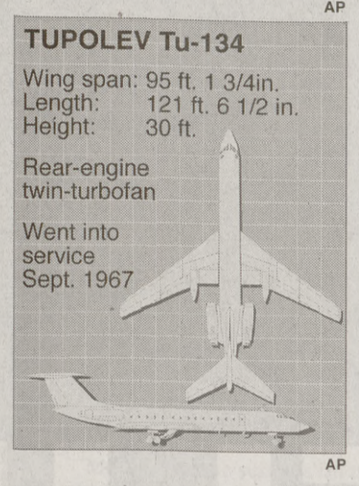
Only the tail section of the plane and a portion of the fuselage remained intact.

Ib Vanna, a farmer who was plowing his field, was about a half-mile from the plane when it crashed.

"There was this huge explosion," Ib Vanna said. "It sounded like the gas tanks had exploded."

Vietnam Airlines was one of the first commercial carriers to resume service to Phnom Penh's Pochentong International Airport in the wake of a bloody coup in July where fighting was heavy around the airport.

AP



AP

Shots fired near West Bank

AP

NATAF, Israel (AP) — Assailants fired shots at an Israeli pickup truck driving near the West Bank today, killing the driver and passenger, police said.

Police chief Assaf Hefetz said the possibility that the shooting was a terrorist attack "is being checked, but it is not strong and at the moment we think it is more probably criminal."

The shots were fired at about 3:15 p.m. (8:15 a.m. EDT) near the Israeli village of Nataf, which is close to the border between Israel and the West Bank.

The identity of the gunmen was not known. Witnesses said they saw people fleeing the area of the shooting in a car, which media reports said was a taxi.

Hefetz said one of the victims, whose body was found on a dirt path a few yards outside the truck, had a criminal record.

Media reports described him as a loan collector lured to the area by the killers.

The other victim, a gardener, was slumped over the steering wheel of the pickup truck, which was loaded with flower pots. Media reports said he may have been killed by accident or because he was a witness to the mob-style slaying of the other man.

One of the first to arrive at the scene was the chairman of the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency, Avraham Burg, who lives in Nataf.

Dozens of police and soldiers also arrived in the area and sealed off the road to Nataf.

Hefetz said he expected progress in the investigation "very soon" based on evidence found at the scene.

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Sept. 11	7-10pm	Faculty Club (Rudder Tower)	Nice
Sept. 13	2-5pm	Hensel Park (S. college)	Casual

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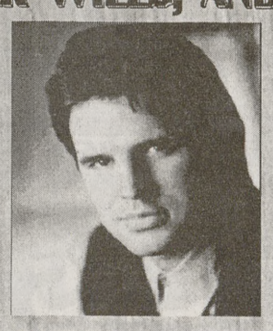

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