

# Four exchange students die in crash

## Families mourn over the loss of their loved ones after EgyptAir tragedy

LUXOR, Egypt (AP) — Wila Abu Zeid smiles shyly in the glossy montage photo her family passes out to friends and relatives who come to mourn her.

Seagulls soar behind her over dark blue choppy waters, a metaphor for the Atlantic Ocean, where she perished Sunday.

Abu Zeid was one of four Luxor teen-agers killed in the crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 as they returned from a two-week exchange program in Baltimore.

Samir Abu Zeid had been eagerly waiting for his 19-year-old daughter to tell him all about her first trip to the United States.

"All I want now is that they find her body and send it to me so I can bury her," he said, breaking into sobs.

What Badawi Abu Shanab wants is to find out what really happened to the plane when it plunged into the Atlantic a half-hour after taking off from New York's Kennedy Airport.

His son Ahmed, who would have turned 15 today, was on the flight.

Abu Shanab suspects foul play, especially after it was reported that 33 Egyptian military officers were among the 217 people on board.

"It was planned," Abu Shanab said as he received offerings of condolence. But he could not name any possible perpetrator.

"They should not have put officers in a civilian plane full of innocent people," he said bitterly. "Their presence was not God's will."

**"They should not have put officers in a civilian plane full of innocent people."**

— Badawi Abu Shanab  
A victim's father

He said a trip arranged by state-owned EgyptAir that took families of the victims to the United States to be close to the search operation was nothing more than "propaganda."

"What was I supposed to do there? Was this a holiday or something? A package tour? They're not going to find any corpse," Abu Shanab said.

Authorities have publicly said they have found only one body and do not expect to find other bodies intact. The investigation is considering all

possibilities for the cause of the crash: human error, mechanical failure and sabotage.

Tayseer Ahmed is also looking for answers. Her 13-year-old daughter, Jihad, and husband, Husam — the students' chaperone — were among those killed.

"We were fond of Americans," Ahmed said. "They shouldn't have let the passengers on the plane if there was a technical problem."

Ahmed and her husband were preparing to receive four American exchange students at their home in March.

She spoke over the wails of her mother-in-law, who sat with a dozen other women on the floor of her tiny bedroom.

"Oh God, give us patience," the mourners repeated in a chorus after Hayat, Jihad's grandmother.

"Husam, my son, I miss you so much," Hayat cried. With every remark, she drew more noisy sobs from the women.

The parents of 16-year-old Sameh Fawzi left Luxor for Cairo, 300 miles to the north, to meet him at the airport Sunday.

They still have not returned to Luxor, intent on staying in Cairo until his body is found and sent to them.

# Riots break out in India after cyclone hits, kills thousands

PARADWIP, India (AP) — Angry mobs looted aid trucks, robbed desperate survivors and fought over food in cyclone-ravaged eastern India on yesterday. Officials used bulldozers to collect hundreds of bodies.

In rice fields that have become lakes and along roads turned into rivers, bloated human corpses lie rotting for mile after mile alongside the carcasses of drowned cows, goats and pigs.

"So many thousands have died that there is no one left to cremate them," Dhaneshwar Mohanty, who fled the flooded port city of Paradwip yesterday, said.

Five days after eastern Orissa state was pounded by one of India's worst cyclones, officials had no way to estimate an accurate death toll.

A senior army officer involved in the rescue operation told the Associated Press on condition of anonymity that it could reach 10,000 to 20,000.

More than 15 million people live in the area hit by the cyclone.

The storm was one of India's worst, possibly more deadly than a cyclone in 1971 that killed 10,000 people. Officials have said the storm has set back the state's economic development more than 20 years.

Furious gangs tried to stop every passing car, bus or truck to grab whatever was available.

Relief trucks were looted before they could reach desperate rural areas. Those stuck in the seemingly endless traffic jams were most vulnerable.

Near the small village of Panikuli, Lal Dev rushed across a road strewn with broken egg cartons to reach an army truck, flailing his arms to get attention.

"They raped a woman in front of me," Dev cried, his face battered, "and then they took everything away from the bus."

Police said they have received dozens of similar reports.

Survivors have fled Paradwip any way they can to reach the state capital, Bhubaneswar, 60 miles inland. But the capital had little food and no clean water.

**"They raped a woman in front of me, and then they took everything away from the bus."**

— Lal Dev  
Riot victim

There were reports of food riots and shops and cafes were closed. Schools were full of homeless people, with the overflow sleeping in the streets around burning tires.

The stench of rotting flesh near water wells and canals portend a potential epidemic. Workers will need days to repair highways so that aid can reach the most devastated areas.

R.P. Singh, director of the Powergrid Corp., estimated it would take a month to restore normal electric power in the state. Orissa normally consumes 1,600 megawatts a day, but was receiving only 100 megawatts since the cyclone hit.

"Many of the substations in the state are under water," he said. Workers could not install emergency power poles because "the ground is soggy and water-laden."

The cyclone caused extensive damage to the port in Paradwip, which handles shipments of the chromite, dolomite and manganese mined in the state.

# Vietnam floods kill hundreds; government supplies food

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Torrential downpours have devastated central Vietnam, causing floods that have killed hundreds of people, the head of a government delegation to the afflicted areas said yesterday.

The death toll was expected to increase as reports trickled in from areas where phone lines were down. Rain was still falling in inundated areas.

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Le Huy Ngo, head of a mission dispatched to the area by Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, said in an interview with Vietnam Television that the death toll was in the hundreds. He did not give an exact figure.

Nguyen Van Me, governor of Thua Thien Hue province, said in a telephone interview with VTV that 48 people had died in his province, including three rescuers from the Border Guard.

He said many people have been sitting on the roofs of their houses for two days waiting for food. Four helicopters dispatched by the government could not reach the province.

Ngo said rescue operations are very difficult because of continuing bad weather.

Heavy rains have dumped up to two feet of rain on the flood-prone region over the past week. The storms are expected to continue the rest of the week, the central weather forecasting station said.

Vast swaths of farmland and hundreds of thousands of homes were

submerged in one of the country's poorest regions. North-south transport by road and rail was paralyzed.

VTV said the air force sent four transport planes and seven helicopters to bring food supplies from Hanoi to the region.

Sixteen tons of instant noodles have been supplied, but the aircraft only could land in Nghe An, 220 miles north of Hue and could not yet fly into the ancient capital, which has been virtually cut off.

Submerged under 10 feet of water in some places, Hue shut its airport Tuesday. Danang followed suit yesterday.

Telecommunications to Hue went down Tuesday afternoon, so it was impossible to get estimates of casualties or damage.

The Vietnam Red Cross said it planned to issue a national appeal for help Thursday and that a request for international aid could follow. Some \$30,000 already has been sent to buy food, medicine, clothing and other supplies in seven affected provinces.

Thirteen people were killed by flooding in Quang Nam province as of late Tuesday afternoon, said Le Van Thu of the provincial flood and storm control committee, adding that the death toll could rise as more reports come in from outlying districts.

Thu said 150,000 houses were submerged, along with thousands of acres of rice.

"Water is everywhere and still rising," he said.

Stupid things to say at a cool party #66

**"YES, I LOVE YOUR SATIN UNDIES, BUT I'M GOING BACK TO MY ROOM TO CHECK MY EMAIL."**



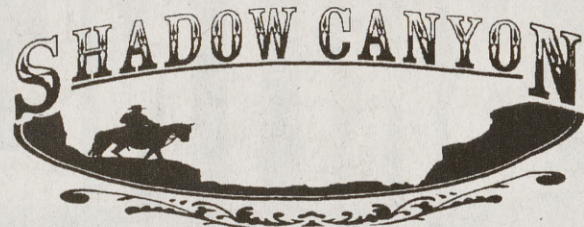
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