

## TRANSASIA TRAGEDY Pilot shut off wrong engine: probe report

REUTERS, Taipei/singapore  
The pilot flying a TransAsia Airways (6702.TW) ATR mistakenly switched off the plane's only working engine seconds before it crashed in February, killing 43 people, Taiwan's Aviation Safety Council (ASC) said in its latest report yesterday.

The ASC's report also showed that Captain Liao Jian-zong had failed simulator training in May 2014, in part because he had insufficient knowledge of how to deal with an engine flame-out on take-off.

"Wow, pulled back the wrong side throttle," Liao, 41, was heard to say on voice recordings seconds before the crash.

There appeared to be confusion in the cockpit as the two captains tried to regain control of the plane after one engine lost power about three minutes into the doomed flight.

Liao reduced the throttle on the working engine but did not appear to realize his mistake until it was too late.

Seconds later the almost new ATR 72-600, which had 58 people on board, crashed upside down into a shallow river in Taipei after it lurched between buildings, clipping an overpass and a taxi. Fifteen survived but all three pilots and 40 passengers and other crew died in the crash.

ISIS threatens to topple Hamas in Gaza  
REUTERS, Cairo  
Egypt yesterday vowed to crush an escalating insurgency in the Sinai Peninsula after Islamic State group jihadists killed dozens in their most spectacular assault yet in the strife-plagued region.

The violence poses a major test for President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the former army chief who has pledged to wipe out the militants.

The military deployed F-16 warplanes on Wednesday to bomb ISIS fighters who battled security forces on the streets of the North Sinai town of Sheikh Zuweid after launching a surprise dawn blitz on army checkpoints.

The military said 17 soldiers and 100 militants had been killed. Medical and

security officials said at least 70 people, mostly soldiers, had died along with dozens of jihadists. The reason for the discrepancy in the tolls was unclear.

"We have the will and determination to root out this black terrorism," the military said in a statement. "We will not stop until Sinai is cleansed of all the dens of terror."

The White House condemned the unprecedented wave of attacks, which came two days after state prosecutor Hisham Barakat was assassinated in a Cairo car bombing, the most senior government official killed in the jihadist insurgency.

The Sinai attacks were the most brazen in their scope since jihadists launched an insurgency in 2013 after the army overthrew Islamist president Mohamed Morsi.

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Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis said the government "may very well" quit in a radio interview yesterday in which he also said "we are on a war footing" to ensure the rushed referendum happens in time.

International creditors and markets are stepping back after days of dizzying drama over the Greek crisis to watch the outcome of the consultation at the weekend.

Ordinary Greeks, though, are left in financial limbo under capital controls imposed all this week to stem a bank run. They are reduced to 60-euro (\$67) daily ATM withdrawal caps, adding hardship to lives already

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## DEADLY CONFRONTATION WITH ISIS IN SINAI Egypt to wipe out terror

AFP, Cairo

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## Greek govt 'may resign' if referendum goes against it

AFP, Athens

Greece's radical left government suggested it would resign if it fails to get its way in a make-or-break referendum Sunday that could decide the country's financial future.

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On Tuesday, it failed to repay 1.5 billion euros to one of those creditors, the International Monetary Fund.

Athens is in danger of failing in arrears to two other major creditors, the European Union and the European Central Bank, if it also fails to pay 3.5 billion euros on July 20.

The deal has been struck with the US federal government and five Gulf Coast states -- Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas -- affected by the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig.

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