

Bomb hoax threats to Indian airlines spark chaos

AFP, New Delhi

More than 90 fake bomb threats have been made against flights operated by multiple Indian airlines this week, Indian media reported yesterday, sparking fear among passengers and global delays.

All flights landed safely, but the spate of threats has resulted in planes being diverted to Canada and Germany, and fighter jets scrambled to escort aircraft in the skies above Britain and Singapore.

India's government and civil aviation authorities have warned that "very strict action" will be taken.

New Delhi's civil aviation authorities have not said how many threats have been received in the past week, but the Times of India and broadcaster News18 reported more than 70 hoaxes targeting both domestic and international flights since October 13.

At least 30 hoax threats were made on Saturday alone, and at least 20 more threats were made to



different airlines yesterday.

India's IndiGo airline confirmed threats were made against six of its flights yesterday.

Two were on domestic routes, and four were international -- linking Indian cities to Saudi Arabia's Jeddah and Dammam, as well as two separate flights to Istanbul in Turkey.

"The safety and security of our passengers and crew is our highest priority," IndiGo said in a statement.

"We are working closely with the relevant authorities and taking all necessary precautions."

The global impact of delays and diversions has been heavy on airline schedules and costs.

At least one person -- a minor -- has been arrested in India, but the threats have continued.

"All others responsible for the disruptions will be identified and duly prosecuted," India's aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said after the arrest on Wednesday.

A report in The Indian Express said that an anonymous account on X, formerly Twitter, was suspended after posting bomb threats to at least 40 flights on Friday and Saturday.



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese border village of Kham, where the Lebanese official media reported 14 strikes within minutes yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

SOUTH BEIRUT

A city silenced by war

AFP, Beirut

Just a month ago, south Beirut's bustling streets were packed with traffic, families strolling about and youths in cafes, but now silence dominates the abandoned Hezbollah bastion, interrupted only by the sound of Israeli bombs.

Escalating Israeli attacks since late September, after nearly a year of low-intensity cross-border exchanges, have reduced much of the Lebanese capital's once densely-packed southern suburbs to rubble and sent many of its residents fleeing.

Braving the smell of rotting flesh that reeks from razed buildings, a few young men stood guard, dressed in black civilian clothes and occasionally driving around the ruins on their motorbikes.

They observed the odd car and the handful of displaced residents who come on foot, hastily checking on their apartment or collecting some belongings before heading back to safety.

"The young people told me not to stay too long because drones were constantly flying over and could strike at any time," said 32-year-old Mohammed, on a brief visit home to get more clothes.

Giving his first name only for security concerns, he said he first left on September 27, days into Israel's intense air campaign on Lebanon.

That day, massive Israeli strikes killed Hezbollah's elusive leader Hassan Nasrallah in the heart of the Iran-backed group's south

Beirut stronghold, toppling several apartment buildings and spreading fear of even greater violence.

"We left in a hurry and thought we would never see our house again," said Mohammed, adding that his neighbours had also fled.

The building was still standing, but many others have been damaged or destroyed.

ATTACKS ON INFRASTRUCTURE
Cracks snaked down nearby buildings as torn-off asphalt and burst pipes leaked sewage and tap water.

Generators that long made up for daily power cuts after five years of economic crisis had also been blown to bits.

"About 320 buildings were destroyed in Beirut and its suburbs" in less than a month of war, Mona Fawaz of the Beirut Urban Lab told AFP.

The devastation has surpassed the damage caused by Israel's last war with Hezbollah in 2006, said Fawaz, who records cases of "urbicide", the destruction of cities in conflict, focusing now on Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

She accused Israel of "deliberate targeting of what allows life to continue," including vital infrastructure unrelated to Hezbollah.

Hezbollah had completely rebuilt Beirut's south based on the existing urban plans from before the 2006 war, which had displaced about 100,000 people from the area.

During that 33-day war, "surveys list 1,332 severely damaged multi-storey apartment buildings, of

which 281 were completely razed to the ground" in an area of about 20 square kilometres (eight square miles), said Fawaz.

The Burj al Barajneh neighbourhood, unscathed in 2006, has been heavily damaged in the bombardment this time around.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

Once again, families from south Beirut are forced to seek refuge elsewhere in the country or abroad.

Many live in rented apartments or with relatives, while others are crammed in schools-turned-shelters.

Hassan, 37, grew up in the Mraijeh district of Beirut's south, where Israeli jets targeted Hashem Safieddine, widely seen as Nasrallah's most likely successor.

Despite the bloodshed, he said Mraijeh will always remind him of his "friends, the games we used to play as children, the smell of freshly-baked bread in the morning, neighbours chatting and Ramadan festivities".

The supermarket he used to shop at is in ruins, with nearby shops, schools and buildings also reduced to rubble.

Hassan, who also asked to be identified by first name only, was told his favourite record store was no more.

As the war shows no signs of abating, greater losses are all but certain.

"We are afraid to return after the war only to discover how many of our friends have died, like in 2006," said Hassan with a sigh.

Prabowo takes office as Indonesia president

AFP, Jakarta

Former general Prabowo Subianto was sworn in Sunday as president of Indonesia, seeking a more prominent position on the global stage for the world's fourth most populous nation.

The 73-year-old fiery nationalist -- accused of rights abuses during his time in the military -- took the oath at parliament to officially succeed outgoing leader Joko Widodo.

"We will lead the Indonesian government... by prioritising the interests of all Indonesian people, including those who did not vote for us," he said, pledging to tackle corruption and protect democracy.

Prabowo has committed himself to Indonesia's non-aligned foreign policy, but has signalled that he will be bolder on the world stage.

Leaked US docs reveal Israel's plans for strike on Iran

REUTERS

The United States is investigating the leak of a pair of highly classified intelligence documents describing Israel's preparations for a retaliatory strike on Iran, House Speaker Mike Johnson said yesterday.

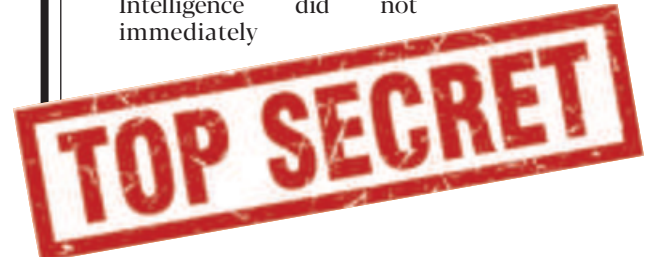
The documents appear to have been prepared by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, describing US interpretations of Israeli Air Force and Navy planning based on satellite imagery from Oct. 15-16.

They began circulating last week on the Telegram messaging app. Israel has been planning a response to a ballistic-missile barrage carried out by Iran on Oct. 1, its second direct attack on Israel in six months. Israel has intensified its offensive in Gaza and Lebanon, days after the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.

Asked about the leak of the documents during an interview with CNN, Johnson, the US House of Representatives' top lawmaker, said an "investigation (is) underway and I'll get a briefing on that in a couple of hours."

"...We are following it closely," Johnson added.

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence did not immediately



» US interpretations of Israeli Air Force and Navy planning

» Originates from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

» Authenticity has been privately acknowledged

» US investigating the leak

respond to requests for comment. The Pentagon said it was looking into the leak reports.

The New York Times reported that officials acknowledged privately that the documents were authentic, but that they likely only represent a portion of information the U.S. has on its close ally's planning.

The first document is titled: "Israel: Air Force Continues Preparations for Strike on Iran and Conducts a Second Large-Force Employment Exercise". It describes activities including ballistic and air-to-surface missile handling.

The second is titled: "Israel: Defense Forces Continue Key Munitions Preparations and Covert UAV Activity Almost Certainly for a Strike on Iran". UAVs are also known as drones.

U.S. President Joe Biden, responding to questions from reporters, said last week he had a good understanding of when and how Israel would attack Iran. But he also said he sees an opportunity to end the two enemies' back-and-forth strikes.

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Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh
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10	White Printing Paper (Domestic) Size: 68.58cm*86.36cm (27"x34"); GSM:80-85 As per schedule. Invitation Reference No. 05.85.0000.009.04.010.24/08, Date: 17.10.2024.	BSO-8/24-25	1026600	21.10.2024 at 16:00	04.11.2024 at 17:00	05.11.2024 at 15:30

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GD-733



Most of Cuba without power as Hurricane Oscar approaches

AFP, Havana

Cuba girded Sunday for a hit from Hurricane Oscar, bracing for more chaos and misery as it grapples with a nearly nationwide power outage now in its third day.

The arrival of Hurricane Oscar, after the collapse Friday of Cuba's largest power plant crippled the whole national grid, will pile more pressure on a country already battling sky-high inflation and shortages of food, medicine, fuel and water.

The storm was expected to make landfall in northeastern Cuba some time Sunday afternoon or evening (local time), the US National Hurricane Center said in its latest bulletin.

As of Sunday morning, Oscar was a Category 1 storm packing maximum sustained winds of 80 mph (130 kph), the NHC said.

President Miguel Diaz-Canel said Saturday in a post on social media that authorities in the east of the island were "working hard to protect the people and economic resources, given the imminent arrival of Hurricane Oscar."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Upazilla Health & Family Planning Officer
Keshabpur, Jessore

Memo No. uhc/kes/jessore/2024/987 Dated: 20.10.2024

e-Tender Notice: 2024-2025

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01	1027243	Goods Uhc/Ke/Je/Medicine/23-24/Lot-01 MSR Non EDCL Medicine for UHC, Keshabpur, Jessore	NCT, OTM	21-Oct-24 9:00	04-Nov-24 17:00	05-Nov-24 12:00
02	1027244	Goods Uhc/Ke/Je/Surgical Instrument/23-24/Lot-02 MSR Instrument Products for UHC, Keshabpur, Jessore	NCT, OTM	21-Oct-24 9:00	04-Nov-24 17:00	05-Nov-24 12:10
03	1027245	Goods Uhc/Ke/Je/Chemical Re-agent/23-24/Lot-03 MSR Chemical Products for UHC, Keshabpur, Jessore	NCT, OTM	21-Oct-24 9:00	04-Nov-24 17:00	05-Nov-24 12:20
04	1027246	Goods Uhc/Ke/Je/Linen/23-24/Lot-04 MSR Linen Products for UHC, Keshabpur, Jessore	NCT, OTM	21-Oct-24 9:00	04-Nov-24 17:00	05-Nov-24 12:30
05	1027247	Goods Uhc/Ke/Je/Gauze Bandage Cotton/23-24/Lot-5 MSR Gauze Bandage & Cotton for UHC, Keshabpur, Jessore	NCT, OTM	21-Oct-24 9:00	04-Nov-24 17:00	05-Nov-24 12:40
06	1027238	Goods Uhc/Ke/Je/MSR Furniture/23-24/Lot-06 MSR Furniture Products for UHC, Keshabpur, Jessore	NCT, OTM	21-Oct-24 9:00	04-Nov-24 17:00	05-Nov-24 12:50

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GD-732