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Flydubai co-pilot planned suicide attack: Prosecutor

DUBAI: The co-pilot who attacked the captain of a flydubai jet last week had planned to crash the plane into Tel Aviv's international airport, the United Arab Emirates' top prosecutor said. In the aftermath of the incident, people on board—the majority of whom were Zionists—described a sudden plunge in altitude and a fight for control of the aircraft, which was forced to make an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia. The passengers were repatriated on a second flydubai flight hours later.

The unnamed co-pilot, now in custody in the UAE, had drawn inspiration from Al-Qaeda's September 11, 2001 suicide attacks on the United States and carried out his attempt "with the aim of causing the greatest possible loss of life", according to the Emirati prosecutor's findings published by state media. The prosecutor found that the co-pilot had first begun to be radicalized while studying in Australia "through reading extremist literature and following online content glorifying terrorist organizations and suicide attacks".

He said last week's flight had been the co-pilot's third to Tel Aviv, and that he had used the two earlier trips to plan the attack. During the flight, the suspect used an emergency axe to attack the plane's Indian captain, Smit Machchhar, who fought back and tried to call for help. Another pilot assigned to the return flight who was also on board "noticed the cockpit door opening and closing repeatedly in an unusual manner", according to the findings. — AFP

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) announced on Saturday the temporary suspension of operations at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh following an attack that left several people injured. In a statement, GACA said the airport was attacked on Saturday afternoon amid continued attacks targeting civil aviation facilities in the Kingdom. It added that efforts were underway to establish the number of injured people.

The authority said airport operations had been suspended temporarily pending an assessment of the damage and verification of the safety of airport facilities, in coordination with the relevant authorities. Further updates will be announced as they become available. Meanwhile, the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs urged citizens whose flights had been affected by cancellations or delays, or who were unable to reach their destinations, to contact Saudi embassies and consulates in their respective countries for assistance and guidance. In a statement, the ministry said the measure was intended to support Saudi nationals affected by the suspension or disruption of flights to and from King Khalid International Airport. The airport administration also advised passengers to contact their airlines directly and check their flight status before travelling to the airport. In a notice, the airport stressed that passengers should confirm the latest information with their respective airlines before setting out, expressing appreciation for their understanding and cooperation.

In Kuwait, Kuwait Airways announced the cancellation of flights KU775 from Kuwait to Riyadh and KU776 from

Riyadh to Kuwait due to the security situation. The national carrier urged passengers to monitor updates on their bookings, saying notifications and text messages would be sent to the phone numbers registered with their reservations. Passengers were also advised to follow the airline's official communication channels for the latest information on flight changes and further developments.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent cables of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, following the deaths of three Saudi citizens and the injury of others in attacks targeting King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh. In his cable, His Highness the Amir expressed his deepest condolences and sincere sympathy to King Salman, praying to Almighty God to have mercy on the deceased, grant them eternal peace in Paradise and place them among the martyrs. The Amir also prayed for patience and solace for the victims' families and a speedy recovery for the injured. He further prayed for Saudi Arabia's continued security, safety and stability, asking God to protect the Kingdom from all harm. His Highness the Crown Prince likewise conveyed his heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy to the Saudi monarch over the deaths and injuries resulting from the attacks. He prayed to Almighty God to bestow His mercy and forgiveness upon the deceased, place them among the martyrs and grant the injured a speedy recovery.— KUNA



Kuwait, UK strengthen military ties

KUWAIT: Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraian discussed ways to strengthen and develop military cooperation between Kuwait and the United Kingdom during a meeting on Friday with UK Senior Defense

Adviser for the Middle East and North Africa Vice Admiral Edward Ahlgren. In a press statement, the General Staff said the meeting was held at its headquarters, where both sides reviewed areas of military cooperation and explored ways to enhance bilateral ties in pursuit of their mutual interests. The two sides also exchanged views on key issues of mutual concern. The meeting was attended by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr Abdullah Meshal Mubarak Al-Sabah, British Ambassador to Kuwait Qudsi Rasheed, and a number of senior commanders and officers from both sides.— KUNA

Kuwait advances economic reforms to boost investment

KUWAIT: Kuwait accelerated efforts during the third quarter of 2026 to modernize its financial and economic infrastructure through legislative reforms and structural changes aimed at improving the business environment, diversifying revenue sources and attracting foreign investment. Six legislative measures approved or advanced in recent months reflect the government's drive to place the

national economy on a more sustainable footing in line with Kuwait Vision 2035, while restructuring state sectors and advancing major development projects. A key measure is Law No 90 of 2026 on government sukuk, which marks a step toward expanding Kuwait's sovereign financing options by introducing a Sharia-compliant instrument alongside conventional debt.— KUNA (See Page 4)



Former ICC judge Pillay wins 2026 Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO: The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to judge and former UN rights chief Navi Pillay of South Africa drew backlash from US President Donald Trump, who called the decision "disgraceful". Pillay, 85, has spent her career defending international law, working against war crimes and crimes against humanity. But Trump labeled the Norwegian Nobel Committee's choice as "a disgraceful and embarrassing decision", telling a rally of his supporters in Syracuse, New York he had "never heard of" Pillay. Hours after Pillay was named the laureate, the United States announced new sanctions against the ICC, provoking swift condemnation from member states and the United Nations.— AFP (See Page 6)

Police detain thousands, lock down New Delhi

NEW DELHI: Police detained more than 2,000 protesters and the founder of the "Cockroach" youth movement in Delhi on Saturday as security forces locked down parts of the capital to thwart a rally demanding the resignation of India's election chief. Thousands of police and paramilitary personnel were deployed across the city, mobile Internet services were suspended in the central business district and dozens of metro stations and markets were shut as authorities moved to stop a demonstration organized by the Cockroach movement.

The protest was aimed at Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over a revision of voter lists that critics say disproportionately benefits Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The movement had planned to gather thousands of people at Jantar Mantar in central Delhi,



NEW DELHI: Police personnel detain a supporter of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) during a protest demanding the resignation of India's Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on October 10, 2026.— AFP

but the area was sealed off by security forces before the demonstration began. A home ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters more than 2,000 people were detained in Delhi. Local media said about 400 protesters were held in India's financial hub, Mumbai. —Reuters (See Page 7)

Kuwait backs UN efforts to end colonialism

KUWAIT: Kuwait has reaffirmed its unwavering support for United Nations efforts to end colonialism in all its forms, stressing the right of peoples to self-determination, respect for state sovereignty and territorial integrity, and adherence to the UN Charter and international law. The position was outlined by Kuwaiti Diplomatic Attaché Mohammad Al-Mulla in a statement before the UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee, which deals with special political and decolonization issues. Al-Mulla said the Palestinian cause remains among the foremost issues requiring the international community to fulfil its responsibilities by ending Zionist occupation of Palestinian territory and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights, foremost among them self-determination and the establishment of an independent state within the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. — KUNA (See Page 2)