



**IMPRESSIVE COMEBACK.** Anirban Lahiri of India hits a shot from a bunker on the 18th hole during the final round of the Malaysian Open golf tournament at Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (AP Photo/Joshua Paul)

## Anirban Lahiri wins Malaysian Open over Wiesberger

By James Dampney  
The Associated Press

**K**UALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — India's Anirban Lahiri won the Malaysian Open after firing a final round 4-under 68 to beat Austria's Bernd Wiesberger by one shot at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club.

Starting the day five shots behind Wiesberger, Lahiri carded six birdies and two bogeys to finish with a 16-under 272.

A five-time winner on the Asian Tour, Lahiri received a big ratings boost by winning the co-sanctioned European Tour event.

Lying a distant 21st after the second round, nine shots off the pace, Lahiri got into contention by equalling the course record of 62 in the third round.

Wiesberger started the day with a two-shot lead but could only produce a two-over 74, leaving him with a fourth-straight top-ten finish without taking the winner's check.

# Chinese MH370 relatives reject word that passengers are dead

By Didi Tang  
The Associated Press

**B**EIJING — About 100 Chinese families of passengers on the missing Malaysian airliner have demanded that Malaysian officials retract their statement that all aboard died, saying that without hard evidence, they don't want to start compensation claims.

Malaysia's government formally declared still-missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 an accident and said all 239 people on board were presumed dead, paving the way for claims to begin. Most of the victims' families in China — where the majority of the passengers were from — still hold onto hope that their loved ones are alive.

"We don't accept it. As a matter of fact, we are demanding the statement to be retracted," Zhang Qian, whose husband was on the plane, said.

The continued refusal of relatives to accept the authorities' conclusion is understandable because they are going through "ambiguous loss," where there has been no body or wreckage to confirm death, said Therese Rando, a clinical psychologist in Warwick, Rhode Island, who has worked extensively in grief counselling.

"For any family member to make the move to presume death in the absence of confirmation is a huge step," Rando explained in an e-mail. "They need to have eliminated other possibilities; to do otherwise would be



**HOLDING OUT HOPE.** Jiang Hui, left, and Dai Shuqin, relatives of passengers on the Malaysia Airlines Flight that went missing on March 8, 2014, react while watching a laptop computer screen showing a prerecorded message broadcast on Malaysian television by Malaysia's Civil Aviation Authority in Beijing. The Civil Aviation Authority has officially declared the MH370 crash an accident, fulfilling a legal obligation that allows efforts to proceed with compensation claims. (AP Photo/Andy Wong)

tantamount to prematurely abandoning their loved one."

In anticipation of the Malaysian statement, 110 members in a group of 115 relatives of passengers voted during a mobile phone group chat to demand that Malaysia refrain from making any announcement.

Jiang Hui, whose mother was a passenger aboard the flight, said the new announcement was based on no new facts.

"We not only demand the Malaysian government retract the statement, but also issue an apology," Jiang said. "That's the wish of the

majority of family members."

Relatives were unmoved by the argument that the declaration paves the way for compensation claims.

"I feel like I am giving it all up if we start talking about compensation," Zhang said. "We don't need compensation, and we would be more than glad not to ask for a dime if my husband comes back to me."

Malaysia's civil aviation chief Azharuddin Abdul Rahman said the search for the jet "remains a priority." The Boeing 777 disappeared on March 8, 2014, while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

## Japan photographer says passport confiscated over Syria trip

By Mari Yamaguchi  
The Associated Press

**T**OKYO — A Japanese freelance photographer says government officials forced him to give up his passport because he was planning a reporting trip to Syria, where two Japanese hostages were recently killed.

Yuichi Sugimoto, a journalist who has covered the Middle East and other war zones on and off for the past 20 years, said the confiscation violated his constitutional right of travel and press freedom and prevented him from working.

Japan is still in shock from the recent hostage crisis, in which two Japanese were allegedly beheaded by militants from the Islamic State group. The government has raised its travel warning for Syria to its highest level, urging citizens not to visit the country, but the advisory is not legally binding.

Sugimoto, 58, told a news conference that he handed over his passport after police and Foreign Ministry officials visited his home to demand he surrender it. He said one official gave him an order signed by Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, a copy of which he provided to The Associated Press.

News of his planned trip to Syria had been published in local media.

Top government spokesman Yoshihide Suga defended the confiscation of Sugimoto's passport, the first such case under the passport law, given the risk in Syria and the government's responsibility to protect its citizens.

Kishida told parliament that the government is compiling a set of measures to improve the safety of Japanese abroad, without elaborating. He said stopping extremism and restoring stability in the

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