

South Korea air crash investigators extract black box data as grieving families mourn the victims

By Hyung-Jin Kim
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Grieving relatives of the victims of the South Korea plane crash gathered at the site to pay respects to their loved ones on New Year’s Day, as officials said they had extracted data from one of the retrieved black boxes to find the exact cause of the crash.

All but two of the 181 passengers and crew on board the Boeing 737-800 operated by Jeju Air died when it crashed at Muan International Airport in southern South Korea.

Video showed the aircraft without its landing gear deployed landing on its belly at high speed and then skidding off the end of the runway into a concrete fence and bursting into flames. The footage showed the plane was experiencing an apparent engine problem in addition to the landing gear malfunction.

Investigators say the pilot received a warning from air traffic controllers of possible bird strikes and the plane issued a distress signal before the crash.

The Transport Ministry said in a statement that it completed works to extract data from the cockpit voice recorder — one of the two black boxes recovered from the wreckage. It said the data would be converted into audio files. A damaged flight data recorder was planned to be sent to the United States for analysis, the ministry added.

All of the victims were South Korean, except for two Thai nationals, with many returning from Bangkok after the Christmas holiday.

The bereaved families visited the site for an emotional memorial service. They were bussed to the site where they took turns



CRASH INVESTIGATION. Rescue team members are seen at the site of a plane fire at Muan International Airport in Muan, South Korea. Grieving relatives of the victims of the plane crash gathered at the site to pay respects to their loved ones on New Year’s Day, as officials said they had extracted data from one of the retrieved black boxes. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

laying white flowers. Many knelt and bowed deeply before a memorial table laid with food, including “ddeokguk,” a Korean rice cake soup eaten on New Year’s Day.

The Transport Ministry said authorities have completed the complicated process of identifying all 179 victims.

The country observed seven days of national mourning following the deadliest disaster in South Korea’s aviation history in decades.

The government has begun safety inspections of all 101 Boeing 737-800s operated by the country’s domestic airlines. A team of U.S. investigators, including representatives from Boeing, also arrived to examine the crash site.

Officials have said they will consider whether the airport’s localizer — a set of antennas housed in a concrete fence at the end of the runway designed to guide aircraft during landings — should have been constructed with lighter materials that would break more easily upon impact.



DAZZLING DISPLAY. People watch a panda-themed drone show at the waterfront of Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong on December 28, 2024. Hundreds gathered in Hong Kong in late December to watch the city’s first pyrotechnics drone show, as part of a campaign to raise support and awareness of panda conservation. (AP Photo/Chan Long Hei)

Hundreds gathered in Hong Kong for the city’s first pyrotechnics drone show

By Zen Soo
The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hundreds gathered in Hong Kong in late December to watch the city’s first pyrotechnics drone show, as part of a campaign to raise support and awareness of panda conservation.

The 10-minute drone show featured 1,000 drones, some of which were equipped with fireworks, flying over Hong Kong’s Victoria Harbour and forming images of the city’s giant pandas.

During certain parts of the spectacle, some drones displayed fireworks, while hundreds of others formed a three-dimensional panda that slowly rotated in the sky.

Some eager spectators arrived hours before the show to ensure that they would have a good viewing spot.

Eddie Chow, a father who brought his two kids to the drone show, said such shows could attract more tourists to Hong

Kong. “I think the rundown was great. Combining fireworks and drones is a very special theme. Hong Kong should have more of these activities,” said Chow, adding that the spectacle was his first experience in watching a drone show.

Other spectators, such as Jodi Hung, a Hong Kong resident in her 20s, also praised the drone show as “great.”

“I think people who designed the drone show had very good technique, very amazing, they combined art and techniques together,” Hung said.

Hong Kong has launched a series of activities across the city in recent weeks — including exhibitions and a panda-themed carnival — after Beijing gifted Hong Kong with a pair of giant pandas, named An An and Ke Ke. The arrival of the pair takes the total number of giant pandas in Hong Kong to six, all of whom reside at the city’s Ocean Park, a theme park comprising amusement park rides and animal exhibits.

Japanese artist finds solace, global fans with intricate leaf-cutting

Continued from page 20

things the same way as other people, and began to adjust his life.

In early 2020, Lito came across the art of leaf cutting. He saw it as the perfect use of his patience and concentration.

Word of his skills has spread across

social media, and he has published books on his leaf-cutting work. He holds a near-monthly solo exhibition in various places in Japan.

“If I can make people happy by doing what I am doing, I want to do more. That’s my driving force for what’s next,” Lito says.

Cambodian archaeologists discover a dozen centuries-old sandstone statues at Angkor UNESCO site

By Sopheng Cheang
The Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — Archaeologists in Cambodia have unearthed a dozen centuries-old sandstone statues in a “remarkable discovery” at the Angkor World Heritage Site near the city of Siem Reap, according to authorities.

The statues — depicting so-called “door guardians” — were discovered near the north gate leading to the 11th-century Royal Palace at Angkor Thom, the last capital of the Khmer Empire, said Long Kosal, spokesman for the Apsara National Authority, the government agency that oversees the archaeological park.

Teams were assessing the ancient gate’s structure and searching for fallen stones around the portal on the north side of Angkor Thom, one of four entrances to the complex, when the discovery was made.

The statues depict guardians standing at attention and vary in size from about 39” to 43”. They were found buried at depths of up to 4.5 feet and some are in surprisingly good shape, with each featuring unique facial hair ornaments,

adding to their distinctiveness, archaeologist Sorn Chanthorn said.

“Experts believe these door guardian statues exemplify the Khneang Style, aligning with the construction period of the 11th-century palace,” the Apsara National Authority said.

Angkor Thom is part of the Angkor Archaeological Park, a complex that sprawls over some 155 square miles, named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992 and one of Southeast Asia’s most popular tourist destinations.

It contains the ruins of Khmer Empire capitals from the 9th to 15th centuries, including the temple of Angkor Wat.

The site, near Siem Reap, about 200 miles northwest of the capital, Phnom Penh, drew more than 500,000 international visitors in the first half of 2024, according to Cambodia’s Tourism Ministry.

The archaeological dig was a collaborative project between Apsara and the China-Cambodia Government Team for Safeguarding Angkor, Apsara said.

Following the discovery of the statues, the archaeological team carefully docu-

Continued on page 4

ALBERTA SIMMONS PLAZA

6611 NE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. • PORTLAND, OR 97211
503-240-4198

AFFORDABLE RETIREMENT LIVING • FOR SENIORS 62 YEARS & OLDER

- ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENTS WITH FULL KITCHENS
- CONVENIENTLY LOCATED TO SHOPPING, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, AND MEDICAL OFFICES
- LAUNDRY FACILITY, BUILDING ELEVATOR
- LIBRARY & PLANNED ACTIVITIES
- RENT INCLUDES ALL UTILITIES EXCEPT TELEPHONE, CABLE, & INTERNET
- FEDERAL RENT SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE

ALBERTASIMMONSPLAZA.COM



Carbon Monoxide:

YOU CAN'T SEE OR SMELL IT.
BUT YOU CAN STOP IT.



No power? Keep generators more than 20 feet away from the home to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

Questions about carbon monoxide? Call Poison Help:
1-800-222-1222

