

Last words from cockpit not 'all right, goodnight'
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DAY 24 MH370 The search for Malaysia Airlines (MAS) Flight MH370 enters its 24th day but its trail is increasingly cold in the Indian Ocean at an area some 1,850km west of Perth, Australia.

However, things are heating up in Malaysia as several families of Chinese MH370 passengers have now taken their **protest** closer to Putrajaya.

The families, which began arriving from Beijing yesterday, have demanded the Malaysian government to apologise over what they call a premature declaration that the ill-fated flight had "ended" in the Indian Ocean.

MAS insists the conclusion is based on rational deduction as satellite analysis showed the aircraft was lost in the Indian Ocean with no land mass nearby.

Follow us as we bring the latest updates and coverage for the search of Flight MH370:

Last words were 'Good night, Malaysian 370'

11.30pm: The Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) has confirmed that MH370's last radio communication was "Good night Malaysian three-seven-zero", not "All right, good night" as earlier reported.

"The authorities are still doing forensic investigation to determine whether those last words from the cockpit were by the pilot or the co-pilot.

"The minister has instructed the investigating team to release the full transcript which will be made available during the briefing to the next of kin," it said in a statement responding to a question raised during the daily press conference on the crisis earlier today.

The question was raised after the Chinese broadcaster **CCTV reported** yesterday and today that investigators are revisiting existing evidence and have revised the transcript, quoting three unnamed sources and a purported sighting of the document.

"'Good night, Malaysian 3-7-0' is absolutely standard terminology for pilots when they are performing a handshake as they leave one airspace and enter the next," **CCTV** reported.

General: Some reports untrue, extreme

9.15pm: The armed forces chief has expressed regret over some foreign media reports which he claim was aimed at casting aspersions on Malaysia, reports national news agency *Bernama*.

General Zulkifeli Mohd Zin notes there were several untrue media reports, while others were extreme and did not take into account the real situation or constraints faced by the Malaysian authorities in providing information on the incident.

"We have been accused of delay in providing information when each piece of information we get must be corroborated (with various national and foreign authorities), before taking any action.

"Only in certain situations, do we (armed forces) take action or respond to information on our own," he is quoted as saying in Kuala Lumpur.

He says some information could not be disclosed to the public because of the potential implications on ongoing investigations.

Amsa says 'nothing significant to report'

7.30pm: MH370 search operations have concluded for today, according to a tweet from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

It adds all aircraft are returning with nothing significant to report. The search will resume tomorrow.

Joint Agency Co-ordination Centre set up

5.35pm: The daily press briefing on the status of the ongoing search for MAS Flight MH370 begins.

Acting Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein helms the session at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) in Kuala Lumpur.

Here are some of the highlights:

- Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak will go to Perth on Wednesday for a working visit to the Pearce Air force base, to see the operations first hand.
- Hisham, in his capacity as defence minister, will leave tonight for the United States Pacific Command in Hawaii, where he will attend the Asean Defence Ministers' meeting from April 1-3.
- A new Joint Agency Co-ordination Centre (JACC), has been set up. It which will be based out of Pearce Air force base and will co-ordinate operations between all Australian government agencies and international search teams.
- Today, nine military aircraft and one civilian aircraft from various countries travelled to the search area. Eight Chinese ships and three Australian ships were also deployed today. However so far, no objects related to MH570 have been found.
- Yesterday a group of families, whose loved ones were on board MH370, arrived in Kuala Lumpur from Beijing. The government will hold a high-level briefing soon for these families, to update them on the latest developments regarding the search for MH370.

No signals from emergency transmitters

5.20pm: No signals were picked up from any of MH370's four emergency locator transmitters, says RMAF major-general Affendi Buang in Beijing, according to tweets from the *Straits Times* of Singapore.

He also discloses that official investigations haven't concluded that the last words from the MH370 cockpit were from the co-pilot, and that Malaysia had contacted 24 nations in the southern corridor. All said the plane did not land in their territories.

Relatives transferred to hotel in Bangi

4.24pm: All the 29 relatives of several Chinese MH370 passengers were transferred from the Holiday Villa Hotel in Subang Jaya to the Bangi-Putrajaya Hotel in Bangi today, reports *Bernama*.

A spokesman for MCA's crisis relief management squad (CRMS) of volunteers says this was done as the Bangi hotel could now accommodate the relatives because those who had booked the hotel in view of the F1 Grand Prix over the weekend had left.

He said the relatives had been accommodated at the Holiday Villa Hotel due to a shortage of rooms at the Bangi-Putrajaya Hotel.

Rais Yatim: Mind your words

4.04pm: Social and cultural adviser to the government Rais Yatim says it is important for the people to mind their words when discussing about the tragedy, particularly on social media sites.

"What are most needed now are values, a culture of respect towards to event, using appropriate words and adopting the right behaviour.

"The penchant of using harsh words, levelling unfounded allegations and posting irresponsible remarks should be avoided, and this could be intervened by a political will," he says, according to *Bernama*.

Rais said as the use of abusive words would only exhibit a negative culture and low intelligence among the perpetrators, bloggers should avoid using words that could offend any quarters.

"Although we come from different upbringing, regardless of Islam, Confucianism, Buddhism or Hinduism, we were taught to embody exemplary values in our actions and words," he is quoted as saying.

M'sia's handling wins praise

3.46pm: Timor-Leste's prime minister today commends the Malaysian government and Malaysia Airlines (MAS) over their handling of the missing MAS flight crisis, *Bernama* reports.

"Malaysia is to be applauded for leading the multi-national search effort which has been an outstanding example of leadership and co-operation among the international communities," says Xanana Gusmao.

At a joint press conference with Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak after a bilateral meeting in Putrajaya, Gusmao also expresses his condolences to the families of the aircraft passengers and crew over their loss.

Search area littered with rubbish

2.35pm: While the new search area 1,100km north east of the old site has better weather, operations are being hampered by higher volume of ocean trash that may be mistaken for wreckage.

Reuters reports the search zone is an area of the Indian Ocean where currents drag in all manner of flotsam and rubbish.

"I would say the search area is located just outside of what we call the garbage patches," says Erik van Sebille, an oceanographer at the University of New South Wales.

"There is much more debris there than in the Southern (Indian) Ocean. Debris from Western

Australia that ends up in the garbage patches will have to move through the search area," she adds.

China urges angry citizens to be rational

1.50pm: China's state media urges rationality among its citizens after the outburst of anger following Malaysia's announcement that Flight MH370 has "ended" in the Indian Ocean, reports *AFP*.

A commentary in *China Daily* under the headline 'Treat MH370 tragedy rationally' reads: "It is certain that flight MH370 crashed in the Indian Ocean and no one on board survived."

"We should not let anger prevail over facts and rationality... We need to comply with the fundamental norms of a civilised society and need to show the demeanour of a great power."

The author, Mei Xinyu, a researcher with the commerce ministry institute, says irrational behaviour will not help matters and families should prepare to make funeral arrangements.

"Although the Malaysian government's handling of the crisis has been quite clumsy, we need to understand this is perhaps the most bizarre incident in Asian civil aviation history.

It is understandable that as a developing country, the Malaysian government felt completely at a loss," he adds.

He adds they should not accuse Malaysia of covering up information without hard evidence.

Pilot's daughter will not forgive British tabloid

12.45pm: Daughter of the MH370 pilot, Aishah Zaharie has **lashed out** at British tabloid *Daily Mail* for reports putting her father in bad light.

"Dear *Daily Mail*, you should consider making movies since you are so good at making up stories and scripts out of thin air...

"May god have mercy on your souls. You can bet you're a** I will not forgive you," she writes in a *Facebook* posting yesterday.

The remarks come after *Daily Mail* on March 29 quoted a source "close to the family", claiming Aishah had supposedly said her father was "disturbed and lost in his own world" prior to his ill-fated flight.

Kin: We know who are the good guys and the bad

12.45pm: The Chinese families have left Wisma Fo Guang Shan after prayers and speaking to the press.

Jiang Hui, one of the relatives of the Chinese passengers, thanks the Chinese and all of the governments of the countries participating in the SAR operations.

Speaking on behalf of the families, he also thanks the Malaysians who have prayed for them, the media who have voiced on their behalf and the MCA crisis relief squad for assisting them in their stay here.

"The Chinese community is a friendly one. We can tell the good from the bad.

"We will not forgive those who had killed our loved ones, those who are hiding the truth and those who are delaying the SAR operations," he says.

10.30am: The families from Beijing arrive at Wisma Fo Guang Shan in Petaling Jaya to pray for their missing.

About 40 arrive with police escort, and they wear white T-shirts that say 'Pray for MH370, please come home as soon as possible' in Chinese.

The prayer session is expected to take an hour.

The press are told to wait at the lobby for a photo session after the prayers and interviews are expected after that.

Aussie PM: Najib right about MH370 ending in ocean

10.24am: Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott defends his Malaysian counterpart Najib Abdul Razak over the latter's conclusion that Flight MH370 has "ended" in the Indian Ocean amid queries from Chinese families.

"The accumulation of evidence is that the aircraft has been lost and it has been lost somewhere in the south of the Indian Ocean.

"That's the absolutely overwhelming wave of evidence and I think that Prime Minister Najib Razak was perfectly entitled to come to that conclusion, and I think once that conclusion had been arrived at, it was his duty to make that conclusion public," UK-based *The Telegraph* quoted Abbot saying.

The Chinese are angry that Najib had made the announcement based on satellite calculations, without first finding the wreckage.

Chinese families pray for passengers

10.20am: MH370 Chinese next-of-kin, who arrived Malaysia yesterday to seek explanation from the Malaysian government, are scheduled for prayers at Wisma Fo Guang Shan in Petaling Jaya.

The Buddhist temple's administrator allows media to wait inside while the families arrive, but are asked not to interview them until prayers are complete.

Some media personnel say they will join in the prayer session to observe the proceedings.

Aussie PM: We're in for a long search

9.12am: Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott soothes fears that the search operation will give up on finding Flight MH370 after PM Najib Razak earlier declared the plane had "ended" in the Indian Ocean.

"I'm certainly not putting a time limit on it.

"We can keep searching for quite some time to come, and we will keep searching for quite some time to come.

"The intensity of our search and the magnitude of operations is increasing, not decreasing," Reuters quotes him saying.

Abbott is at the Royal Australian Air Force Base Pearce in Perth, the launchpad of the aerial search operations.

Time running out on black box

6am: The search operation in the Indian Ocean begins, says the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (Amsa).

A total of 10 aircraft and 10 ships from Australia, Malaysia, US, China, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea will be involved in the search today.

It expects low clouds and rain throughout the day in some parts of the search area.

The black box detector, borrowed from the US, will also be in action today after being fitted onto the ADV Ocean Shield which will depart from Perth.

However, US Navy captain Mark Matthews who will be leading the search using the black box detector yesterday expresses pessimism it will yield any results until the search area can be further narrowed.

"Right now, the search area is basically the size of the Indian Ocean, which takes an untenable amount of time to search." he says in *Sydney Morning Herald*.

The black box is nearing the end of its 30-day battery life, so the detector will only be useful for only a few more days.

Background:

The Beijing-bound Boeing 777-200ER aircraft went missing not long after taking off from KL International Airport in the early hours of March 8, with 12 crew members and 227 passengers.

Authorities have determined the plane intentionally made a turn-back and altered its course shortly after cutting communications with tower controllers for unknown reasons.

Its whereabouts is now narrowed to the southern Indian Ocean after employing "new analysis" methods to deduce the location based on six pings the aircraft sent out to British satellite communications provider Inmarsat's satellite.

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