

'Najib kept MH17 deal close to chest'
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Day 6 of the MH17 tragedy

Latest developments

Malaysian Parliament hold special session

Identification of bodies could take months

Only 200 bodies found, contrary to reports

Black boxes to be handed to UK for analysis

Follow us as we bring the latest updates and coverage on Flight MH17:

Parliament convenes special session

10.07am: Parliament convenes a special sitting on the MH17 tragedy. Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia, in representing all the parliamentarians, starts by expressing his condolences to the families of the crash victims.

All MPs rise as a prayer is read out.

Read the live updates from the proceeding here.

MH17 deal was Najib's 'project'

9.50am: The negotiations that led to MH17's black boxes and the remains of the passengers and crew being handed over had been "the prime minister's project" known only by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak and his closest confidants, says Reuters.

According to the report, Najib was working through intermediaries to initiate contact the leader of the self-proclaimed People's Republic of Donetsk Alexander Borodai, and had at least one phone conversation with him via a translator.

"He (Najib) was the main player and he kept this within a very, very, very tight circle. Even some of his closest advisers were not part of this circle, and were surprised by this deal," an unnamed source is quoted saying.

The report said in return for Malaysia's demands, separatist leaders wanted a signed

document acknowledging that the black box had not been tampered with.

Caribbean company files for MH17, MH370 trademark

8.50am: A company in Belize has filed trademark applications for the terms 'MH17' and 'MH370', technology news website Digital News Asia (DNA) reports.

It says Seyefull Investments Limited submitted the application on MH17 the very day the flight was shot down on July 17, while the application for MH370 was filed on May 2.

"The scope of usages listed within both applications is wide ranging: From conferences, exhibitions and competitions; to education and instruction, and entertainment services," the report says, citing publically-available documents.

If approved, it will allow the company to bar people for using the term for these purposes, or seek payment from them for using the term.

The report also quotes an unnamed trademark industry observer saying such applications of words related to current affairs are "fairly common, but also fairly pointless" because it usually gets rejected, leads to bad public relations.

However, Malaysian Airlines appeared to have filed trademark applications for MH370 and MH17 as well, both in July and later than the Seyefull application.

"I do not know why (Malaysia Airlines) filed, but it may have been alerted by the company's application or is trying to block others from registering the mark," intellectual property lawyer Foong Cheng Leong is quoted saying.

Only 200 bodies found so far

8.25am: Dutch forensic officials say only 200 bodies out of 298 MH17 victims have been found so far, not some 280 as previously reported.

Speaking in the Ukrainian government-held city of Kharkiv, forensics expert Jan Tuinder says this is based on the count by a person who was present when the refrigerated train transporting the bodies was being loaded.

He tells the BBC the number, however, could increase when his team goes through the bodies.

"We will not leave until (all) remains have left this country so we will have to go on and bargain again with the people over there," the BBC quotes him as saying.

The report also says the bodies will be flown from Kharkiv to Eindhoven, the Netherlands today (not Amsterdam, as previously reported), and then taken to a facility in Hilversum for identification – which could take several months to complete.

Meanwhile, the Interpol will carry out preliminary examinations on the bodies first before the bodies leave Kharkiv.

8am: The Dutch-led international investigation team decides to allow the UK Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) to perform forensic analysis of MH17's black boxes.

"It is normal procedure for black boxes to be sent for analysis to the nearest laboratory authorised by the International Civil Aviation Association (ICAO).

"The black boxes will therefore be flown to Farnborough, UK, accompanied by Malaysian experts and other members of the international investigation team," says Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai in a statement.

Meanwhile, Bernama quotes his deputy, Aziz Kaprawi, as saying the black boxes must be opened and analysed immediately in line with ICAO's regulations.

"There are several labs around the world which can analyse black box data and I think the nearest one is in the United Kingdom," he says in the report yesterday, adding that bringing it back to Malaysia would be in contravention to the regulations.

According to the BBC, there are only two countries in Europe that are equipped to handle the black boxes: the UK, and France.

Background:

Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 with 298 people on board crashed in eastern Ukraine at around 10.15pm on July 17 (Malaysian time), near the Ukraine-Russia border. The Boeing 777-200 was flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur and was due to arrive at 6am the next day.

A proxy war is taking place in the area pitting the Western-backed Ukraine government against Ukrainian separatists supported by Russia. It is said to be the worst crisis between the West and the former Soviet republic since the Cold War.

US says it is convinced the aircraft was shot down by a surface-to-air missile from territory controlled by Russian-backed Ukrainian rebels.

Russian president Vladimir Putin has blamed the tragedy on the Ukraine government for prolonging the war against the separatists.

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak says Malaysia will not assign blame until there is concrete evidence but wants "swift justice" against the perpetrators.

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