

## **Thai satellite spots 300 objects**

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PETALING JAYA: Thai authorities today claimed that their satellite picked up images of about 300 objects floating in the Indian Ocean, possibly from the crashed MH370.

UK-based, Sky News today reported that the items' size range from two to 15 metres (6.5 to 50 feet) in size, were scattered over an area about 1,700 miles southwest of Perth.

The sightings were announced by Thailand's Geo Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISDA)

However, search and rescue effort at the area are hampered due to bad weather conditions today.

The latest satellite lead comes as search aircraft were recalled to Perth due to poor weather conditions, which are expected to last the next 24 hours.

But several ships would stay at the area and attempt to scout for potential debris, caught by previous satellite images.

Before the weather deteriorated, the multinational search and rescue effort were trying to find possible wreckage from flight MH370, which was said to have crashed the Indian Ocean, in an area sized about 1,550 miles (2,500 kilometres) southwest of Perth, Australia.

There have now been five separate satellite leads – from Australia, China, France, and now Thailand – showing what could be the debris from flight MH370.

The Malaysian Airlines plane, en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, lost communication with air traffic control in the wee hours of March 8.

It was later revealed that MH370 made an abrupt westward turn towards the Straits of Malacca shortly after reaching Vietnam air space, and flew in the Malaysia airspace for nearly six hours before it went missing.

Yesterday, Deputy Defence Minister Abdul Rahim Bakri told the Parliament that the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) did spot a plane making turn back but did not act on it as they 'assumed' that the flight was ordered to turn back by the civilian air traffic control.

He also said the air force decided to ignore the radar signal because the aircraft was categorised as non-hostile in nature.

However, Acting Transport Minister cum Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein refused to comment on the matter, saying, "I can't confirm that".

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