

Putin ordered to shoot down passenger plane

Russian President Vladimir Putin

Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin gave an order to shoot down a passenger plane he believed would be used in a terror attack at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics, he said in a new documentary.

The plane was travelling from Ukraine to Turkey when Putin was told it had been hijacked and was on its way to Sochi, where the opening ceremony was about to take place, according to the film.

Putin said he gave permission to shoot down the jet, which had 110 people on board, after security services told him that was the procedure in such situations.

The president was

informed just before the ceremony that it was a false alarm -- the plane had not been hijacked and so was not brought down.

When interviewer Andrei Kondrashov asked how he felt during the time between the two calls, Putin said: "I'd rather not talk about that."

The two-hour documentary, released online on Sunday a week ahead of an election Putin is expected to win in a landslide, presents an overwhelmingly positive picture of the president.

The segment about the plane is intercut with images of fighter jets flying through the sky and shots of the Twin Towers on 9/11,

with an action movie-style soundtrack.

"Everything's fine," an unshakeable Putin told International Olympic Committee head Thomas Bach after the incident, according to the film.

Putin's slogan in a lacklustre election campaign has been: "A strong president -- a strong Russia".

The documentary was produced and presented by Kondrashov, who is a spokesman for Putin's campaign.

It also features interviews with a number of the Russian leader's allies including former German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. (AFP)

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As North Korea keeps silence do you think the meeting between North Korean Leader and US President will happen by May?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Cant Say



"We want to make sure that there's enough of a seed of human civilization somewhere else to bring civilization back, and perhaps shorten the length of the Dark Ages. I think a moon base and a Mars base that could perhaps help regenerate life back here on earth would be really important."

-Elon Musk
SpaceX founder

Rest in sight

Slovak minister quits after journalist murder



Slovak Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Robert Kalinak announced his resignation following tensions sparked by the murder of an investigative journalist probing links between the government and the mafia.

Bangladesh ex-PM gets bail

A Bangladeshi court granted bail to former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who was jailed last month for five years for graft, raising a chance her party might take part in a December general election.

'Military land grab' in Rohingya villages

Myanmar is building security installations on top of razed Rohingya villages casting doubt on the country's plans to repatriate hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Attacker killed at Iran envoy's Vienna house

A 26-year-old Austrian was shot dead outside the Iranian ambassador's residence in Vienna after a knife attack on a soldier guarding the building.

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Turkish private plane crash wipes out wedding party

Tehran

Investigators yesterday found the "black box" from a Turkish private jet that crashed in an Iranian mountain range on its way from the United Arab Emirates to Istanbul, killing all 11 people on board, including a Turkish bride-to-be and her hen night.

Authorities recovered all the dead from the crash site in the Zagros Mountains outside the city of Shahr-e Kord, some 370km (230 miles) south of Iran's capital, Tehran, according to a report by the state-run IRNA news

agency.

Officials have so far identified eight bodies, including that of Mina Basaran, the 28-year-old daughter of the chairman of Turkey's Basaran Investment Holding, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported yesterday.

Heavy rains and wind in the mountain range since the crash on Sunday made it impossible for helicopters to land in the area. Officials hoped to bring the bodies down from the mountain later, IRNA said. (AP)

Five killed after helicopter crashes into New York River



Yellow flotation devices mark the area where wreckage of a chartered Liberty Helicopters helicopter, that crashed into the East River is submerged, in New York

New York

Federal investigators headed to New York City yesterday to determine what caused a helicopter to crash into the frigid waters of the East River, killing all five passengers aboard, with only the pilot surviving.

Moments before the Sunday evening crash, the pilot sent a distress call over his radio, saying the engine had failed, according to the *New York Daily News*. The

red helicopter, which had been privately chartered for a photo shoot, hit the water and turned upside down at about 7 pm EDT (2300 GMT) near the northern end of Roosevelt Island, just east of Manhattan.

The National Transportation Safety Board, the federal agency that investigates civil aviation accidents, sent 14 officials to the city yesterday to determine the cause of the crash. (Reuters)

Climate protest prompts partial evacuation at Louvre



Protesters lay on the floor in front of the iconic 19th century painting "The Raft of the Medusa" at the Louvre

Paris

The Louvre briefly evacuated one its busiest rooms yesterday after black-clad environmental activists staged a protest against oil giant Total's patronage of the Paris museum.

About a dozen protesters lay down on the floor in front of "The Raft of the Medusa", an

iconic 19th-century painting by Theodore Gericault showing the shipwreck of a French navy frigate.

The demonstrators entered inconspicuously before lying down in front of the painting chanting slogans against Total, an AFP reporter said.

The Louvre confirmed it had evacuated museum-goers

from the room for around 10 minutes after the protest around 10.30 am (0930 GMT).

The activist group 350.org, which campaigns against the use of fossil fuels in favour of renewable energy, said it staged the demonstration "to symbolise victims of the oil industry". (AFP)