

Sultan of Egypt
Saladin captures
Jerusalem from
the Crusaders

King Henry
VII of Eng-
land invades
France



George Washington transmits the
proposed constitutional amendments,
known as the United States Bill of Rights,
to the states for ratification

"Prelature of the Holy Cross and the
Work of God," known as Opus Dei, is
founded by Catholic priest Josemaria
Escrivá in Madrid, Spain

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For too many people, growing older means facing insecurity & the risk of being left behind. Our elders are leaders & caregivers, playing a vital role in families, communities & economies. On this International Day of Older Persons, let's ensure longer lives are lived with choice, security & dignity.

@antonioguterres

02



Captain Smit Machchhar has shown the world the highest form of courage. Without fearing for his own life, he fought valiantly and prevented another 9/11 like attack from happening. 140 crore Indians salute Captain Smit and are praying for his well-being.

@narendramodi

03



Every one of us can walk the talk on health. This month, tens of thousands of people are running, walking, swimming and cycling for a world where no child is paralysed by polio. I'm cheering them on - and I'll continue to count my own steps too.

@DrTedros

04



After peace and prosperity, our Europe must build its power.

@EmmanuelMacron

Disclaimer: (Views expressed
by columnists are personal and
need not necessarily reflect our
editorial stance)

Indian pilot hailed as 'hero' after cockpit struggle

AFP | Mumbai, India

Indian pilot Smit Machchhar was hailed as a "hero" yesterday after fighting to retain control of a Dubai-Tel Aviv flight when his co-pilot allegedly attacked him, leaving him wounded but helping avert disaster.

But for friends and neighbours in the Mumbai suburb where his parents live, the courage came as little surprise.

They describe Machchhar, who is in his 30s and holds more than a decade of flying experience, as a soft-spoken, helpful and "always smiling" man who has remained calm under pressure since childhood.

"We did not expect any less from him -- it did not come as a surprise," said Akshay Doshi, who has known Machchhar for around 15 years and lives next door to his parents in their apartment block.

"We are proud of him for his nature, for his bravery," another neighbour, Laxmikant Joshi, told AFP.

"He saved lives when he was in danger. And in the air when he was controlling the plane and suffering injuries!"

Machchhar has said the weight of responsibility for passengers' safety weighed heavily on his mind early in his flying career.

But Pratik Gandhi told AFP his longtime friend had appeared notably composed since childhood.

"We have done all the mischief which is done by small kids. During that time he was always very calm," Gandhi said. "The same quality he has been bringing to his adult life."

That composure was tested Wednesday when Machchhar was attacked by his co-pilot aboard the flydubai flight, sparking a struggle for control of the aircraft, according to passengers and officials.

The airline said all passengers were safe. Media reports said 166 of the 174 passengers were Israeli citizens.

Authorities have not yet provided details on the type of wounds Machchhar received but have confirmed he is receiving hospital treatment.

'Superhero in the sky'

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his actions



Indian pilot Smit Machchhar, the captain of flydubai flight FZ 1073.

Indian embassy in UAE says wounded flydubai captain in good health

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

well".

The Indian ambassador to United Arab Emirates met with the wounded captain from the flydubai flight yesterday, with the embassy saying he was in "good health and recovering

Ambassador Deepak Mittal met with "Captain Smit Machchhar and his family at the hospital. Captain Machchhar is in good health and recovering well," the Indian embassy in the UAE wrote on X.

helped save hundreds of lives and avert "a great tragedy".

"Captain Smit Machchhar is a HERO," Modi said, in a post on social media.

"In the face of the gravest danger and despite being seriously injured, he showed immense courage and an unwavering resolve to protect the lives of others."

Speaking in New Delhi, Modi said he had called Machchhar's wife, mother and father.

"This valour by Smit fills us with pride.... He is currently undergoing treatment," he said.

"Today, the entire world is proud of him. I urge my fellow citizens to pray for Smit's long life and excellent health, and to salute Smit, who has brought glory to India."

Another neighbour, Bhavesh Shah, said Machchhar often returned to the family home in the Mumbai suburb of Tilak Nagar and was always ready

to help.

"Every time somebody wants help here, he helps them. His nature is very good," Shah said. "We are praying for him -- we have received the message that he is stable."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also praised the pilot's "extraordinary bravery", saying he fought back despite being wounded and helped prevent a catastrophic mid-air disaster.

Machchhar is recovering in Saudi Arabia, according to the Mumbai Mirror, which reported that his parents had flown to the Gulf kingdom to be at his side.

The newspaper dubbed him a "Superhero in the sky".

President Droupadi Murmu said the nation was proud of Machchhar, saluting his "heroic courage and incredible presence of mind" and saying his actions helped prevent a major tragedy.

Netanyahu calls stabbed Indian pilot a hero

TDT | agencies

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has praised the captain of a Flydubai jet as "a true hero" for saving the 174 people on board after he was stabbed by his co-pilot in what Israeli officials said was an attempt to bring down the plane.

Netanyahu's comments on Wednesday came as Israel's government said it would check the identities of all pilots flying into the country. Flydubai suspended flights to and from Israel as it investigates the episode on Flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv.

Netanyahu said the captain, Smit Machchhar, an Indian national, "fought back, resisted, opened the cockpit door, and enabled passengers and crew to overpower the attacker".

Despite being seriously

wounded, he said Captain Machchhar prevented "a catastrophic mid-air disaster".

"He is a true hero," Netanyahu wrote on X.

The Boeing 737 Max 8 made an emergency landing in Tabuk, in northwestern Saudi Arabia, following the incident. According to flight-tracking service Flightradar24, the plane dropped from 33,000 feet (about 10,000 metres) to 17,000ft (about 5,200 metres) in about a minute.

Netanyahu said in a video that most of the passengers were Israeli and that the co-pilot had "apparently intended to bring the aircraft down as it approached Israel". The co-pilot remains unidentified. The Israeli prime minister said Saudi authorities arrested the co-pilot after the landing and interrogated him.

A motive for the incident has not been established.

Senior UN figure says lost job for criticising Israel over Gaza

AFP | Rome, Italy

A senior official at the UN's Agriculture agency said Wednesday he had lost his job for criticising Israeli policies in Gaza, as the body's head condemned staff who "play the game of human rights".

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) director Ben Davis told AFP he had been informed in July that his contract would not be renewed after 26 years because he had allegedly breached impartiality rules.

"They accused me of organising these moments of silence on the situation of starvation and famine in Gaza," he said, referring to weekly silent protests by some employees at the Rome-based organization.

Davis was also criticised for a report he worked on about food availability in Gaza and humanitarian law, published in May.

"We were told to take it down," he said. "We weren't allowed to make any references to humanitarian law."

FAO director-general Qu Dongyu appeared to warn FAO staff Tuesday that "we don't al-



Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) director Ben Davis

low you to play the game here of human rights".

He was speaking in public comments made at the start of a filmed session on forestry.

"Of course, human rights is very important but we have the human rights agency in Geneva," he added. "If you want to take care, go there."

"That's why some senior members play the political game here, I fire him... You should follow the FAO constitution... You are against staff regulations... But I'm a very soft person, I didn't fire that many," he said.

"I will fire more people if they are against the law," he added.

FAO did not respond to a request for comment.

French school protests spread as fires, blockades deepen unrest

AFP | Paris, France

A protest by French secondary school students over overcrowded classrooms, teacher shortages and crumbling facilities deepened Thursday, with fires set outside schools and blockades in several cities.

More than 160 schools were shut down on Thursday, while university students joined the protests in Paris and Marseille. The movement in the lycées, which students aged 15 to 18 attend for their final three years of secondary education in France, has seen hundreds detained.

The government said the demonstrations had become "urban violence", and Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu on Thursday urged all ministers to postpone any travel nationwide, according to a source close to the minister.



Burning e-scooters near the Saint-Charles secondary school and the Saint-Charles train station

