## Five share data on aviation safety **Asian nations agree** o

information among themselves, including reports of severe turbulence, to help make air travel safer. Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding on Wednesday, aiming to launch the plan by the end of the agreed to share BANGKOK Five Southea said yesterday they had aviation

The agreement comes as air travel recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, which hammered tourism in the region.

The initiative was mooted last said in a joint statement year, their civil aviation authorities

The initiative was mooted last year but it took time for the coun-

tries to agree on what to share and the draw up protocols that will gov-

"In a first-of-its kind initiative in the Asia-Pacific, the five States will collaborate and share de-identified safety data and safety information to identify safety hazards and trends and develop mitigating measures to better manage safety risks," the joint statement said.

The countries identified an initial seven categories to be shared, including collision warnings, deviations from altitudes assigned by air traffic controllers and activation

of warning systems on the ground.
Reports of severe air turbulence,
windshear, bird strikes and the car-

riage of dangerous goods are also to be shared.

Thailand will act as the "custodi-an" of the data and its Singapore counterpart the "data analyst", the The Civil Aviation Authority of hailand will act as the "custodi-

the information "shall not be used to support investigations of accidents and incidents and shall not be used for punitive or enforcement purposes", the statement said.

Singapore's civil aviation authority director-general Han Kok Juan said he hoped other countries mendations from the the information "shall data, findings

for the travelling public"



Beaches in Sydney including the iconic Bondi were closed to bathers yesterday after

ndreds of black balls

## Scientists say climate change worsened fatal Nepal floods government. WWA, which uses modelling to compare weather patterns in our world and one without human-in-

in Nepal that killed more than 240 people last month, scientists said KATHMANDU Climate change, along with rapid urbanisation and turbocharged floods

said there

ing in decades in late September suffered its swamping entire in the capital worst flood-

tween the intense rainfall and a duced climate change on extreme weather events, said the link be-(WWA), a network of scientists who assess the role of human-in-Kathmandu and other districts.
World Weather Attribu Attribution

these floods would have been less intense, less destructive and less deadly," said researcher Mariam loaded with fossil fuel emissions warming planet was clear.
"If the atmosphere wasn't over-Zachariah, from Imperial College

Their analysis found the relent-less rain, which fell on saturated ground in the late monsoon, was made at least 10 per cent heavier and 70 per cent more likely by cli-They warned that such "explo-

even heavier, risking more de-structive floods" if the world does Lashing rain from rain bursts will "become September

26 sparked floods and landslides that killed 246 people and left 18 missing, according to Nepal's

However, the results were in line with growing scientific evidence on large-scale extreme rain in a warming climate, in which the atmosphere holds more water.

The role of climate change was was a high level of uncertainty in the results because of the complex tainous region affected. rain dynamics in the small, moun-

made problems, they said, in-cluding rapid urbanisation, with a nearly four-fold increase in compounded by other man-

1990. a nearly four-fold increase in built-up areas in Kathmandu since That was coupled with

deforestation that disrupted the natural flow of water, with tree cover slashed by more than a quarer plants, washed away ter since 1989. The floods smashed hydropow-

Himalayan nation this year.
"Climate change is no longer a
distant threat," said Roshan Jha,
Researcher at the Indian Institute ripped away bridges. It was the latest disastrous flood to hit the

pours, and catastrophic floods like these." AFP of Technology in Mumbai.
"With every fraction of a degree of warming, the atmosphere can potentially hold more moisture, leading to much heavier downof warming,

## Japan's ruling party could struggle to maintain majority in upcoming legislative election

may struggle to retain a majority in the October 27 House of Representatives election in the wake of slush funds scandal, while the main opposition could secure more seats than before last week's dissolution of the powerful chamber, a Kyodo News poll showed on Wednesday.

eligible voters across the counprojections, based on a one survey of 156,000

try and information gathered by Kyodo News, point to a rough road ahead for Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's Liberal Dem-

ocratic Party despite his pledge to repair its tarnished image and win back public trust.

Nearly 30 per cent of respondents in the survey said they have yet to decide which candidate to vote for in the single-seat districts, meaning the final results of the race remain fluid.

its coalition partner Komeito party, the LDP held 288. The ruling coalition is aiming to secure the majority threshold of 233 at least in the forthcoming election.

The LDP is leading in only about half of the 289 single-seat districts, while its candidates are seen neck-and-neck with their rivals in many other districts. Before Ishiba dissolved the 465-member lower house, the LDP had 256 seats. Together with

fore the race, according to polls conducted on Tuesday : Wednesday. The party is expected to see its number of seats in the pro-portional representation section representation section from the 72 held be-

The latest scandal, in which some LDP members had failed to report income from fundraising parties properly, is expected to parties properly, is expected to benefit the Constitutional Demo-

The largest opposition party, headed by former Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, is projected to increase its seats from 98, likely winning support from nonaffiliated voters.

In the first general election since 2021, each voter casts two

ballots, one to choose a candidate in a single-seat constituency and the other to select a party for proportional representation.



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