The Moscow Times
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'Four Survivors' After Russian Jet Crashes in Afghan Mountains

By AFP

January 21, 2024



Survivors of the Falcon 10 plane crash in northeastern Afghanistan. **Hurriyat**

Four people survived and two are still unaccounted for after a Russian plane crashed in mountainous northeastern Afghanistan, the air transport agency Rosaviatsia said Sunday.

The Falcon 10 business jet was believed to be carrying six people on a hospital flight from India to Uzbekistan and Russia before communication was lost on Saturday evening.

"Of the six people on board the aircraft, tentatively, four are alive. They have various injuries. The fate of two people is being clarified," Rosaviatsia said, citing the Russian embassy in Afghanistan.

The state-run RIA Novosti news agency said two passengers were Russians, one who was seriously ill, and the other was her husband who had paid for the flight.

The two-engine plane, built by France's Dassault in 1978, was owned by a company called

Athletic Group and a private individual.

A provincial government official in Afghanistan told AFP the aircraft came down in Badakhshan province, which borders China, Tajikistan and Pakistan.

The area of the crash is eight hours by road from the provincial capital Faizabad, said Zabihullah Amiri, head of the provincial information department.

Russian investigators announced the opening of a probe into the cause of the crash.

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