Airplane severely damaged after flying through storm

Vocabulary Match

to declare •	severe •	to shatter •	to predict •	to abate •
• serious	• to forecast	• to announce	• to smash	• to calm down

Article

On October 26th, Latam Flight LA1325 declared an emergency after the plane lost one of its engines while flying through a thunderstorm.

The South American airliner was flying over Paraguay when it suffered severe damage to its windshield, nose cone and engine following heavy turbulence.

Photos on Twitter show the aircraft with its nose cone completely removed and the windshield shattered by hail. It's a miracle how the pilot was able to land the plane at all.

An aeronautics specialist questioned why the pilot decided to take off at a time when the storm was predicted to be at its worst, and not wait until it had abated.

He suggested that the rush to reach the flight's destination could have been motivated by time and financial pressure, possibly from the passengers. He said that an investigation must be carried out, because situations like these affect confidence in the entire airline industry.

Quiz

1. What did heavy turbulence do to the airplane?
2. What did the aeronautics expert question?

Conversation:

Pilot: Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Our flight has been delayed...
Passenger 1: Boooo! It's hardly raining at all! Let's get this bird in the sky!
Pilot: I do apologize, but there's a thunderstorm brewing en route to our destination.
Passenger 2: Boooo! We'll miss the last train from the airport if you leave it any longer!
Pilot: *(sigh)*... well, okay! Let's do it, but fasten your seatbelts! We're in for a bumpy ride!
Passengers: Yay!!! Let's go!... *(one hour later)*... oh my god, we're all gonna die! Let me out, let me out!

Discussion

1. If you were a passenger in the above situation, would you have boarded the flight?
2. How many times have you been on a plane? Have you had any bad experiences?
3. What jobs can you think of that are important, but underpaid? Would you do those jobs?

Based on an October 27th article from abc.com.py