

Norway mourns

REUTERS, Sundvollen

Norway mourned yesterday 93 people killed in a shooting spree and car bombing by a Norwegian who saw his attacks as "atrocious, but necessary" to defeat liberal immigration policies and the spread of Islam.

In his first comment via a lawyer since his arrest, Anders Behring Breivik, 32, said he wanted to explain himself at a court hearing on Monday about extending his custody.

Armed police detained several people in a raid on a small house attached to a warehouse in northern Oslo, a police lawyer told Reuters. They were later released and had no link to Friday's attacks. No explosives were found in the raid.

The violence, Norway's worst since World War Two, has profoundly shocked the usually peaceful nation of 4.8 million.

King Harald and Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg were among mourners at a service in Oslo cathedral, where the premier spoke emotionally about the victims, some of whom he knew.

"This represents a national tragedy," he declared.

Tearful people placed flowers and candles outside the cathedral.

"We have left flowers today because the

tragedy that has hit Norway and the whole world has made a big impression on us and we want to show our deepest sympathy," said Trude-Mette, 43, who works in Oslo, as she and her children wept.

Soldiers with guns and wearing bullet-proof vests blocked streets leading to the government district.

Meanwhile, the father of Breivik told a newspaper he was in a state of shock.

"I was reading the news on the Internet and suddenly I saw his name and picture," Anders Behring Breivik's retired father told Norway's Verdens Gang paper.

"I am in a state of shock, it's absolutely horrific to hear that," said Jens Breivik, who currently lives in France.

Breivik senior, who is divorced from the suspect's mother, said he knew nothing of his son's plans and explained he had not had contact with him since 1995 when he was 15 or 16.

Police said Breivik surrendered to armed officers when they arrived on the small island of Utoeya in a lake about 42 km (26 miles) northwest of Oslo after he had methodically shot dead at least 85 people, mostly teenagers and young adults attending a summer camp of the youth wing of Norway's ruling Labour Party.



PHOTO: AFP

A woman leaves flowers in honour of the victims of the July 22 shooting spree at a Labour Party youth summer camp on the island of Utoeya yesterday. The Utoeya island, 40km south west of Oslo, can be seen in the background.

Gunman kills 5, self in Texas shooting

AFP, Washington

A gunman has killed five people during a birthday party at a roller skating rink in a Texas town before turning the gun on himself, police said.

The shooting in the town of Grand Prairie occurred late Saturday, after a fight broke out at a birthday party, said a police official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The gunman killed five people and wounded four before shooting himself in the head. He was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital, according to police.

Police say the shooter was one of the organizers of the party, which quickly got out of control when an argument erupted between two family members.

No other details were given, but the official said the incident was under investigation.

Iran accuses US, Israel of killing scientist

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday accused arch-foes the United States and Israel of masterminding the assassination of a scientist in Tehran, Dariush Rezaei-Nejad, who was reportedly associated with the defence ministry.

"The American-Zionist terrorist act yesterday against one of the country's scientists is yet another sign of the Americans' degree of animosity," speaker Ali Larijani told parliament yesterday.

"America must think carefully about the consequences of such actions," he said, urging Iran's security forces to give a "stronger response to such evil moves."

Assailants riding a motor-cycle shot dead Rezaei-Nejad, 35, in the capital on Saturday evening.

Gaddafi lashes at west 'colonial plot'

Nato bombardment continues in Tripoli

AFP, Tripoli

Nato warplanes blitzed a string of military targets in Libya yesterday, an official said, as embattled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi blamed a "colonial plot" for the conflict engulfing his country.

"In Tripoli there were two command and control nodes, two surface-to-air missile launchers and one anti-aircraft gun (hit)," a Nato official said from the mission's headquarters in Naples, Italy.

An AFP reporter said two blasts occurred at 00:50am local time in the area housing Gaddafi's residence in the heart of the capital, followed by others in the city's eastern and southeastern suburbs.

Gaddafi, meanwhile, on late Saturday said in an audio message broadcast on state television that the unrest that has swept his country since a popular uprising erupted mid-February was a "colonial plot." He did not elaborate.

He also denied accusations by international rights groups of a brutal suppression of dissent and allegations that his regime had killed thousands of protesters.

"They lie to you and say, 'Libya kills its people with bullets, that is why we have come to protect civilians'," Gaddafi said, referring to the Nato air campaign which was mandated by the United Nations with the aim of protecting civilians in Libya.

"Only eight people have been killed and an inquiry is under way to determine who killed them. There are no protests and no gunfire. Show us where the thousands of people (reportedly killed) are buried," Gaddafi said.

The latest Nato strikes came after rebel forces said they had lost 16 fighters east of Tripoli and had infiltrated the capital and attacked a regime command post.

Germany said yesterday meanwhile it was making available to the Libyan rebel National Transitional Council up to \$144 million in loans for civilian and humanitarian purposes.

HORN OF AFRICA FAMINE UN emergency talks on crisis today

AFP, Rome

The UN food agency FAO will host emergency talks on the Horn of Africa drought crisis in Rome today as aid groups scramble to raise money for an estimated 12 million people on the brink of starvation.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called on donor countries to come up with \$1.6 billion in aid for two regions of southern Somalia that were declared famine zones by the United Nations this month.

"This is an emergency ministerial meeting that is prompted by the escalation of the famine," said Cristina Amaral, head of emergency operations in Africa for the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in the Italian capital.

DROUGHT IN NUMBERS

AFP, Nairobi

Drought in the Horn of Africa is affecting some 12 million people, the most severe food security crisis in Africa since the 1991-1992 Somalia famine.

- ◆ The worst drought for decades has struck Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Djibouti. Secretive Eritrea is also believed to be affected.
- ◆ 2.23 million: the number of children be acutely malnourished in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.
- ◆ Tens of thousands are estimated to have died.
- ◆ Up to 90 percent of livestock upon which people depend has died in some areas.
- ◆ 720,000: the number of children at risk of death without urgent assistance.
- ◆ Nearly half of Somalia's estimated 10 million people are facing a food crisis.
- ◆ One-quarter of war-torn Somalia's entire population is displaced.
- ◆ 50 percent: the rates of malnutrition in some parts of Somalia, the highest in the world.
- ◆ \$1.6 billion: the amount UN urges donors to come up with in aid.

Suicide blast kills 9 Yemeni troops

AFP, Aden

A suicide bomber yesterday detonated a truck packed with explosives at an army camp in Aden, killing nine soldiers, a military source said, amid raging battles between troops and Islamist militants.

The defence ministry blamed al-Qaeda for the massive blast, which soldiers said tore through military vehicles as they were leaving the army camp.

The military source said that nine people were killed and 21 others wounded in the blast, and that some of the wounded were in serious condition, including four who were evacuated by helicopter to the capital Sanaa.

Government sources put the toll at four.

NEWS IN brief

Chavez says he is free of cancer after treatment in Cuba

AFP, Caracas

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was back in his country yesterday after undergoing chemotherapy treatment in Cuba, declaring himself free of "malignant cells" and ready to continue his work.

The 56-year-old leader underwent an operation in Cuba a month ago for a cancerous tumor in his pelvic area.

Chavez, who was welcomed at the airport by members of his cabinet and top military officials late Saturday, said he was confident of a quick recovery.

He cautioned, however, that there existed the risk of a relapse and predicted new medical procedures that he did not identify.

N Korea holds local polls with '99.97 percent' turnout

AFP, Seoul

Almost all North Korean voters cast ballots yesterday to elect representatives for local assemblies, state media said, with the polls expected to unanimously favour the ruling communist party.

The vote for deputies to assemblies at provincial, city and county levels began at 9:00am across the country, with participants in a festive mood, Korean Central News Agency said.

It said that all participants would cast "yes" votes in support of the ruling communist party, adding later about 99.97 percent of eligible voters had cast their ballots by 6pm local time.

Usually, 99 percent of voters in the de facto single-party state take part in elections and 99 percent of

Pirates seize Italian tanker

AFP, Rome

Pirates seized an Italian tanker with a crew of 23 in the Gulf of Guinea yesterday, the ANSA news agency said.

The Rbd Anema e Core's crew includes 20 Filipino seamen, two Italians and a Romanian captain. Three pirates managed to board the ship 23 nautical miles south of Cotonou, the economic capital of Benin.

Italy stepped up its measures against piracy earlier in July, clearing commercial ships sailing through dangerous waters to use private security guards or soldiers for protection.

Focus on Islamists let other extremists go beyond radar

AFP, Stockholm

Security services in Norway and elsewhere in the region had recently shifted their focus to Islamist extremism, letting other forms of terror slip under the radar, experts said.

While there had been initial fears that Friday's twin attacks might have been an act of revenge for Norway's participation in the campaigns in Afghanistan and Libya, everything changed when it emerged the suspect was a native Norwegian.

Named by media as Anders Behring Breivik, the alleged killer has been described by police as a "fundamentalist Christian" whose political opinions leaned "to the right." He had also been a member of the populist right-wing Progress Party (FrP) and was a member of a Swedish neo-Nazi Internet forum.

For some, the suspect is an example of far-right extremism, which has got less attention while intelligence agen-

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cies concentrated on radical Islam.

For others, such as Daniel Poohl of Sweden's Expo foundation, a leading group in monitoring far-right activity across Scandinavia, he is representative of a new kind of terrorism fuelled by anti-Muslim sentiment and fear from multiculturalism.

In a report published earlier this year, Norway's intelligence agency said that far-right extremists existed in Norway, but that they had "barely been active in recent years."

"However, the trend that saw an increased level of activity in 2010 is expected to continue in 2011," the Norwegian Police Security Service (PST)'s annual threat assessment report read.

But the PST noted that "as in previ-

ous years, the far-right and far-left extremist communities will not represent a serious threat to Norwegian society in 2011."

"The lack of strong leadership limits the growth of these groups," it said.

Instead, it said it was "primarily" Islamist extremists "who could pose a direct threat to Norway in the year ahead."

Robert Oerell of Sweden's Exit foundation, which helps those who wish to leave nationalist, racist and Nazi-oriented groups and movements, said that the focus on Islamist radicals had favoured far-right extremists.

"It justifies their perception that the Nordic people are under threat from Islamists," he told news agency TT.

"As soon as I heard about Norway I thought this would be the far-right, so on that level it is not a surprise. I would not necessarily say it was brewing but we have seen a few trends pointing towards it," he told AFP.

A new member in Club 27

Amy Winehouse joins an extraordinary band of musician who died at 27



Amy Winehouse

A significant number of troubled musicians to die at the age of 27.

The list of stars who have died at this early stage in their life covers a range of eras and styles but one thing they have in common is that they had a huge influence on music during their short careers.

The ultimate rock 'n' roll expression "live fast, die young" - which actually dates from the 1949 Humphrey Bogart movie Knock On Any Door - is often quoted in the cases of five other musicians who left their fans wanting more at the age of 27.

JANIS JOPLIN (1943-1970)

At the height of her career, the singer was

BBC ONLINE

The death of singer Amy Winehouse, after her long battle with drink and drugs, means the Londoner joins a significant number of troubled musicians to die at the age of 27.



claimed she would inject up to \$200 worth of the drug per day.

Joplin's body was discovered by her road manager John Cooke at the Landmark Motor Hotel in Los Angeles.

JIMI HENDRIX (1942-1970)

Widely regarded as one of the greatest electric guitarists in musical history, Hendrix was also well known for his sense of style.

The official post-mortem examination report stated that he had choked on his own vomit.

JIM MORRISON (1943-1971)

The Doors frontman, who would often improvise poems while on stage, was

known as the Queen of Rock and Roll and the Queen of Psychedelic Soul.

The singer had a heavy addiction to heroin and it was



found dead in a bathtub in a Paris flat.

Medics said heart failure was the cause of death. Since then, much has been written about his death

with friends of the star claiming he died of a drug overdose.

KURT COBAIN (1967-1994)

The US songwriter was best known as the lead singer in grunge band Nirvana.

His heroin addiction and battle with depression was well documented.

In 1994 an electrician, who had arrived to install a security system at Cobain's house, discovered the star's body.

A shotgun was found lying on his chest and the coroner ruled he had died from a gun wound to his head and concluded the death to be a suicide.



Time travel impossible

Say Hong Kong scientists

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong physicists say they have proved that a single photon obeys Einstein's theory that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light -- demonstrating that outside science fiction, time travel is impossible.

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology research team led by Du Shengwang said they had proved that a single photon, or unit of light, "obeys the traffic law of the universe".

"Einstein claimed that the speed of light was the traffic law of the universe or in simple language, nothing can travel faster than light," the university said on its website.

The possibility of time travel was raised 10 years ago when scientists discovered superluminal -- or faster-than-light -- propagation of optical pulses in some specific medium, the team said.

It was later found to be a visual effect, but researchers thought it might still be possible for a single photon to exceed light speed.

"The study, which showed that single photons also obey the speed limit c, confirms Einstein's causality; that is, an effect cannot occur before its cause," the university said.

Population no less

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The reporters raised the issue saying that finding the real figure of population is crucial for successful implementation of the national budget.

The "underestimated" census data also sparked debate among policymakers and analysts as those could misguide the government in decision-making process. A powerful cabinet member Matia Chowdhury also raised questions on the census data.

"The complaint is every house was not covered. Even the house of the agriculture minister was not covered," said Muhith. Simultaneously, the minister added this census was relatively better as it used digital maps and voter lists in reaching out to the people.

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Muhith said the data that has been published is a preliminary estimate and further work is being carried out to finalise it. He added BIDS would finish sample survey by September this year and after that the country will get a final figure.

"There has always been a difference of nearly two crore between the UNFPA and the government estimates. This time the government has included UNFPA into the census," the minister pointed out.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) early last year projected Bangladesh's population at 16.44 crore, which triggered criticism particularly from the government. Later, UNFPA revised the population at 14.87 crore.