

Brussels reopens schools, metro

Authorities issue international arrest warrant for new Paris attack suspect

AGENCIES

Brussels struggled to return to normal yesterday after four days on maximum terror alert, with schools and the metro reopening despite two suspects from the Paris attacks still at large.

But the Belgian capital remains on the highest alert, with hundreds of armed police and soldiers on patrol.

Authorities fear the possibility of Paris-style attacks, as several of the attackers were based in Brussels.

France says 130 people died in a series of attacks in Paris. At least one suspected attacker is still at large.

The so-called Islamic State (IS) group says it carried out the gun and bomb attacks on 13 November. Five people in Belgium have been charged with terrorism offences in connection with the attacks.

In Brussels, schools reopened on Wednesday and public transport began running again from 06:00 (GMT) though some metro lines remained closed.

However, the city is expected to remain on its current top level of alert until at least next

Monday.

Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders said the authorities were looking for about 10 suspects who might have been involved in planning attacks, possibly on shopping centres.

Parisian suburb of Saint Denis, was near the Bataclan theatre during a deadly siege there.

French officials say Abaaoud was in a vehicle that dropped attackers off at a cafe and restaurants that were also targeted on

Defense business district.

On Tuesday, an arrest warrant was issued in Belgium for a man named Mohamed Abrini over the attacks.

Prosecutors say that two days before the attacks, he was seen driving a car with suspect Salah Abdeslam at a petrol station on the motorway to Paris.

Abrini is described as "dangerous and probably armed". Abdeslam is currently the subject of an international manhunt after the attacks.

French President Francois Hollande is due to meet German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday, as part of a diplomatic push to address the threat from IS.

On Tuesday, Hollande met US President Barack Obama in Washington, while on Thursday he is scheduled to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Obama said there would be increased co-operation with France to hit IS targets in Iraq and Syria. He also called on the EU to implement an agreement that would require airlines to share passenger information in order to track suspected militants.

TERROR THREAT IN EUROPE



A Belgian police officer stands guard outside a school in central Brussels, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Meanwhile, it has emerged that Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the suspected ringleader who was killed in police raids in the

night of 13 November.

Prosecutors say there is evidence that Abaaoud was planning a later attack on the La

'License to preach' for French imams!

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The largest group representing French Muslims has called for imams to be given a certificate "like a driving licence" to preach after being tested for extremism.

The French Council for the Muslim Religion (CFCM) is spearheading efforts to counter jihadist propaganda amid renewed scrutiny on mosques following the Paris attacks.

Anouar Kibiche, president of the CFCM, said imams should be given a certificate "like a driving licence" that ensured they promoted a "tolerant and open Islam", AFP reported.

He did not say whether he thought the process should be obligatory but added: "The time for action has come. The Muslims of France will play their part."

The proposed system would test applicants on their theological knowledge and adherence to French values before making them sign a charter agreeing to adhere to French law.

The CFCM is also planning a "religious council" that would challenge jihadist ideology using theological arguments.

'EU can't take any more refugees'

Says French prime minister

BBC ONLINE

European countries cannot accept any more refugees, the French prime minister has been quoted as saying.

Manuel Valls said stricter control of the EU's external borders would determine the bloc's fate, in comments published by the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*.

"We cannot accommodate any more refugees in Europe, that's not possible," he said, adding that tighter control of Europe's external borders was needed.

"If we don't do that, the people will say: 'Enough of Europe,'" Valls warned.

Europe's border controls have come under renewed scrutiny since the terrorist attacks in Paris on 13 November. Many countries have closed or restricted their borders to migrants fearing terrorist may infiltrate Europe disguised as refugees.

Balkan countries, including Macedonia and Croatia, sparked human rights concerns last week by imposing new restrictions - only allowing passage to people fleeing countries affected by war. Hundreds of migrants stuck at the Greece-Macedonia border have staged protests, including by sewing their lips together.

Meanwhile, in the wake of Paris attacks, Canada on Tuesday said it remains committed to taking in 25,000 Syrian refugees but only 10,000 of them by year's end. It said 15,000 would now arrive in the first two months of 2016.



NEWS IN brief

Swiss region imposes £6,500 burka fine

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Wearing a burka or niqab in public has been banned in the Swiss region of Ticino, with offenders facing a fine of up to £6,500. The region's parliament approved the law on Monday, which will ban full-face veils in the wake of heightened terrorist alerts across Europe, Swiss news site The Local reports. No exceptions will be made for tourists, but other forms of face coverings such as masks, balaclavas or crash helmets will still be permitted.

As you know, we're very concerned about the violence and the potential for the situation to spin out of control," Kerry told reporters as he arrived home in Boston after visiting leaders from both sides in Jerusalem.

Conflict may 'spin out of control'

Says Kerry as one more Palestinian shot dead after alleged knife attack

AFP, Jerusalem

US Secretary of State John Kerry warned yesterday that the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is at a "pivotal point" and could worsen beyond repair unless both sides make rapid compromises.

"Over these past months we have been encouraging the parties to take affirmative steps to reduce tensions and demonstrate a genuine commitment to a two state solution.

"I think we may be reaching a pivotal point now where both sides have important decisions to make for the future and we obviously hope that they make choices that will advance the prospects for lasting peace."

Kerry met with both Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas on Tuesday in Jerusalem and Ramallah.

But he left without a concrete breakthrough and said he would continue to press both leaders on the issue in coming weeks.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian stabbed an Israeli in the neck in the southern West Bank yesterday and was shot dead by forces at the scene, the army and a hospital said.

Violence since October 1 has left 92 Palestinians dead, including one Arab Israeli, as well as 17 Israelis -- including the two Israeli-Americans -- one American and an Eritrean.

'This is all bad news for the planet'

UN says 2015 'to be the warmest on record'; developing nations risk spending 50 pc more if deal goes wrong

AGENCIES

The year 2015 is shaping up to be the hottest on record, the UN's weather agency said yesterday, days before a UN summit opens in Paris to craft a climate rescue pact.

More than 145 world leaders are set to gather in Paris from Monday for a conference seeking to cap average global warming at two degrees Celsius above mid-19th century levels.

Data until the end of October showed this year's temperatures running "well above" any previous 12 month period. The researchers say the five year period from 2011 to 2015 was also the warmest on record.

The rise, they state, was due to a combination of a strong El Nino and human-induced global warming. The WMO said their preliminary estimate, based on data from January to October, showed that the global average surface temperature for 2015 was 0.73 degrees C above the 1961-1990 average.

The WMO said that levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere reached new highs.

"The state of the global climate in 2015 will make history for a number of reasons," said WMO secretary-general Michel Jarraud.

PARIS
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3
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India Kashmir stand-off ends

4 killed as militants storm army camp

BBC ONLINE

A civilian and three armed militants have been killed in a fierce gun battle at an army camp in Indian-administered Kashmir.

The three gunmen forced their way into the camp near the Line of Control (LoC), the de facto border that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

An army official said the attackers entered after cutting through a fence yesterday.

Both India and Pakistan claim Kashmir in its entirety. Militants have been fighting Indian rule since 1989.

The gunmen stormed the army base at Tangdhar, 140 kilometres northwest of the main city of Srinagar, firing automatic weapons.

The army's counter-offensive lasted for about six hours, agencies said.

"Three terrorists were killed in the exchange of stand-off fire that began in the morning hours. One soldier was wounded in the firefight," defence spokesman in Srinagar NN Joshi told the AFP news agency.

Last week, fighting in the same district saw an Indian colonel killed in a gun battle with militants, while two soldiers were seriously injured.

India often accuses Pakistan of arming, training and sending rebels across the heavily militarised border into Indian-administered Kashmir. Islamabad denies the charge, saying it provides only political support for their struggle for self-determination.



Aamir stands by intolerance remark

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan yesterday asserted that he stood by his comments on growing "intolerance" and made it clear that neither he nor his wife Kiran Rao has any intention of leaving India.

Aamir, 50, who drew flak from India's ruling BJP and a section of film fraternity for expressing his "alarm and despondency" over spurt in recent incidents of intolerance, came out with a statement, saying he is "proud to be an Indian".

The statement quoted Rabindranath Tagore's famous poem "Chitto jetha bhoy shunno, ucho jetha shir" (where the mind is without fear and the head is held high).

Aamir said "first let me state categorically that neither I, nor my wife Kiran, have any intention of leaving the country. We never did and nor would we like to in the future."

The actor had kicked up a political storm with his remarks at an award function in New Delhi on Monday about his wife expressing fear for their child in the current atmosphere.

The actor yesterday said in the statement that "anyone implying the opposite has either not seen my interview or is deliberately trying to distort what I have said. India is my country, I love it, I feel fortunate for being born here and this is where I am staying."

Aamir also said "I stand by everything that I have said in my interview. To all those people who are calling me anti-national, I would like to say that I am proud to be Indian, and I do not need anyone's permission nor endorsement for that."



A demonstrator confronts police officers after protests broke out in Chicago, Illinois, in reaction to the release of a police video of the 2014 shooting of a black teenager Laquan McDonald, by a white policeman, Jason Van Dyke. Racial tensions soared in Chicago Tuesday after the video showed the police officer shooting the teen, who is accused of holding a knife, 16 times. The officer was charged with murder in the incident.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Ukraine closes airspace to all Russian planes

AFP, Kiev

Tensions between Moscow and Kiev ratcheted up further yesterday as Ukraine decided to stop buying gas from Russia and closed its airspace to its giant eastern neighbour's airlines.

The two measures not only underscore the acrimonious nature of the former Soviet countries' relations but also highlight how difficult one of Europe's deadliest crises since the Balkans Wars of the 1990s may be to resolve.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk told a televised cabinet meeting that the flight ban was justified because "Russia might use Ukrainian airspace to stage provocations".

"This is an issue of our country's national security -- a response to the Russian Federation and its aggressive actions."

Ukraine and its Western allies accuse Moscow of orchestrating and supporting the pro-Russian revolt in the east to avenge last year's ouster of Kiev's Kremlin-backed president and the new government's decision to align itself with the West.

Kiev on October 25 barred most Russian airlines from flying into Ukraine -- a decision that prompted immediate reciprocal measures by Moscow.

But President Petro Poroshenko's government had at the time allowed Russian airlines to cross Ukrainian airspace to other destinations.

Yatsenyuk said the new decision came "in part as result of the escalation of the military and geopolitical situation".

A shaky Ukrainian truce is being increasingly put to the test as Russia steps up its air campaign in support of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria.



Dr. Amit Goel

MBBS, MS (General Surgery), MCh (Urology)
Fellowship (Uro Oncology and Robotic Surgery)

Consultant - Urology

- Obtained his MBBS degree from the Govt. Medical College affiliated with Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, and his MS General Surgery from the Government Medical College, Aurangabad affiliated to Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, and his MCh in Urology from the Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (S.S.K.M.P.G. Hospital) affiliated to West Bengal University of Health Sciences, Kolkata .
- He was awarded the prestigious European Resident Education Travelling Fellowship by the Urological Society of India.
- He completed an Observership at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, U.S.
- He worked as Senior Resident in General Surgery at Fortis Hospital, as a Clinical Assistant in Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre and as a Clinical Assistant in the Department of Urology and Andrology at the Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi where he trained in placement of Penile Prosthesis for male patients with erectile dysfunction, and treated male infertility.
- Dr Amit completed a fellowship in Urology Cancer and Robotic Surgery at the Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre, Delhi, where he was a Consultant in Genito-urinary Oncology Department.
- He is specialized in open/laparoscopic surgeries for urological malignancies, Robotic Surgery for Prostate Cancer, Bladder Cancer, Renal Tumours, Testicular Tumours, Penile Cancer and Laser Surgeries for Stones and Prostate. He is highly experienced in Renal Transplant surgeries and Laparoscopic Donor Nephrectomies for renal transplants

There is no need to go abroad anymore



Appointments & Emergency

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