



(From top right, clockwise) Paramedics attend to injured outside Istanbul Ataturk Airport, following an attack; people run for cover during the carnage; and relatives of one of the victims of the attack mourn in front of a morgue in Istanbul, yesterday. Suspected IS militants killed at least 41 people and injured over 200 in a triple suicide bombing and gun attack at Istanbul's main airport on Tuesday. Story on page 1.



MAJOR ATTACKS IN TURKEY

2016 - June 28: At least 41 people are killed, including 13 foreigners, and over 200 injured in a triple suicide bombing and gun attack at Istanbul's Ataturk airport. Islamic State group is blamed for the attack.

2016 - March 13: At least 34 people are killed and dozens wounded in a suicide car bomb attack in Ankara. The TAK claims the assault.

2016 - February 17: At least 29 are killed in a car bombing targeting the Turkish military in Ankara. Attack claimed by TAK.

2016 - January 12: 11 German tourists are killed and another 16 people wounded in a suicide attack by a Syrian bomber in Istanbul's Sultanahmet district, the ancient tourist heart of the city. IS blamed for the attack.

2015 - October 10: In the bloodiest attack in Turkey's history, 103 people are killed and more than 500 wounded in twin suicide bombings targeting a pro-Kurdish peace rally in Ankara. IS calimed responsibility.

2015 - July 20: 34 people are killed and about 100 wounded in a suicide bombing in the predominantly Kurdish town of Suruc near the border with Syria. Turkish officials blame IS.

2013 - May 11: A twin car bomb attack kills 52 people in the town of Reyhanli near the Syrian border. Pro-Damascus groups blamed.

2008 - July 27: Two bombings in Istanbul leave 17 dead and 115 wounded. Ankara blames the PKK.

2003 - Nov 15 and 20: Four suicide car bomb attacks in Istanbul hit two synagogues, the British consulate and a branch of the British multinational bank HSBC, leaving 63 dead, including Britain's consul general, and hundreds wounded. The attacks are claimed by Al-Qaeda.

1986 - September 6: A twin suicide bombing kills 22 people at a synagogue in Istanbul.

SOURCE: AFP

Brexit is irreversible 'For heaven's sake, go!'

Says Merkel; Scottish leader in Brussels makes case for EU

AGENCIES

Angela Merkel has said there is no way to reverse the UK's decision to vote for Brexit, calling it "wishful thinking" to suggest there is any way Britain can stay in the EU.

The German Chancellor was speaking ahead of the second day of an EU summit, which went on without David Cameron yesterday.

Merkel held what will be her last ever meeting with the UK Prime Minister at a Brussels summit on Tuesday, but insisted it was not a time for either sadness or anger.

Describing the talks as "serious" but "friendly", she called on the rest of Europe to take the opportunity in the coming days to move on with the situation it finds itself in.

Asked if she saw any possibility for Britain to U-turn on its EU decision, Merkel said: "I want to say very clearly tonight that I see no way to reverse this.

"We all need to look at the reality of the situation. It is not the hour for wishful thinking."

Early indications suggest many EU leaders appear keen to get Brexit over and done with now the UK has decided to leave.

Meanwhile, Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon made a dash to Brussels yesterday to tell the EU that Scots were intent on staying in the bloc, hours after David Cameron told a summit that Britain was pulling out.

"This is very much an initial meeting, a series of meetings in Brussels today, so that people understand that Scotland, unlike other parts, of the United Kingdom does not want to leave the European Union," Sturgeon told reporters after meeting European Parliament President Martin Schulz.

Later in the day, the pro-independence Scottish leader will meet the head of the EU executive, European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, and may try to probe the -- hitherto flimsy -- options a break-away Scotland might have to somehow remain in the European Union once the United Kingdom completes its Brexit.

Juncker's decision to roll out the red carpet for her on the day the 27 other EU leaders held their first meeting without Britain was seen by some diplomats as an attempt to pressure London to hand in its formal notice to quit.

But, acting Spanish Premier Mariano Rajoy yesterday said Madrid would oppose any separate talks with Scotland on its future in the EU in the wake of Brexit.

It is also understood European Council president Donald Tusk has no plans to meet Sturgeon because he does not consider it to be the right time.

There has been a surge in sympathy around Europe for the 5.5 million Scots after nearly two-thirds of them voted in last week's UK referendum to stay in the EU, only to see the English, ten times more numerous, vote 52-48 percent for Brexit.

REUTERS, London

Prime Minister David Cameron, who promised to resign after Britain voted to leave the European Union, had some advice for his opposite number in the Labour Party yesterday: "For heaven's sake man, go!"

An overwhelming majority of Labour lawmakers passed a no confidence motion in Jeremy Corbyn on Tuesday and almost all his senior policy team have withdrawn their support in protest at his leadership, but Corbyn has refused to step down.

Cameron, speaking in parliament, said it was not in the national interest for Corbyn to remain in his post.

"For heaven's sake man, go," Cameron said, drawing cheers from members of both parties. "It might be in my party's interest for him to sit there, it's not in the national interest."

Cameron's unusually blunt comments illustrate the pressure Corbyn is under to quit after Britain voted to leave the EU following a campaign in which critics say Corbyn did not do enough to persuade voters to back 'Remain'.

Cameron also said his successor could begin negotiations with the European Union about the country's exit from the bloc before the formal 'Article 50' legal process is triggered, despite comments from the EU to the contrary.

"They have said 'no negotiation, without notification' but I don't think that excludes discussion that a new prime minister can have with partners or indeed with the institutions so that we continue to get off on the right foot," he said.

Cameron also said that keeping the United Kingdom together was of paramount importance, responding to concerns that its constituent nations could seek independence after Britons voted to leave the European Union.

"Keeping the United Kingdom together is an absolute paramount national interest for our country," he told parliament



Brexit may not happen, says Kerry

US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Tuesday that Britain's vote to leave the European Union might never be implemented and that London is in no hurry to go.

Speaking one day after talks with Prime Minister David Cameron, Kerry said the outgoing British leader feels "powerless" to negotiate a departure he does not want.

"This is a very complicated divorce," Kerry told the Aspen Ideas Festival, referring to Britain's negotiated exit from the EU after last week's "Brexit" referendum.

Kerry, who visited Downing Street on Monday, said Cameron was loath to invoke "Article 50" of the Lisbon treaty, which would trigger a two-year timetable for departure.

London, Kerry explained, does not want to find itself boxed in after two years without a new association agreement and to be forced out of the EU without one.

Asked by the panel moderator if this meant the Brexit decision could be "walked back" and if so how, Kerry said: "I think there are a number of ways."

"I don't as secretary of state want to throw them out today. I think that would be a mistake. But there are a number of ways," he said.

Washington has long supported a strong role for its British ally in the European project, and was dismayed when British voters chose last week to quit the Union.

Now, US officials are calling for a calm debate on Brexit leading to a deal that would allow a close association between London and Brussels to continue.

India arrests 5 for 'plotting IS attacks'

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian counter-terrorism officials yesterday arrested five men on suspicion of plotting a series of attacks across the country on behalf of Islamic State, two intelligence officials said.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and local police raided 11 locations in the southern city of Hyderabad at dawn, seizing ammunition, explosive materials and cash.

Nine men were detained and five of them were arrested for conspiracy to wage war against the Indian state, one of the officials said. If a suspect is arrested, police have 90 days to present charges.

"We have ample proof to show that the suspects were working for ISIS (Islamic State) and also had direct connection with Syrian leaders," the first official told Reuters.

The second official, NIA Inspector General Sanjeev Kumar, said the men were recruited by an Islamic State handler operating outside of India, but declined to say how many of those detained would be charged.

Islamic State has struggled to win over many recruits in India, which is home to the world's third-largest Muslim population. A handful of Indians travelled to Iraq and Syria to join Islamic State.

However, Indian police arrested 29 men last year for establishing bases to recruit men to the Islamist militant group. All men were charged with conspiracy to wage war against the state.



Water is released from the floodgates of the Xiaolangdi dam on the Yellow River near Luoyang, in China's Henan province, yesterday. The floodgates are opened every year in an operation to flush millions of tonnes of silt from the river bed.

Turkey, Russia mend rift

Putin lifts Turkey travel restrictions, orders trade normalisation

AFP, Moscow

President Vladimir Putin yesterday lifted Moscow's travel restrictions to Turkey and ordered trade ties normalised after his first phone call with counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan since Ankara downed a Russian jet last year.

In the wake of the November incident Moscow slapped a range of sanctions on Ankara, including an embargo on some Turkish food products, as well as a ban on charter flights and sales of package tours to the country and the reintroduction of visas for Turkish visitors.

"I ask that the Russian government begins the process of normalising general trade and economic ties with Turkey," Putin told government ministers in televised comments.

The breakthrough phone call by Putin to Erdogan came after the Turkish strongman on Monday sent a letter to the Kremlin leader that Moscow said contained an apology.

In a statement, the Kremlin said that Putin expressed "profound condolences" over the Monday bombing and shooting attack at Istanbul's main airport that killed at least 41 people and was pinned by Ankara on Islamic State group.

The Turkish presidency said in a statement that Erdogan and Putin "highlighted the importance of the normalisation of bilateral relations between Turkey and Russia."

Erdogan is expected to meet with Putin in September on the sidelines of the forthcoming G20 summit in China for their first face-to-face talks since the start of the diplomatic row, a Turkish

official told AFP yesterday speaking on condition of anonymity.

The downing of the Russian warplane in Syria slammed the brakes on burgeoning relations between Russia and Turkey and sparked a bitter war of words between the leaders.

Putin called it a "stab in the back" and demanded an apology from Erdogan, who he also accused of being involved in the illegal oil trade with the Islamic State group.

Ankara has said Erdogan expressed his "regret" over the incident in Monday's letter to Putin and asked the family of the pilot who died to "excuse us", but has not explicitly confirmed he apologised for shooting down the plane.

Turkey has argued that the Russian plane strayed into its airspace and ignored repeated warnings, but Russia insisted it did not cross the border and accused Turkey of a "planned provocation."



Brexit's message could boost Trump's support: Sanders

Warns against economic stagnation, inequalities

AFP, New York

The same popular frustration that saw a majority of Britons vote to abandon the EU could send droves of disgruntled Americans into the arms of Donald Trump, Bernie Sanders warned yesterday.

In an opinion piece appearing in the New York Times, Sanders wrote that legions of American voters, alienated by the forces of globalization, are ripe for the message of political retrenchment and economic protectionism espoused by Trump.

"Could this rejection of the current form of the global economy happen in the United States? You bet it could," wrote Sanders.

"The notion that Donald Trump could benefit from the same forces that gave the 'Leave' proponents a majority in Britain should sound an alarm for the Democratic Party in the United States," Sanders wrote.

"Millions of American voters, like the 'Leave' supporters, are understandably angry and frustrated by the economic forces that are

destroying the middle class," he continued.

"We must create national and global economies that work for all, not just a handful of billionaires."

Trump has won the support of millions by echoing many themes embraced by disaffected "Leave" supporters in Britain -- including sentiments viewed by some as hostile to immigration.

Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, said economic stagnation is the source of much of the public disaffection in the United States with the status quo.

"Let's be clear. The global economy is not working for the majority of people in our country and the world. This is an economic model developed by the economic elite to benefit the economic elite. We need real change," he said.

"But we do not need change based on the demagoguery, bigotry and anti-immigrant sentiment that punctuated so much of the Leave campaign's rhetoric -- and is central to Donald J Trump's message."

NEWS IN brief

Hague court to rule on S China Sea case

AFP, The Hague

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague -- the world's oldest international tribunal for the peaceful resolution of disputes between nations -- yesterday said it will rule on July 12 in the highly-watched case brought by the Philippines challenging China's claims to much of the strategic waterway in the South China Sea. Beijing said it will not comply with any decisions by the tribunal.

Pay hike for Indian govt employees

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Indian cabinet yesterday approved the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission which will benefit over one crore government employees and pensioners. The Commission had recommended a 23.55 per cent overall hike in salaries, allowances and pension involving an additional burden of Rs 1.02 lakh crore, or nearly 0.7 per cent of Indian GDP.

Zika vaccine 'works very well' in mice

BBC ONLINE

A single dose of an experimental vaccine can protect mice against the Zika virus, raising renewed hope of a vaccine for humans, say scientists. The US team say the results, published in Nature, are "striking" and should "galvanise" research efforts. Tests in humans could begin in months. Zika has been spreading across Central and South America and, most recently, Africa.