

Paris gunman kills three in attack on Kurdish cafe

Three others injured; prosecutors look into possible racist motive for the attack

REUTERS, Paris

A gunman opened fire on a Kurdish cultural centre and nearby Kurdish cafe in central Paris yesterday, killing three people and wounding three others, and prosecutors said they were looking into a possible racist motive for the attack.

Multiple gunshots were fired on Rue d'Enghien, sowing panic on a street lined with small shops and cafes in the capital's busy central 10th arrondissement, or district. Authorities said they had arrested a 69-year-old man and the incident was now over.

"It was Kurds who were targeted," Juan-Golan Eliberg, an artist who works at the Kurdish centre told Reuters.

The Paris prosecutor said the suspect was previously known to the authorities and that a possible racist dimension to the attack would be investigated.

Julien Verplancke who works at another



local restaurant, Chez Minna, said staff from the Kurdish restaurant emerged from the premise in tears after the shooting.

The incident was a "terrible drama", district mayor Alexandra Cordebard told reporters. Two of those wounded had suffered life-threatening injuries, she said.

An investigation has been opened into murder, manslaughter and aggravated violence, the Paris prosecutor's office said.

The prosecutor said the suspected gunman had been detained a year ago for an attack with a sabre on a migrant camp in Paris and investigated for a racially motivated crime.

BFM TV reported the suspect was a French national. Armed police were still guarding a security cordon as investigators swarmed the scene.

One witness told French news agency AFP that seven or eight shots had been fired. A second witness, speaking to BFM TV, said the suspected gunman was a white man who opened fire in silence.



Pedestrians cross the street in Chicago, Illinois, US on Thursday night, during a winter storm ahead of the Christmas holiday. A "once-in-a-generation" winter storm with temperatures as low as -40 degrees Fahrenheit caused Christmas travel chaos in the United States, with thousands of flights cancelled and major highways closed.

PHOTO: AFP

CAPITOL RIOT PROBE

Panel's report sets out case to try Trump

REUTERS, Washington

The congressional panel probing the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol released its final report late on Thursday, outlining its case that former US President Donald Trump should face criminal charges of inciting the deadly riot.

The House of Representatives Select Committee also made public the transcripts of a number of its interviews and witness testimonies earlier on Thursday and on Wednesday.

The report is based on nearly 1,200 interviews over 18 months and hundreds of thousands of documents, as well as the rulings of more than 60 federal and state courts.

The report lists 17 findings, discusses legal implications of actions by Trump and some of his associates and includes criminal referrals to the Justice Department of Trump and other individuals, according to an executive summary released earlier this week.

UNIVERSITY BAN FOR AFGHAN WOMEN

US warns Taliban of 'costs'

Blinken says Taliban-led govt won't be able to improve global ties if it continues to deny women their rights

AGENCIES

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has warned the Taliban that the United States will impose "costs" on the group if it does not reverse its recent ban on women attending university in Afghanistan.

Blinken said on Thursday that the Taliban-run administration will fail in its efforts to improve relations with the rest of the world unless the militants reverse the ban, reports Reuters.

"What they've done is to try to sentence Afghan women and girls to a dark future without opportunity," Blinken said during an end-of-year news conference in Washington, DC.

"And the bottom line is that no country is going to be able to succeed - much less thrive - if it denies half its population the



opportunity to contribute.

"And to be clear, we're engaged with other countries on this right now - there are going to be costs if this is not reversed, if this has not changed," said Blinken, without specifying what the measures might include.

Afghanistan's aid-dependent economy is already under heavy US and Western sanctions following the Taliban's takeover of the country last year amid the withdrawal of US troops, which ended a 20-year occupation, reports Al Jazeera online.

In response to widespread fears of a return to the harsh policies that dominated the Taliban's rule of Afghanistan in the 1990s, the group initially promised a more moderate government when it took power in August 2021.

But the move to suspend university education for women, announced earlier this week, sparked outrage across the world, including from several Muslim-majority countries that called on the Taliban to reverse the decree.

Acting Higher Education Minister Nida Mohammad Nadim, in his first comments on the matter, told Afghan state broadcaster RTA that several issues had prompted the decision, including female students not wearing appropriate Islamic attire and interactions between students of different genders.

Meanwhile, the decision continues to draw widespread criticism, with the Group of Seven (G7) wealthy nations saying gender persecution may amount to a crime against humanity, in a statement on Thursday slamming the Taliban's decree.

Former US President George W Bush, who ordered the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 following the al Qaeda attacks on the United States, and his wife, Laura, added their voices on Thursday to the criticism of the ban and the Taliban's treatment of women.

'Serpent' killer Sobhraj freed from Nepal jail

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Charles Sobhraj, a convicted killer who police say is responsible for a string of murders in the 1970s and 1980s, was released from a Nepal prison yesterday after nearly two decades behind bars.

The 78-year-old French national is suspected of killing more than 20 Western backpackers on the "hippie trail" through Asia, usually by drugging their food or drink in the course of robbing them.

He left Nepal early yesterday evening on a regular flight to Doha en route to Paris, said Katak Rawal, a Kathmandu airport official. Nepal has barred Sobhraj from entering the country for 10 years, Pradashanie Kumari, acting director general of the immigration department, said. The Himalayan nation's Supreme Court had on Wednesday ordered his release from prison, where he served 19 years of a 20-year sentence, citing his advanced age.

After his release, Sobhraj told news agency AFP, "I feel great... I have a lot to do. I have to sue a lot of people. Including the state of Nepal." Sobhraj had been held in a high-security prison in Kathmandu since 2003, when he was arrested on charges of murdering US tourist Connie Jo Bronzich in 1975. He was dubbed the "bikini killer" in Thailand, and "the serpent", for his evasion of police and use of disguises. He has been the subject of several dramatizations, including a Netflix and BBC joint production released last year.

Tigers look to claw

FROM PAGE 12

missed a regulation stumping and the Indian duo began to quickly cut down Bangladesh's lead.

India went to tea without losing any further wickets and went into the break with the batters threatening to take the game completely away from Bangladesh.

Despite both Pant and Iyer looking comfortable, Mehedi broke the 159-run fifth-wicket stand, getting Pant caught behind. Pant's 104-ball 93 was punctuated by seven fours and five sixes and Iyer, who hit 87 off 105 deliveries, was also denied a ton, falling prey out leg-before to Shakib Al Hasan.

The India innings had lasted 25.3 overs in the third session as Taijul and Shakib ended with four-fers.

"We have lackings [in the field]," Taijul later stated at a press conference. "Against these big teams, you don't get these opportunities. Had we taken those two or three chances, we could have gotten them out for less than our score," he rued.

India had an 87-run lead after their innings ended at 314. Only two days have passed and the Tigers have the unenviable task of batting against Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel till Day Four in order to post any target that India might feel daunted by.

"The wicket is such that the longer we bat, the better it will be for us since it gives us a chance to give them a good target," he added.

Bangladesh openers Najmul Hossain and Zakir Hasan ensured the Tigers did not lose any wickets in the final session and the Tigers will be hoping the duo can carry in the same vein as they did at Chattogram in the second innings in order to make a game of it.

They are being

FROM PAGE 12

deserve bail but they are being denied it over and over again.

"Many of them are elderly and ill but are still not getting bail," he added.

The party demanded unconditional and immediate release of the party's imprisoned leaders and activists.

Only 6pc goes to locally-led

FROM PAGE 12

COP26. The UN must correct that problem before COP28 convenes in Dubai in November 2023. We all need to raise our voices to draw attention to what the lack of progress on mitigation looks like on the ground.

DS: How is Bangladesh doing in terms of adaptation?

AS: Adaptation has been happening in Bangladesh for decades now. We have had no alternative but to be innovative. It is no small feat that Bangladesh, despite being a country greatly affected by climate change, has the sixth fastest growing economy in the world. Bangladesh is at the forefront of both the conversation about adaptation and approaches to it.

The government has developed a National Adaptation Plan identifying 90 high-priority and 23 moderate-priority interventions. The 113 interventions have an estimated cost of \$230 billion over the next 27 years. A significant challenge is funding -- the plan requires \$8.5 billion a year, but current funding has reached only \$1.2 billion a year. The situation is mirrored in the non-government sector, where development funding is also rapidly declining.

In the meantime, there is still a lot happening, and a lot of collaboration. As an example, the government has been investing in constructing cyclone shelters for many years. A new partnership, between the government, UN Environment Programme and BRAC will see those shelters complemented by the construction of climate-resilient houses. In another example, climate-resilient, migrant-friendly secondary towns are being piloted through a partnership with the government, ICCCAD, SPARC and BRAC.

DS: Bangladesh has its own climate fund. Are we really making proper use of it?

AS: The government showed significant leadership in becoming the first developing country to establish a dedicated national climate

fund to implement the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in 2009. Our national climate-related budget comprised 0.73 percent of the country's GDP in 2021-2022 and 4 percent of the annual budget. The fund has an 80:20 budgetary allocation, with 80 percent for government agencies and 20 percent for non-government organisations. A more even funding split is needed to unlock the potential of the non-government sector.

DS: How are Brac and other NGOs performing in addressing climate crisis?

AS: BRAC and other nongovernmental organisations are at the forefront of climate adaptation out of necessity. We have the approaches ready. For \$350, we can provide safe drinking water to a household for 20 years through a rainwater harvesting system. It costs just \$126,000 to run a climate adaptation clinic that supports 3,500 farmers for one year with climate adaptive agricultural inputs, techniques and services to adjust to changing conditions. The challenge is to scale these approaches.

For that, we need three things: first, we need to ensure easily accessible financing for scalable adaptation solutions, prioritise the approach to adaptation that should be funded, and the approach to adaptation must be locally led. Too often, strategies are created by international entities with little local input. The funds never get to the entities on the ground that are in greatest need, and the effort either fails or -- worse still -- leads to maladaptation. Only 6 percent of existing adaptation funds are going to locally led adaptation.

Finally, we need to identify financing mechanisms that will support local organisations, and will be quick and easy to deploy without creating undue risk for donors. This is where the role of strong intermediary organisations -- international or national -- can be useful.

2,000 tonnes

FROM PAGE 2

Contacted, Ketaur Rahman, deputy general manager of Tanveer Food Ltd, said, "Three auto-rice mills here will go on a trial phase in January, during which we will need around 1,000 tonnes of paddy a day. For that, we had unloaded 1,400 tonnes of paddy. The remaining paddy was still on the trucks."

When asked about the licence, he said, "It is true that we have not yet received the food grain licence. But we are working on it."

"It was our mistake to store the paddy here without a licence, but it was not for commercial purposes," he added.

Contacted, Monirul Haque, food controller of Bogura Sadar upazila, said, "The paddy was seized as the mills did not have the food grain licence. It is illegal to store paddy without it."

Nasa probe's

FROM PAGE 12

transfer from Dart's roughly 22,530 km/h collision. Newly available data showed Dart's momentum transferred on to Dimorphos when it impacted the asteroid.

The American space agency made history in September by slamming a spacecraft into an asteroid, making it the first time humans have altered the course of a heavenly body.

Dart, or Double Asteroid Redirection Test, was launched in November 2021 and spent months traveling to target Dimorphos -- a companion asteroid of the larger Didymos -- that was traveling through space at a distance of about 6.8 million miles from Earth.

The space agency hoped to find out if a spacecraft like Dart could divert asteroids threatening Earth in the future and provide a chance against potentially deadly impacts of the kind that once wiped out the dinosaurs.

The research assessed the ejecta to better understand how slamming a spacecraft on life-threatening asteroids could work as a planetary defense technique.

Road crashes claim 8 lives

FROM PAGE 12

movement on the highway for a while, he added.

In Rajbari's Baliakandi, 10-year-old Abu Sayeed died and his cousin Emran got injured in a motorcycle crash in the afternoon.

Police said Emran, who was riding the motorcycle with Sayeed as the pillion passenger, lost control and fell near Gharakola Government Primary School.

Sayeed died at the scene, said Assaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Baliakandi Police Station.

In Narsingdi, a businessman named Anwar Hossain, 40, died when an auto-rickshaw hit him near the UMC Jute Mills around 3:00pm.

Anwar died shortly after he was taken to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.

In Gazipur, two people died in separate crashes. One of them, Rony,

who was riding a motorcycle, lost control and collided with an auto-rickshaw near Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park on Bhabanipur road, said Mahtab Uddin, officer-in-charge of Joydebpur Police Station.

The officer added that Rony died at the scene.

In Salna area on Gazipur-Mymensingh highway, an elderly man named Sadek Hossain died on the spot and two others were wounded as a pickup rammed into a three-wheeler in the afternoon.

The victims were on the three-wheeler, said Ziaul Islam, OC of Gazipur Sadar Police Station.

The injured were sent to Gazipur Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital, he added.

[Our correspondents in Savar, Barishal, Faridpur, Gazipur and Narsingdi contributed to this report.]

N Korea fires two ballistic missiles: Seoul

AFP, Seoul

North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles yesterday, Seoul's military said, the latest in a flurry of sanctions-busting weapons tests.

The launch comes at the end of a year that has seen Pyongyang conduct an unprecedented number of tests, including last month's launch of its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile yet, with a range capable of hitting the US mainland.

Earlier this week, Pyongyang also claimed to have developed new capabilities to take images from space.

"Our military spotted two short-range ballistic missiles launched by North Korea into the East Sea from the Sunan area of Pyongyang at around 16:32 (0732 GMT) today," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, referring to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.

The two missiles flew around 250 kilometres (155 miles) and 350 kilometres (217 miles) respectively,

before splashing down into the East Sea, it added.

Tokyo also confirmed Pyongyang's launch, with its top government spokesman Hirokazu Matsuno calling the North's latest provocations "absolutely unacceptable".

Facebook

FROM PAGE 2

been linked to Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

Cambridge Analytica, which has since shut down, then collected and exploited the personal data of 87 million Facebook users without their consent, the lawsuit alleged.

That information was allegedly used to develop software to steer US voters in favor of Trump.

Facebook has since removed access to its data from thousands of apps suspected of abusing it, restricted the amount of information available to developers, and made it easier for users to calibrate restrictions on personal data sharing.