

14-year-old boy kills four in US school shooting

AFP, Winder

A 14-year-old boy killed four people, including two students, and wounded nine more when he opened fire at a high school in the US state of Georgia yesterday, law enforcement said.

The suspected shooter – also a student at the school – had been brought to the FBI’s attention more than a year ago for threats to commit a school shooting, the agency said.

He was taken into custody after Wednesday’s shooting and will be tried as an adult on murder charges, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation said.

Two teachers were also among the dead.

Smith said police did not yet know if the shooter singled out specific people as targets, adding later that the nine wounded were expected to recover.

The two students killed were also 14 years old, authorities said.



Aerial view of an illegal fire in the Amazon rainforest on the banks of the BR-230 (Transamazon Highway), near the city of Labrea, Amazonas state, northern Brazil, taken on Tuesday. Forest fires have been raging for several weeks in Brazil, particularly in the Amazon rainforest in the north and the immense Pantanal wetland in the center-west of the country.

PHOTO: AFP

Air pollution decline in China, Europe: UN

AFP, Geneva

Fine particle air pollution declined in Europe and China last year as emissions linked to human activity dropped, the United Nations said in a report published on Thursday.

Nanoparticles known as PM2.5 pose a severe health risk if inhaled over long periods of time as they are tiny enough to get into the bloodstream.

The particles come from human activity like the combustion of fossil fuels, transportation and industry, as well as wildfires and wind-blown desert dust.

“The 2023 data shows a negative anomaly, which means a drop in PM2.5 compared to the reference period of 2003-2023 over China and Europe,” said Lorenzo Labrador, a scientist at the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

The UN agency, in an annual bulletin published ahead of International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on September 7, stressed that air quality and climate change were closely linked.

“Climate change and air quality cannot be treated separately. They go hand-in-hand and must be tackled together,” WMO Secretary General Ko Barrett said in a press release.

The chemicals responsible for atmospheric pollution, WMO stressed, are usually emitted at the same time as greenhouse gases.

Nine out of 10 people breathe highly polluted air, according to the World Health Organisation.

Putin backs Harris for US president

AFP, Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday said he supported Kamala Harris in November’s US presidential election, an apparent wry remark that led to a renewed call from Washington for the Kremlin to “stop interfering”.

Putin was speaking a day after the United States issued indictments accusing Moscow of vote interference.

The Kremlin leader frequently comments on political and social issues in the United States, often in a mocking way.

He said last year that the US political system was “rotten” and that Washington could not lecture other countries about democracy.

US officials have repeatedly warned of efforts by foreign powers to meddle in the upcoming US election, accusing Moscow of seeking to influence US ballots dating back to the 2016 contest between Trump and Hillary Clinton.

“Firstly, Biden recommended all his supporters support Mrs Harris,” Putin said during a res meeting at Russia’s Eastern Economic Forum.

Biden withdrew from the race in July amid concerns about his age and health, endorsing Vice President Harris to top the Democratic Party’s ticket.

“Here, we are going to do that too, we’re going to support her,” Putin told the audience, with a wry smile.

‘Main’ goal is to capture Ukraine’s Donbas

Says Putin, claims Kyiv’s Kursk counter-offensive made his goal easier; Ukraine appoints new PM

AFP, Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday said his main aim in Ukraine after 30 months of fighting was to capture the eastern Donbas area – and claimed that Ukraine’s Kursk counter-offensive had made that easier.

Putin was speaking a day after Russia attacked Ukraine’s western Lviv region with deadly strikes, and after recent advances by Moscow’s forces in the Donbas.

Since the start of its offensive in February 2022 when it failed to capture the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, Russia has adapted its aims, concentrating instead on trying to conquer eastern Ukraine.

While Ukraine’s surprise push into Russia’s Kursk region last month caught Russian forces off-guard, Putin stressed that the move had failed to slow Moscow’s advance in occupied Ukraine.

“The aim of the enemy (in Kursk) was to force us to worry, hustle, divert troops and to stop our offensive in key areas, especially in the Donbas, the liberation of which is our main primary objective,” Putin said at a forum in Vladivostok, in Russia’s far east.

Russia claims the eastern Donetsk region and three other Ukrainian regions, as its own.

Moscow has this summer advanced strongly and its troops are now around a dozen kilometres from the city of Pokrovsk – a key logistics hub in east Ukraine from where thousands have now fled.

Putin said Ukraine had sent “quite well-prepared units” into Kursk and so had made Moscow’s

advance in Donbas quicker.

“The enemy weakened itself in key areas, our army has accelerated its offensive operations,” he argued.

Putin also claimed that Moscow’s army has begun to push out Ukrainian forces from the Kursk region, where Kyiv’s forces have held on to towns and villages for almost a month.

Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson.

“Are we ready to negotiate with them? We have never refused to do so,” Putin said yesterday.

“But not on the basis of some ephemeral demands, but on the basis of those documents that were agreed and actually initialled in Istanbul,” he added.

The Kremlin has claimed Russia



Earlier this week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told US TV channel NBC that Ukraine would hold on to the territory captured in the Kursk region.

While Russian officials have rushed in recent weeks to say that the Kursk incursion makes any talks with Ukraine impossible, Putin appeared to roll back those statements.

But Putin has repeatedly said that Moscow can only negotiate with Ukraine if Kyiv surrenders four of its regions – Donetsk,

Xi promises \$50b for Africa

AFP, Beijing

Chinese leader Xi Jinping yesterday pledged more than \$50 billion in financing for Africa over the next three years, promising to deepen cooperation in infrastructure and trade with the continent as he addressed Beijing’s biggest summit since the Covid pandemic.

More than 50 African leaders and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres are attending the China-Africa forum, according to state media.

African leaders already secured a plethora of deals this week for greater cooperation in infrastructure, agriculture, mining, trade and energy.

Xi hailed ties with Africa as their “best period in history” as he addressed the leaders at the forum’s opening ceremony in Beijing’s ornate Great Hall of the People yesterday.

“China is ready to deepen cooperation with African countries in industry, agriculture, infrastructure, trade and investment,” he said.

“Over the next three years, the Chinese government is willing to provide financial support amounting to 360 billion yuan (\$50.7 billion),” Xi said.

More than half of that will be in credit, he said, with \$11 billion “in various types of assistance” as well as \$10 billion through encouraging Chinese firms to invest.

He also promised to help “create at least one million jobs for Africa”.

Xi pledged \$141 million in grants for military assistance, saying Beijing would “provide training for 6,000 military personnel and 1,000 police and law enforcement officers from Africa”.

Guterres told the forum that growing ties between China and Africa could “drive the renewable energy revolution”.

“China’s remarkable record of development – including on eradicating poverty – provides a wealth of experience and expertise,” he said.

Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi hailed the summit as a “complete success” at a joint news conference with his Senegalese and Congolese counterparts later.

“When China stands shoulder to shoulder alongside (its) African strategic partners, we will inevitably play a greater role in promoting prosperity for the peoples of China and Africa, and in upholding global peace and stability,” Wang said.

Congo’s Jean-Claude Gakosso described China-Africa relations as “exceptional”.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa lauded China’s \$50 billion pledge as a “great boon” for Africa.

China, the world’s number two economy, is Africa’s largest trading partner and has sought to tap the continent’s vast troves of natural resources including copper, gold, lithium and rare earth minerals.

Death toll in Poltava hits 55

AFP, Kyiv

The death toll from a Russian missile strike on Ukraine’s city of Poltava rose to 55 with over 300 wounded, Ukrainian officials said yesterday.

The strike hit the Poltava military communications institute on Tuesday, according to Ukrainian officials who did not specify how many of the victims were military or civilians.

On Tuesday, the official toll stood at 51 people killed in one of one of the single deadliest strikes of the two-and-a-half-year war.

Advertisement

ASMAR (BD) PVT. LTD. GENEROSITY SHINES IN SUPPORT OF BANGLADESH FLOOD VICTIMS

In a heart warming gesture of solidarity, ASMARA (BD) PVT. LTD. have come forward to support the flood victims of Bangladesh. The employees of the company have donated their one-day salary and a significant amount of clothing to the Chief Adviser's Relief & Welfare fund and to The Bangladesh Army to aid those affected by the recent devastating floods.

The donation aims to provide immediate relief to the flood-stricken communities, ensuring they have access to essential resources during this challenging time. Representative of the company expressed his commitment to supporting the nation and standing by the affected families.

"We believe in giving back to the community and helping those in need. This donation is a small step towards alleviating the suffering of the flood victims," said a spokesperson from ASMARA (BD) PVT. LTD.

The generous contributions from the employees of ASMARA (BD) PVT. LTD. highlight the power of unity and compassion in overcoming adversity. Their support is a beacon of hope for the flood victims, demonstrating that together, we can make a difference.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Naogaon.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No.: 46.02.6400.07.000.001.24-3072 Date: 05.09.2024

Corrigendum of Tender Notice No. : 05/2024-2025
Tendering Method (OTM).

Following amendments has been made to the Tender Notice No. 05/2024-2025 vide Memo No.: 46.02.6400.07.000.001.24-2435, Date : 30/07/2024

Sl No	Tender ID No	Original			Amended		
		Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date and Time	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
01	1004084, 1004085, 1004086, 1004087, 1004088, 1004089, 1004090 & 1004092	28-Aug-2024 17:00	29-Aug-2024 12:00	29-Aug-2024 12:00	18-Sep-2024 17:00	19-Sep-2024 12:00	19-Sep-2024 12:00

This Notice of corrigendum will be treated as a part & parcel of the tender documents. All other terms and conditions will be remained unchanged.

(Tofail Ahamed)
Executive Engineer
Ph: 01708-123218
e-mail : sen.naogaon@lged.gov.bd

GD-361

**Bangladesh Land Port Authority**
Ministry of Shipping
Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) –
Bangladesh Phase 1: (BLPA Component) Project
Land Port Building, Plot No. F-19/A, Shere-E-Bangla Nagar,
Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Memo No. 18.15.0000.023.11.008.24-06 Dated: September 4, 2024.

Amendment of Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)
(Consulting Services – Firms Selection) (International)

The REOI published vide Memo No.: 18.15.0000.023.11.008.24-01, Dated: September 2, 2024 for the Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision and Contract Management (CSC), Reference No.: BLPA-S1 will have the following amendment.

The second para of REOI mentioned the name of Land Ports that are Ramgarh, Sheola, Bhomra, and Benapole will be substituted by Burimari, Bhomra and Benapole Land Ports.

Other text of REOI will remain unchanged.


(Md. Ruhul Amin Miah)
(Service ID-15346)
Project Director (Joint Secretary)
Land Port Building
F-19/A, Shere-e-Banglanagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
E-mail: pdaccessblpa@gmail.com

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