

## CANADA SCHOOL 10 dead, 27 injured after suspect opens fire

Female shooter  
with self-inflicted  
injury among the  
dead

REUTERS

Ten people including the shooter are dead after an assailant opened fire at a high school in western Canada on Tuesday in one of the country's deadliest mass casualty events in recent history.

The outburst brought to Canada the type of mass shooting more common in the neighbouring United States, and was carried out by a shooter described as female, police said.

Six people were found dead inside a high school in the town of Tumbler Ridge in British Columbia, two more people were found dead at a residence believed to be connected to the incident, and another person died on the way



to hospital, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said.

At least two other people were hospitalized with serious or life-threatening injuries, and as many as 25 people were being treated for non-life-threatening injuries, police said.

A suspected shooter was also found dead from what appears to be a self-inflicted injury, police said, adding they did not believe there were any more suspects or ongoing threat to the public.

"It's hard to know what to say on a night like tonight. It's the kind of thing that feels like it happens in other places and not close to home," British Columbia Premier David Eby told reporters.

Police released almost no details about the shooter except to say the person was described a female - potentially an unusual development as mass shootings in North America are almost always carried out by men.

A police active shooter alert said the suspect was described "as female in a dress with brown hair." Police Superintendent Ken Floyd later confirmed at a news conference that the suspect described in the alert was the same person found dead in the school.



People fill water containers from a mobile cistern in the Maghazi camp for Palestinian refugees in central Gaza, yesterday. Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas called for a "firm response" from the US and the international community to Israel's plan to tighten its control of the occupied West Bank.

PHOTO: AFP

## SECURITY IN THE GULF REGION

# Qatar Emir, Trump discuss de-escalation

Iran wont 'give in to excessive demands': Pezeshkian

AGENCIES

Qatar's Emir and US President Donald Trump discussed de-escalation and security in the Gulf region in a call, the royal court said yesterday, after Washington threatened military action against Iran.

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Trump focused on "the current situation in the region and international efforts aimed at de-escalation and strengthening regional security and peace", the Emir's office said, in a statement.

They also discussed "supporting diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving crises through dialogue and peaceful means", the statement added.

The US and Iran resumed indirect talks in Oman on Friday, after an American naval group led by an aircraft carrier moved to Middle Eastern waters following Tehran's deadly crackdown on protesters.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said yesterday that his country would "not yield to excessive demands" on its nuclear programme.

"Our Iran will not yield in the face of aggression, but we are continuing dialogue with all our strength with neighbouring countries in order to establish peace and tranquillity in the region," he said in a speech at Azadi Square in the capital for the 47th anniversary of Iran's Islamic



People walk past a ballistic missile launch vehicle in Tehran during a rally marking the 47th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

revolution.

He also said that his country is ready for "any verification" of its nuclear programme and insisted Tehran is not seeking an atomic weapon, reports AFP.

Meanwhile, some residents of the Iranian capital Tehran on Tuesday chanted slogans against the Islamic republic and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on the eve of the most significant annual commemoration of the 1979 Islamic revolution, according to footage posted on social media.

Iran was rocked by protests

last month opposing the Islamic republic, which were put down by what activists condemned as an unprecedented crackdown by the authorities.

There had been few reports of significant protest activity over the last fortnight in the face of the crackdown until now. But late Tuesday people took to balconies to chant slogans including "death to Khamenei" and "death to the dictator", according to footage shared by widely followed protest monitor channels on Telegram and X.

## GREENLAND ROW

# Nato launches 'Arctic Sentry' mission

AFP, Brussels

Nato yesterday said it had launched a new mission to bolster security in the Arctic, in a move to assuage US President Donald Trump after he backed off claims on Greenland.

"Arctic Sentry underscores the alliance's commitment to safeguard its members and maintain stability in one of the world's most strategically significant and environmentally challenging areas," US General Alexus Grynkewich, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, said.

Nato said the "multi-domain activity" would initially pull together undertakings already being carried out by alliance members in the region such as upcoming exercises by Norway and Denmark.

It remained unclear whether the new mission would involve more military capabilities being sent to the region.

Trump's threats against Greenland last month - which he based on an alleged threat by Russia and China in the Arctic - plunged the transatlantic alliance into its deepest crisis in years.

The US leader backed off his vow to take control of Denmark's autonomous Arctic territory.

## US FUEL BLOCKADE

# Germany advises against non- essential travel to Cuba

AFP, Berlin

Germany on Tuesday issued an advisory against all non-essential travel to Cuba, where US pressure has created an oil crisis.

The Caribbean nation is reeling from a US-ordered halt in oil shipments from Caracas after American troops captured Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro last month.

"Cuba is facing an acute energy crisis, which is also being compounded by widespread dilapidated energy infrastructure," the German foreign ministry said in the advisory.

The country is facing "significant shortages in energy and fuel supplies, which are affecting all areas of life" including medical care, it said.

The bulletin also noted that aircraft from abroad can currently not be refuelled in Cuba, "resulting in significant restrictions on flight operations", and that "several hotels have already been closed".

"Public transport, street lighting, traffic lights, cash machines, communication and security systems are already severely restricted or may fail," it said.

The oil shortages have threatened to plunge Cuba into complete darkness, with power plants struggling to keep the lights on.

# Russian strike kills 3 children, father in Ukraine

REUTERS, Kyiv

A Russian drone crashed into a house in eastern Ukraine, killing three small children and their father, officials said yesterday, in a strike President Volodymyr Zelensky said undermined diplomacy as Washington presses for a peace deal.

The children's pregnant mother was fighting for her life in hospital with severe burns, Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko posted on X: "An entire family was wiped out in a single act of Russian terror."

According to local prosecutors, the drone hit the residential building in the town of Bohodukhiv, to the west of Ukraine's second-largest city Kharkiv, late on Tuesday.

"As a result of the strike, the house was completely destroyed and engulfed in flames, and the family was trapped under the rubble," the Kharkiv Region Prosecutor's Office said on the Telegram messaging app yesterday.

Regional governor Oleh Synyehubov described the victims as two

2-year-old boys, a 1-year-old girl and a 34-year-old man. He did not

specify whether the boys were twins. Officials said the family had only just moved into the town.

Images posted on Telegram by Ukraine's

emergency service showed firefighters battling a blaze in a house, with smoke rising through the wooden beams of the roof.

There was no immediate comment from Russia on the attack. Moscow has denied intentionally targeting civilians during the war although its attacks have killed thousands of them since it invaded at full scale in February 2022. Ukraine has also hit civilian targets in Russia or Russian-occupied parts of Ukraine during the war, though on a far smaller scale.



# Trump told police chief 'everyone' knew about Epstein

FBI document reveals

REUTERS

A newly uncovered FBI interview raised new questions about US President Donald Trump's assertion he knew nothing about convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's crimes, while Trump's commerce secretary, Howard Lutnick, faced a barrage of questions from lawmakers on Tuesday about his own ties to the financier.

The day's developments underscored how the fallout from the Epstein scandal remains a major political headache for the Trump administration, weeks after the Justice Department released millions of Epstein-related files to comply with a bipartisan bill.

The files have also created crises abroad after revealing new details of Epstein's ties to prominent people in politics, finance, business and academia.

In July 2006, as Epstein's first sex crime charges became public, the police chief in Palm Beach, Florida, received a call from Trump, according to the summary of a 2019 FBI interview with the police chief that was among the files.

The police chief, Michael Reiter, cited Trump as having told him: "Thank goodness you're stopping him, everyone has known he's been doing this."

Trump told Reiter that people in New York knew about Epstein and advised him that Ghislaine Maxwell, Epstein's associate, was "evil," according to the document. Trump also said he had once been around Epstein when teenagers were present and that he "got the hell out of there."

Reiter, who retired in 2009, confirmed the details of the FBI interview to the Miami Herald.



Families of detainees gather outside Venezuela's National Assembly as the government pledges an amnesty law to free political prisoners, amid US pressure following Maduro's ouster, in Caracas on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Colombian senator kidnapped President targeted in polls run-up

AFP, Bogota

A Colombian senator was rescued from kidnapers Tuesday as the country's president reported an attempt on his own life in the run-up to elections that observers have warned could be marred by violence.

Senator Aida Quilcue, an award-winning Indigenous activist, was taken by unknown people in her home department of Cauca, a conflict-ridden, coca-growing region fought over by dissidents of the now-disbanded FARC guerrilla army.

The 53-year-old was rescued by a group of Indigenous people, her team reported on X, hours after the vehicle she had been traveling in with two bodyguards was found abandoned.

"I'm OK now," Quilcue said through tears in a video posted by Defense Minister Pedro Sanchez.