

Summary of Today's News

Sri Lanka attacks: Foreign mastermind may have planned bombings, president says

It is "quite possible" a foreign mastermind was behind the deadly bombings in Sri Lanka, the country's president has told Sky News.

Sky's foreign affairs editor, Deborah Haynes, said: "Investigators are looking in detail at how the attackers, captured on CCTV, seem to be looking at their mobile phones - potentially receiving instructions." President Sirisena explained that authorities are aware of "a small group" of Sri Lankans who have travelled abroad to receive training from IS over the past decade.

Details have emerged of the eight men who carried out the suicide bombings in Sri Lanka.

Wealthy and well-educated: The bombers behind the Sri Lanka attacks

Death came to Sri Lanka in rucksacks worn by eight men.

Two days later Islamic State said it carried out the bombings, releasing a video of suspects pledging allegiance to its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

He targeted the Shangri-La hotel in Colombo with another bomber. Security sources in Sri Lanka warn that more bombings could happen because other members of the group remain on the run despite a massive operation to round up suspects. He claimed Zaharan only showed he was an IS supporter through online posts after he fled the town in 2017, wanted by the police for fighting with another group.

We'd spent so much time together and we started the NTJ together - but he has betrayed me." A couple of hours later, Mohammed Thowfeek was arrested by police in a raid on the mosque. Abdul Latief checked into the low grade Tropical Inn where he dumped his rucksack bomb and a large suitcase in his room before heading out.

Four hours later at around 1330 - the first of the suicide bombs went off at about 0845 - Abdul Latief returned to the guest house. She died later in a bomb blast during a police raid on the family home in the Dematagoda suburb of the capital. A neighbour, who has been a friend of the deeply religious family for decades, said he last spoke to Mohammed Ibrahim on Good Friday, saying he seemed normal.

We can't understand what happened really." The younger son, Ilham Mohammed, ran a coffee making business on a commercial street in the capital where the father's company logo can be seen on a building opposite. A man who owns an oil supply outlet - used by the many rickshaws in Colombo - across the road from the factory said he had seen Ahamed Muaath around.

He said he was surprised to learn this man was a bomber. The bomber leaves the vehicle and walks to the front gate of the mosque clutching two bags. As he exits the mosque he digs a mobile phone out of his pocket, looking at the screen and seemingly writing a message.

The deaths of these bombers are by no means an end to the terrorist threat in Sri Lanka.

Venezuela: National Guard drives into protesters as opposition calls for uprising

Venezuela's president Nicolas Maduro has accused opposition supporters of trying to impose an "illegitimate government" after a day of violence on the country's streets.

Throughout the day, opposition protesters and regime forces fought running battles through the streets of Venezuela's capital Caracas. "We have the firm backing of our people and the world to achieve the restoration of our democracy." President Maduro was defiant, tweeting that his forces were defeating a "tiny group of the disoriented and deceived". When oil prices crashed in 2014, Venezuela had not used the prosperous years before that to prepare.

Most GPs ill-equipped to diagnose one of the deadliest cancers

Just one in 10 GPs says they have the tools they need to diagnose pancreatic cancer early enough for treatment, according to Pancreatic Cancer UK.

Referral by GPs who suspect the presence of the disease for ultrasound, CT, or MRI scans significantly improves survival rates, however currently most diagnoses are the result of an emergency.

If the government really want to do this they have to commit to access for GPs." Harriet Evans' father Iwan died when he was 61, a year after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. "He never really showed any fear throughout his cancer journey and we're all incredibly proud of him for that, but if I can stop any family from going through that and being able to be diagnosed and treated and not have to go through what my family have gone through I think that he would be proud." Pancreatic Cancer UK has launched a new research project aimed at developing the first-ever simple test for the disease within the next five years.

We have to give doctors the tools they need to detect the warning signs earlier, so they can ensure those who need it, receive treatment as soon as possible." The Department for Health says early diagnosis is part of their long term plan for the NHS and they want to see all cancer patients diagnosed within 28 days.

Sainsbury's profits fall as it counts £46m cost of failed Asda deal

Sainsbury's has reported a 41.6% fall in pre-tax profits to £239m as it counted the cost of restructuring and its failed merger with Asda.

The supermarket said it had spent £46m preparing for the deal with its rival, which was blocked last week by competition authorities, while also revealing a downturn in annual sales. Chief executive Mike Coupe said the company would increase and accelerate investment in its core business, with improvements to 400 supermarkets this year, while also ramping up spending on online technology and at the same time reducing debt.

Suspect held after two are shot dead on US university campus

Two people have been shot dead and another four wounded in a shooting on a University of North Carolina (UNC) campus.

UNC Charlotte had issued a campus lockdown on Tuesday afternoon after reports of shots being fired. Campus Police Chief Jeff Baker said authorities received a call around 4.40pm that a suspect armed with a pistol had shot several students.

Justine Damond shooting: US police officer convicted of murdering Australian woman

A police officer in the US has been convicted of murdering an unarmed Australian woman who was shot dead outside her home.

Ms Damond, a 40-year-old life coach who was originally from Sydney, was dressed in pyjamas when she approached Noor's police vehicle and was shot in the abdomen. However prosecutors criticised Noor for shooting without seeing a weapon or Ms Damond's hands. Prosecutors sought to raise questions about the way police and investigators handled the aftermath of the shooting.

Criminals could go free because of 'inadequate' forensic services

Crimes may go unsolved and miscarriages of justice may become more common as forensic science in England and Wales is "in trouble", a new report warns.

However, a report from the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee found that a number of factors, including an absence of high-level leadership and a lack of funding, has raised concerns.

The "quality and delivery" of forensic science in England and Wales is "inadequate", the report states. Last week the Home Office published an action plan to improve police forensics.

A Home Office spokeswoman said: "Forensic science is an invaluable tool for bringing criminals to justice and it is vital it has the confidence of the public.

Next sales lifted by 'unusually warm' weather

Fashion retailer Next has reported better than expected sales after "unusually warm weather" boosted its performance.

Next said sales in its stores over the quarter were down by 3.6% but that it saw online growth of 11.8%.

Venezuela: Juan Guaido has to overcome corrupt elite's interests in maintaining status quo

Coup or opposition overreach? It is too early to say. This looks different from the surges of opposition-led unrest we have seen before.

Juan Guaido has presented himself as the alternative to Mr Maduro but so far failed to find a way to replace him. The country sits on one of the biggest oil reserves in the world but children and pensioners are forced to pick through rubbish for food. He is young, charismatic and able to overcome the internal infighting that has bedevilled Venezuela's opposition politics in the past.

The challenge for Mr Guaido and the opposition is overcoming that corrupt elite's interest in maintaining the status quo.

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