

# Summary of Today's News

## Sri Lanka suicide bomber who studied in UK named as Abdul Lathief Jameel Mohamed

*One of the suicide bombers behind the Easter attacks in Sri Lanka was former UK student Abdul Lathief Jameel Mohamed, according to security sources.*

One of the them was a woman, who killed herself as police raided her home, and another - who targeted the Shangri-La hotel - has been identified as factory owner Insan Seelavan. On Tuesday, the Sri Lankan prime minister admitted intelligence agencies had information that could have stopped the attacks if it had been passed on correctly. The Sri Lankan defence ministry has said it believes two domestic Islamist organisations are responsible for the attacks, although their suggestion that it was "retaliation" for the Christchurch mosque shootings has been played down by the office of New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

It said on Tuesday it had not "seen any intelligence upon which such an assessment might be based".

## Sri Lanka bombings: What we know about the investigation so far

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He is understood to have studied in the South East of England sometimes between 2006 and 2007 and according to Mr Wijewardene, went on to do a post graduate course in Australia before returning to Sri Lanka. Police said one of the suicide bombers at the Shangri-La Hotel had been identified as Insan Seelavan, the owner of a factory.

The owner of the house in Dematagoda has been identified as a Mr Ibrahim. Islamic State said it behind for the attacks on Tuesday, and Amaq released images it claimed showed the bombers. Analysts have reported that 32 Sri Lankans are known to have gone to fight for IS in Syria and Iraq - all described as being from wealthy families.

Sri Lankan intelligence services believe that the attacks were a "reprisal" for the mosque shootings by a white supremacist in Christchurch, New Zealand, last month.

## Nicola Sturgeon calls for second independence referendum by May 2021

*Nicola Sturgeon has said she wants to hold a second Scottish independence referendum by May 2021.*

In a half-hour address to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, Ms Sturgeon said: "A choice between Brexit and a future for Scotland as an independent European nation should be offered in the lifetime of this parliament. And we will continue to do so." She added: "The Westminster system of government does not serve Scotland's interests. He continued: "Her statement today is not about Brexit, this is about Nicola Sturgeon trying to pacify her party members and backbenchers ahead of the SNP's conference.

## Fury as Southend Airport revamp leaves jets taxiing just 150ft away from pensioner's garden

*A pensioner says she fears for her health after an airport revamp left her with 50 jets taxiing at the bottom of her garden every day.*

A pensioner says she fears for her health after an airport revamp left her with 50 jets taxiing at the bottom of her garden every day. "We aren't against the airport but this is the most convenient and cheapest option for the airport." Mrs Marchant, who is worried about her property dropping in value, claims she received a letter from the airport telling her to stop complaining about the noise to a forum on its website.

## **Virgin calls for rail shake-up to end standing on long-distance routes**

*Long-distance rail routes should become reservation-only services, doing away with the need for standing, Virgin has proposed.*

Virgin said a reservation-only system, guaranteeing every customer a seat in normal operations, would mean standing is "all but abolished". Virgin also argued for a new franchising model under which train operators bid to run bundles of train services on the same route, saying this would allow customers greater choice.

"Keith Williams has said that franchising cannot continue as it is now, and it is clear we need systemic industry reform which is driven by principles and a whole-system redesign," Mr McCall said.

## **Gang blocked road before man, 21, stabbed to death in northwest London**

*A 21-year-old man has been stabbed to death on a high street in northwest London.*

After being stabbed, the victim ran into a bookmakers on the high street to get help. "We know that the suspects blocked the road; this would have held up a number of vehicles including a Route 18 bus.

## **Sahara desert dust blows north into the UK and settles on cars and windows**

*Dust from the Sahara Desert has settled in the UK after being swept north by high winds and brought down during rain showers.*

#Saharadust pic.twitter.com/IWF17JfCMI One Twitter user said: "Thanks Sahara dust. "Once we get some rain, that washes it out the sky and onto the ground." No further deposits of dust are expected.

## **Avengers: Endgame 'tragic, uplifting - and the perfect goodbye'**

*After 11 years and 22 films, this is it - the fate of the Avengers is due to be revealed.*

Avengers: Endgame has been hailed the "perfect goodbye" and both "tragic and uplifting" by critics ahead of its highly anticipated release this week. Variety aired some criticism, concluding: "There's something considerably less elegant to the storytelling this time around." Press Association film critic Damon Smith gave it seven out of 10, describing Endgame as "a muscular, well-crafted blockbuster that nods reverentially to the past 11 years of Marvel Comics mayhem".

## **Ford invents self-braking trolley to prevent supermarket collisions**

*A shopping trolley that is able to brake automatically when a possible collision is detected has been invented to prevent children causing chaos as their parents do the food shop.*

"We thought that showing how similar thinking could be applied to a shopping trolley would be a great way to highlight what can be a really useful technology for drivers." When they push a trolley, to their minds, it's like they are behind the wheels of a car - with long, wide supermarket aisles as their racetrack." The new invention is part of the Ford Interventions series which applies Ford technologies to everyday problems.