

Russia names metro bomber



Emergency teams at blast site (file image)

Moscow
Russian investigators yesterday named the bomber behind the Saint Petersburg metro blast as Akbarjon Djalilov, adding that he had also planted a second bomb that was defused by the authorities.

"The investigation identified the man who set off the bomb in the carriage of the Saint Petersburg metro. It was Akbarjon Djalilov," a statement by the Investigative Committee said.

The investigators' statement added that traces of DNA from Djalilov, 22, were also found on a bag with a second explosive device that was discovered at another metro station shortly before the blast in the tunnel that killed 14 people.

"The conclusion of genetic



Akbarjon Djalilov evaluation and footage from surveillance cameras enable the investigation to conclude that the man who carried out the act of terror on the carriage was the one who left the bag with the explosive device in the Vosstaniya Square station," it said.

Investigators gave no further details on Djalilov but his name and year of birth

coincided with a statement from the Kyrgyz security services which said earlier yesterday that he was a naturalised Russian citizen originally from Kyrgyzstan.

Investigators said that remains of the carriage bomber were found at the scene of the blast, but was not clear if he is included in the official toll of the attack. (AFP)

Orphaned bear cubs win hearts in Montenegro

Podgorica

Two orphaned bear cubs have captured hearts in Montenegro after a farmer rescued them from starving to death in the wild.

The cubs were found last month by March Ilinka Bigovic, who lives in a village perched on the Pusti Lisac mountain, some 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the capital Podgorica, near the Bosnian border.

"I heard some screams. Persistent, day and night, for two or three days," the 61-year-old said.

Bigovic searched the area with her brother until they almost stumbled over the cubs



The orphan bear cubs playing "separated, on the brink of death, weak," she said

"We brought them home, put at a warm place near the stove and fed them milk and honey."

Montenegro's mountains are home to 50 to 100 brown bears, according to ecologists,

while the national hunters' association puts their number at 357.

Bigovic, who breeds goats, is used to close encounters with wild animals -- a wolf recently killed a goat just near her house and she often sees bears.

#PollToday



Has the time come to put an end to the Syrian regime?

Yes No Can't Say



I call on the international community to fulfil its obligation from 2013 to fully and finally remove these horrible weapons from Syria"

Benjamin Netanyahu
Israeli Prime Minister

Rest in sight

Philippines' Duterte fires minister after 'corruption'



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday he had fired his interior minister for corruption as signs of infighting rocked his government.

US cave contains oldest-known bed bug remains

The oldest known remains of bed bugs have been found in a US cave, but these ancient critters did not feed on human blood like the modern insects, but on bats.

6.5-magnitude quake shakes southern Africa

A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 6.5 struck the southern African nation of Botswana on yesterday, with the tremor felt in several neighbouring countries.

Michelangelo crucifix gets pride of place in Florence

A wooden crucifix sculpted by Michelangelo at 18 has been restored to pride of place in Florence's Santo Spirito Church.

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Customs officials find 'Creepy, crawly cargo'



Exotic snakes on display after being found in shoe boxes

Sydney

Australian customs officers got more than they bargained for when two shoeboxes arrived from Europe with venomous snakes, exotic spiders and scorpions inside the "creepy crawly cargo".

The unusual discovery was made at Melbourne last month in two boxes marked shoes sent through the mail in a consignment identified as coming from northern Europe.

The parcel included six venomous vipers native to Southeast Asia, three ball pythons, nine large tarantulas from Mexico, Brazil and

Colombia, and Asian forest scorpions.

Australian Border Force officers, in a statement yesterday headlined "Creepy crawly cargo", said it was a serious issue as they posed a high biosecurity risk because they can carry pests and diseases that aren't present Down Under.

But the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources also saw the lighter side.

"This detection appears to be a clear attempt to get around the rules that are in place to protect us all," said Lyn O'Connell, an official responsible for biosecurity.

Armed men rob German tourists in Mexico

Tuxtla Gutiérrez

Authorities in southern Mexico on Monday were investigating the weekend robbery of more than two dozen German tourists by armed men at a popular Mayan archaeological site.

The attack late Saturday targeted 28 Germans and their two tour guides in the town of Palenque in the southern state of Chiapas.

One guide, Mary Gramilich, said her group, on the latest stop of a tour across Mexico, was accosted at the historic site by several armed and hooded men carrying knives and guns.

They stole their money, cameras and other valuables.

The pre-Hispanic archaeological site, with its well-preserved Mayan pyramids, was designated in 1987 as a UNESCO world heritage site.

'Pink Star' diamond gets record \$71.2m in auction

Hong Kong

A giant diamond named the "Pink Star" broke the world record for a gemstone sold at auction when it fetched \$71.2 million in Hong Kong yesterday.

The 59.60-carat "Pink Star", the largest in its class ever graded by the Gemological Institute of America, was sold to the city's Chow Tai Fook jewellery chain.

"Sotheby's Hong Kong is very proud to have this record," its Asia chairman Patti Wong said after the sale.



Pink star

The rock measures 2.69 by 2.06 centimetres and weighs 11.92 grams.

The near-translucent rock was renamed after it was first sold four years later for an undisclosed sum to an unidentified buyer.