

School buses and police in front of Great Mills High School.

Two hurt, shooter dead at US school

Washington

A student who shot and critically wounded two fellow students at a Maryland high school yesterday morning, died after exchanging gunfire with a campus security officer, the county sheriff said.

The school day had barely begun when the student, who has not been identified, shot a male student and a female student at Great Mills High School in St. Mary's County before the campus security officer intervened, county Sheriff Timothy Cameron told a news conference.

"Our school resource officer who was stationed inside the school was alerted to the event and the shots

being fired," Cameron said.

"He pursued the shooter, engaged the shooter; during that engagement he fired a round at the shooter. Simultaneously, the shooter fired a round as well."

The officer was not harmed, the sheriff said.

The shooting occurred soon after 8am at Great Mills High School, located about a 90-minute drive southeast of the US capital Washington when a student opened fire on a female pupil with a handgun, St Mary's County Sheriff Tim Cameron told the MSNBC television network.

The shooter was confirmed dead in hospital at 10.41am. Cameron said investigators would determine whether the

shooter died of a wound from the school resource officer's gun or in some other way.

The female student, who is 16, had been in critical condition but was stabilised and transferred to another hospital, officials at MedStar St Mary's Hospital said.

A 14-year-old male student, whom the sheriff had earlier said was also in critical condition, was in good condition after treatment.

Police cars and emergency vehicles with flashing lights could be seen surrounding the school.

"It happened really quickly, right after school started," Jonathan Freese, a Great Mills student, told CNN. (AFP)

Last male northern white rhino dies

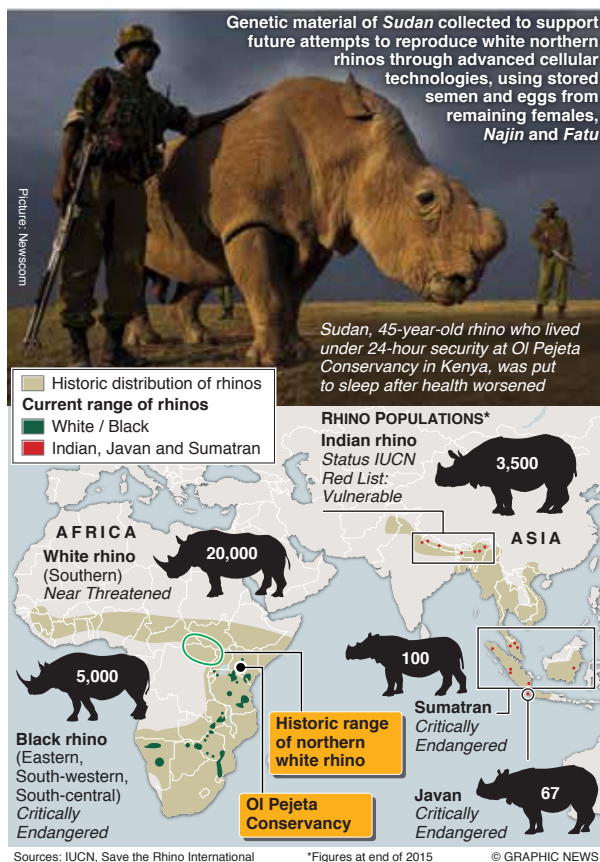
Nairobi

Sudan, the last male northern white rhino, has died in Kenya at the age of 45, after becoming a symbol of efforts to save his subspecies from extinction, a fate that only science can now prevent.

When Sudan was born in 1973 in the wild in Shambe, South Sudan, there were about 700 of his kind left in existence.

At his death, there are only two females remaining alive and the hope that in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) techniques will advance enough to preserve the sub-species.

Sudan, elderly by rhino standards, had been ailing for some time, suffering from age-related infections, according to his keepers at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy. (AFP)



#PollToday



Do you think the latest Maryland school shooting would strengthen the nationwide student-organized march against school violence?

○ Yes ○ No ○ Cant Say



"Routine extensions of the state of emergency in Turkey have led to profound human rights violations against hundreds of thousands of people. The numbers are just staggering: nearly 160,000 people arrested during an 18-month state of emergency."

Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein
UN rights chief

Rest in sight

London railway reopens after fire alert



London's Victoria railway station has reopened following a fire alert.

Sarkozy held over campaign financing

Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy was in police custody for questioning over allegations that he received campaign funding from the late Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

Greece launches its own space agency

Greece launched its first space agency as an effort to rebuild the ailing economy as it exits a severe eight-year debt crisis.

Paris mulls free travel to reduce pollution

The mayor of Paris wants to make all public transport free in an effort to reduce air pollution, but faces staunch opposition from the head of the regional transport authority who said the move would hit taxpayers.

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India confirms deaths of 39 workers abducted in Iraq

New Delhi

The bodies of 39 Indian construction workers kidnapped in Iraq in 2014 by the Islamic State group have been found in a mass grave, India's foreign minister said yesterday.

Sushma Swaraj told the upper house of parliament the workers had been murdered by IS.

Their bodies had been found in the grave in the village of Badush northwest of the city of Mosul and taken to a local organisation for DNA testing.

"Yesterday they told us that 38 samples had matched. The 39th had a

partial match as he didn't have any immediate family," said Swaraj.

The workers were abducted in June 2014 when IS jihadists overran large swathes of territory in Iraq and captured Mosul.

The government had for years insisted they were believed still alive and the latest announcement sparked criticism from some relatives of the dead.

The victims were mostly from poor families in India's northern state of Punjab and had been working for a construction company in Mosul when they were rounded up. (AFP)

Fifth parcel blast in Texas



Police officers talk to commuters after two men were injured in the fourth bombing in Austin

Austin

A package bomb blew up at a FedEx Corp distribution centre near San Antonio yesterday, officials said, and the FBI was investigating whether it was linked to a series of four homemade bombs that hit the Texas capital of Austin this month.

Officials did not say if the latest incident was the work of what Austin police believe could be a serial bomber responsible for the four earlier devices that killed two people and injured four others.

The blast at the FedEx facility in Schertz, northeast of San Antonio, was the fifth in the state in the last 18 days. If it is linked to the others, it would be the first outside the Austin area and the first that involves a commercial parcel service.

"We are investigating it as being possibly related to our open investigation," FBI spokeswoman Michelle Lee told the Austin American-Statesman newspaper. "We can't know for sure until we have an opportunity to look at the evidence itself." (Reuters)

Trump hasn't congratulated Putin yet. Moscow understands

Moscow

The Kremlin spokesman said it was no big deal that US President Donald Trump didn't congratulate Vladimir Putin on his re-election as president.

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Tuesday that he doesn't consider Trump's silence an "unfriendly act"

Peskov said maybe Trump's schedule didn't allow it and suggested he might call later.

The White House said

Monday that it is "not surprised by the outcome" of Sunday's election, and that no congratulatory call was planned.

With US-Russian relations at a long-time low, Peskov said: "Putin remains open for normalising relations with our American partners where it is in our interests."

Putin was overwhelming re-elected in Sunday's election for another six-year term, in a vote where his only serious opponent was banned from running. (AP)