

world

France hunts gunman after market shooting

● The attack took place Tuesday around 8 pm

● The suspected shooter, a 29-year-old from the south of the city

● The man opened fire in three areas of the Christmas market

AFP | Strasbourg, France



French police officers stand guard near the scene of a shooting

Hundreds of police and anti-terror forces hunted yesterday for a gunman who shot dead three people and wounded 13 at a Christmas market in Strasbourg, with the suspect known to police and thought to be a religious extremist.

The attack took place Tues-

day around 8 pm (1900 GMT) in the heart of the medieval city in eastern France as the market was closing, sending crowds fleeing for safety.

The suspected shooter, a 29-year-old from the south of the city, was on a watchlist of suspected extremists and "is ac-

tively being hunted by security forces," local officials said in a statement.

The man opened fire in three areas of the Christmas market, which draws hundreds of thousands of people each year to its wooden chalets selling festive decorations, mulled wine and

food.

The motive for Tuesday night's shooting in Strasbourg "has not yet been established," deputy Interior minister Laurent Nunez told France Inter radio.

The gunman is "known for a number of criminal offences (...) but has never been linked to terrorist offences," he said.

Police had wanted to arrest him Tuesday morning as part of an investigation into an attempted murder, but he was not at home, a security source said.

Strasbourg mayor Roland Ries said most of the victims were men, including one Thai tourist. "Some were shot in the head," Ries told BFM television. No children were hurt.

Soldiers patrolling the area as part of regular anti-terror operations after a series of attacks since 2015 exchanged fire with the suspect and wounded him, police sources said.



102-year-old great-grandmother Irene O'Shea during her skydive tandem jump in the South Australia town of Wellington.

Twitter CEO defends controversial Myanmar tweets



Yangon, Myanmar

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey yesterday defended a series of tweets about his recent meditation retreat in Myanmar that were pilloried on his own platform for failing to mention the persecution of Rohingya Muslims.

Dorsey's gushing thread on Sunday came after a 10-day silent Vipassana meditation retreat near Mandalay in which he praised the country's food, beauty and its people, whom he said were "full of joy".

The comments drew heat online for leaving out any discussion of atrocities committed against Myanmar's Rohingya minority.

In a series of tweets, Dorsey defended his actions but conceded he could have handled the situation better.

"I'm aware of the human rights atrocities and suffering in Myanmar. I don't view visiting, practicing, or talking with the people, as endorsement," he said.

"I didn't intend to diminish by not raising the issue, but could have acknowledged that I don't know enough and need to learn more."

California man sues after pinky stuck in armrest during flight

Los Angeles, United States

A California man has filed a lawsuit against two US airlines after his pinky got stuck in his first-class seat armrest, forcing firefighters and a mechanic to intervene to free the finger.

Stephen Keys, an actor who has starred in "Soul Plane" and "Big Time Rush," claims in his suit -- filed in Los Angeles Superior Court against American Airlines Inc. and SkyWest Airlines Inc. -- that he suffered severe emotional distress and weeks of pain after the Sep-

tember 9 incident on board a flight from Reno, Nevada to Los Angeles.

The mishap took place after he raised his armrest to reach for his seatbelt and his pinky got stuck in a small hole under the armrest, according to the suit.

"The spring mechanism embedded inside of this hole in the armrest applied intense pressure to plaintiff's finger, immediately inflicting injury, swelling and pain," the suit alleges.

It adds that Keys repeat-

edly tried to free his pinky as fellow passengers looked on, "causing his dire situation to become a humiliating public spectacle."

Keys claims he suffered for nearly an hour as flight personnel and firefighters tried to dislodge the finger.

An airline mechanic finally disassembled the armrest and freed the pinky.

The suit says that since the mishap, Keys has been unable to carry out routine tasks, including playing with his children.

Mother reunited with daughter she thought died 69 years ago

Washington, United States

An 88-year-old American woman has been reunited with the daughter she was told had died at birth 69 years ago, The New York Times reported.

Genevieve Purinton of Tampa, Florida, met her 69-year-old daughter Connie Moultroupe of Richmond, Vermont, for the first time this month, the newspaper said.

Purinton was 18 years old and unmarried when she gave birth to a girl in Gary, Indiana.

"I was told it was a girl, but she died," she told the Times.

The newspaper said that in fact, a doctor at the hospital where Purinton gave birth had arranged for the baby to be adopted.

Moultroupe tracked down her birth mother after taking a DNA test on Ancestry.com, the Times said.

She traveled to Florida this month to meet her. "You're not dead," Purinton said when they were reunited.

"It was a bawlfest," said Moultroupe. "She was so happy to meet me."



Connie Moultroupe (R) shows her taking a selfie with her mother Genevieve Purinton (L) after reuniting thanks to DNA testing in Tampa, Florida

102-year-old skydiver

Sydney, Australia

A 102-year-old great-grandmother is believed to have become the world's oldest skydiver after plunging 14,000 feet (4,300 metres) through the South Australian sky.

Centenarian adrenaline junkie Irene O'Shea said she "felt normal" after a 220 kilometre per hour (140 mph) dive that sent her cheeks flapping wildly.

She completed her first

skydive to mark her 100th birthday in 2016, but organisers claimed it was Sunday's successful tandem dive at the age of 102 years and 194 days that earned her a place in the history books.

"It was very clear up there, and the weather was good but it was very cold," said O'Shea, according to Australian media.

O'Shea took the plunge to raise funds for a motor neurone disease charity, after her daughter died from the illness.



Irene O'Shea (C) after she safely landed upon completing her jump