

world

UK police identify Novichok suspects as Russians

London, United Kingdom

British police believe they have identified the suspects who carried out the Novichok nerve agent attack on a former Moscow double agent and his daughter and that they are Russian, the Press Association news agency reported Thursday.

"Investigators believe they have identified the suspected perpetrators of the Novichok attack through CCTV and have cross-checked this with records of people who entered the country around that time," a source with knowledge of the probe told the British agency.

"They (investigators) are sure they (suspects) are Russian," the source added.

Death toll from India building collapse hits nine

New Delhi, India

The death toll from a collapsed apartment block outside Delhi rose to nine on Thursday as emergency workers pulled four more bodies from a huge pile of rubble and metal, India's fire brigade said.

The six-storey building caved in late Tuesday and crashed into a neighbouring building, trapping more than a dozen people, including labourers and two families in Greater Noida, a satellite city east of Indian capital. Five bodies were pulled out on Wednesday.

Bus plunges into Indian gorge, 14 dead

Dehradun, India

A bus plunged into a gorge in a Himalayan state of northern India on Thursday, killing 14 people and injuring 17 others, a disaster official said.

The driver lost control of the vehicle as he tried to negotiate a narrow bend in the picturesque Tehri district.

"Thirty-one people had boarded the bus. Rescue workers have pulled out 14 bodies. Seventeen others are injured, nine of them have serious injuries," disaster official Piyush Rautela said.

Those nine have been flown by helicopter to a hospital in the nearby city of Rishikesh, he told AFP.

India has some of the world's deadliest roads, claiming the lives of more than 150,000 people each year.

Earlier this month, 44 people were killed in Uttarakhand when a bus crashed into a gorge.

Walter Carr gets a new car!

Man walks 20 miles for first day of work, gets big reward



Alabama college student Walter Carr, left, is given keys to a car by Bellhops

Miami, United States

Young Walter Carr did not want to miss his first day of work as a mover. So when his car broke down and he was unable to find a ride, he set off walking -- a distance of 20 miles (32 kilometers).

A long night and two very sore feet later, things turned out OK for the 20-year-old Carr: his new boss found out what Carr had done and gave him the keys to his own car, a Ford Escape.

The story went viral on social media after the Alabama woman who had called boss Luke Marklin's company for help moving, Jenny Lamey, posted about it over the weekend on Facebook.

Lamey learned from Carr that his family, originally from New Orleans, had lost their home in Hurricane Katrina and had then moved to Alabama.

He left his place in Homewood, Alabama, shortly before midnight on Friday, figuring that as a former high school cross-country runner he could manage the 20 miles on foot.

Four hours later, as he was taking a breather, a police officer stopped to check on him.

Impressed by Carr's sincerity -- and learning that the young man had had little to eat -- the officer bought him breakfast, then drove him a few miles farther before wish-

ing him well.

After Carr had walked as far as the town of Pelham, another policeman -- alerted to Carr's plight by the first officer -- stopped and gave him a ride the rest of the way.

Later, when Marklin heard the story, he decided to give the young man his car.

"This is my car," he said, handing his newest employee the keys, "and I'd like it to be your car." "Seriously?" the young man asked in amazement.

Lamey started a "Thank You Walter" account at the GoFundMe.com site to raise money to help Carr, and by Wednesday afternoon it had raised over \$60,000.

In a video posted by the Pelham police, a clearly emotional Carr expressed his gratitude.



"This is my car," Carr's boss said, handing his newest employee the keys, "and I'd like it to be your car"

Syria gets back Golan

Rebels have agreed to surrender the sensitive area bordering the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights



Buses transporting residents and fighters from the towns of Fuaa and Kefraya arrive in the Syrian regime-held territory of the al-Eis crossing point south of Aleppo

Beirut, Lebanon

Syrian rebels have agreed to surrender a sensitive area bordering the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, a monitor and opposition source said yesterday, the latest in a series of deals expanding regime control over key territory.

The agreement follows another deal that saw thousands of residents evacuated Thursday morning from two pro-regime towns in northern Syria long besieged by hardline rebels.

Both deals, negotiated by regime ally Russia, will be seen as victories for President Bashar al-Assad over the seven-year uprising that once threatened his rule.

With a mix of military force and negotiated surrenders, his forces this month captured more than 90 percent of Daraa, the southern province where

protests against him first erupted in 2011.

They then began intensely bombing rebels in Quneitra, a crescent-shaped province wedged between Daraa and the buffer zone with the Israel-occupied Golan to the west.

Under pressure, rebels have agreed to hand over Quneitra and the buffer to government forces, an opposition negotiator and a monitoring group said.

"The deal provides for a ceasefire, the handover of heavy and medium weapons, and the return of government institutions to the area," said Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group.

Syrian forces would take over opposition territory in the buffer zone.

Carrot-and-stick

The agreement, according to

the Observatory, does not include Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a jihadist-led alliance that holds territory straddling Quneitra and Daraa.

State news agency SANA said it had information on a deal for the army to return to its pre-2011 positions in the area, but did not provide more details.

A member of the rebel delegation to the talks said that a preliminary ceasefire agreement on Quneitra had been reached with Moscow but said it was unclear when it would be implemented.

As part of it, he told AFP, Syrian government forces accompanied by Russian military police would enter the buffer zone with the Golan.

Israel seized 1,200 square kilometres (460 square miles) of the Golan from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War and later annexed it, in a move never recognised internationally.

Thai boys wake up in home for first time in weeks

● Officials have advised families of the youngsters to avoid interviews with the media

Mae Sai, Thailand

Members of the "Wild Boars" football team rescued from a cave in northern Thailand prayed for good luck at a Buddhist temple on Thursday morning after spending their first night back home with family.



Some of the 12 Thai boys who were dramatically rescued from deep inside a cave after being trapped for more than a fortnight attend a religious ceremony at a Buddhist temple in Chiang Rai

The teammates and coach were discharged from hospital Wednesday after recuperating for a week from their 18-day ordeal inside Tham Luang cave with no food and only rainwater to drink.

After spending a night at home many of the boys attended a ceremony the next morning at Wat Pha That Doi Wao in Mae Sai near the Myanmar border where they prayed for longevity and a good life.

They also paid tribute to a former Thai Navy SEAL diver Saman Kunan, who ran out of oxygen and died while helping resupply air tanks along the

cave's narrow passageways. Wearing threads of white string tied around their wrists and holding hands together in prayer, the boys sat together in the temple while chants of Buddhist monks filled the room.

"They will live with their families first," Punnawitth Thepsurin, the director of a school in the area, said, adding that they will not resume their studies immediately.

They walked into the cave on June 23 after football practice, thinking they would only be there for an hour to explore, and then vanished for days until they were finally found.