

1877

US inventor Thomas Edison demonstrates his hand-cranked phonograph for the first time



1929

Richard E. Byrd makes his first flight over the South Pole

1935

Physicist Erwin Schrödinger publishes his famous thought experiment “Schrödinger’s cat”, a paradox that illustrates the problem of the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics

1951

First underground atomic explosion at Frenchman Flat in Nevada

Trump says to suspend ‘third world’ migration after troop killed

President threatens to reverse “millions” of admissions following deadly attack in Washington

● Announcement follows deadly shooting of National Guard soldiers

● Suspected gunman is an Afghan national granted US asylum

● FBI opens international terrorism investigation

AFP | Washington

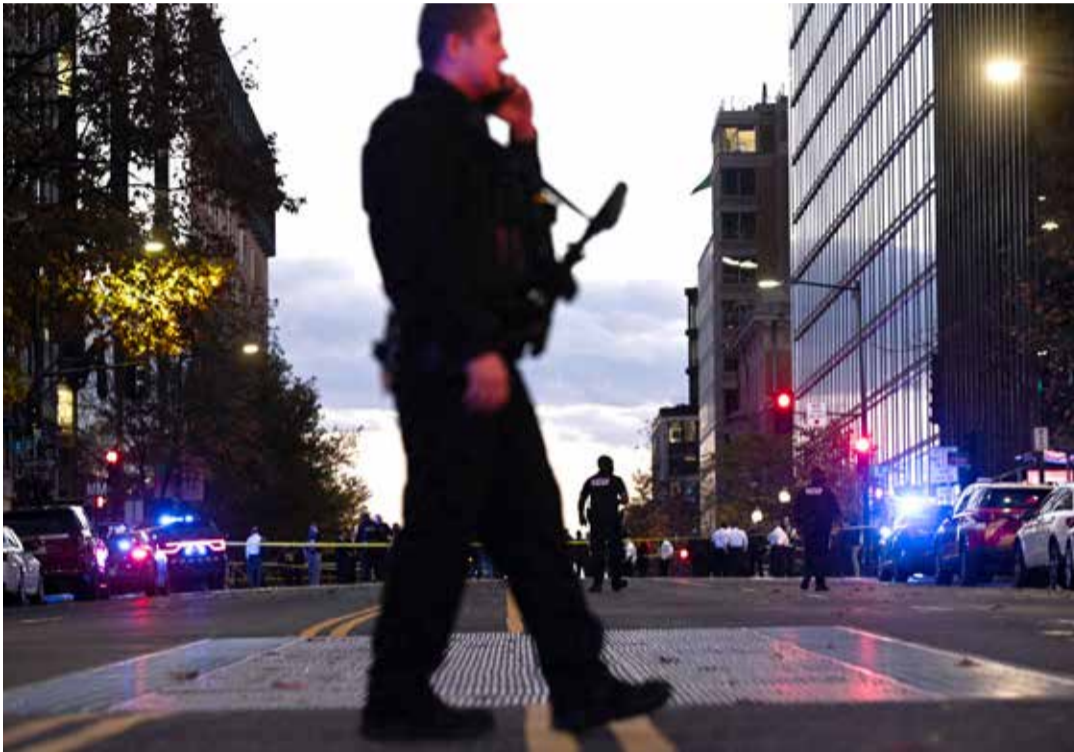
US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he would suspend migration from what he called “third world countries”, a day after an Afghan national allegedly shot two National Guard soldiers in Washington, killing one.

His social media post, which also threatened to reverse “millions” of admissions granted under his predecessor Joe Biden, marked a new escalation in the anti-migration stance.

Trump said earlier that Sarah Beckstrom, a 20-year-old West Virginia National Guard member deployed in Washington as part of his crackdown on crime, had died from her wounds.

The FBI has launched an international terror investigation as new details emerged about the alleged gunman, a 29-year-old Afghan national who was a member of the “Zero Units” -- a CIA-backed counterterrorism group, according to multiple US media reports.

The shooting on Wednesday, which officials described as an “ambush-style” attack, has



A police officer secures the area as law-enforcement officials visit the crime scene of a shooting in downtown Washington

brought together three politically explosive issues: Trump’s controversial use of the military at home, immigration, and the legacy of the US war in Afghanistan.

“I will permanently pause migration from all Third World Countries to allow the U.S. system to fully recover,” Trump wrote on social media.

He linked the shooting and his decision to send hundreds of National Guard troops to the city.

“If they weren’t effective, you probably wouldn’t have had this done,” Trump said. “Maybe this man was upset because he couldn’t practice crime.”

Joseph Edlow, Trump’s director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services, said on Thursday he had ordered a “full-scale,

”
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DONALD TRUMP

rigorous reexamination of every Green Card for every alien from every country of concern.”

His agency later pointed to a list of 19 countries -- including Afghanistan, Cuba, Haiti, Iran and Myanmar -- facing US travel restrictions under a previous order from Trump in June.

More than 1.6 million US green

card holders, roughly 12 percent of the total permanent resident population listed, were born in the countries listed, according to the latest immigration data available on the agency’s “Eligible to Naturalize Dashboard” analyzed by AFP.

Cuba accounts for the largest share, with about 560,000 green card holders, followed by Haiti (235,000) and Venezuela (153,000).

Afghanistan, which has over 116,000 green card holders, is also affected by a total halt of immigration application processing, ordered by the Trump administration after the shooting.

‘Brazen, targeted’ attack

The other soldier wounded in Wednesday’s attack, 24-year-

YOU KNOW WHAT

The suspected gunman, an Afghan national, had previously served with a CIA-backed force in Afghanistan and was granted asylum in the US in April 2025 under the Trump administration

old Andrew Wolfe, was “fighting for his life”, Trump said. The suspected shooter was also in serious condition.

The US attorney for Washington DC, Jeanine Pirro, said the suspected assailant, identified as Rahmanullah Lakanwal, had been living in the western state of Washington and had driven across the country to the capital.

In what she called a “brazen and targeted” attack, Pirro said the gunman opened fire with a .357 Smith and Wesson revolver on a group of guardsmen on patrol just a few blocks from the White House.

Officials said they still had no clear understanding of the motive behind the shooting.

CIA director John Ratcliffe said the suspect had been part of a CIA-backed “partner force” fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan, and had been brought to the US as part of a program to evacuate Afghans who had worked with the agency.

Hong Kong’s deadliest blaze in decades kills at least 128, dozens missing

● Nearly 200 people still missing

● Alarms in buildings malfunctioned

AFP | Hong Kong

The death toll from Hong Kong’s worst blaze in decades rose to 128 yesterday, with dozens still missing, as authorities said fire alarms in the residential estate buildings had been malfunctioning.

Families scoured hospitals and victim identification stations hoping to find their loved ones, with around 200 people still listed as missing and 89 bodies as yet unidentified.

Flames moved quickly through the Wang Fuk Court housing estate in Tai Po district on Wednesday afternoon, spreading through seven of the eight high-rises and transforming the densely packed complex into an inferno.



A general view shows the aftermath of a major fire that swept through several apartment blocks at the Wang Fuk Court residential estate in Hong Kong

The blaze was “largely extinguished” by yesterday morning after burning for more than 40 hours, the fire services said, announcing they had finished their search of over 1,800 flats for survivors.

Authorities are investigating what sparked the fire, including examining the bamboo scaffold-

ing and netting wrapped around the complex as part of a major renovation.

The Hong Kong government said yesterday it appeared the fire had started in protective netting on the lower floors of one of the towers and that foam boards and bamboo scaffolding had contributed to its spread.

YOU KNOW WHAT

Authorities say the fire likely ignited on bamboo scaffolding’s protective netting, rapidly spreading through seven towers in less than 15 minutes, overwhelming emergency systems and trapping many residents

Fire services chief Andy Yeung said earlier they had discovered that alarm systems in all eight blocks “were malfunctioning”.

“We will take enforcement actions against the contractors responsible,” Yeung told a press conference.

Residents had recounted hav-

ing to run door-to-door to alert neighbours to the danger.

At the charred apartment blocks yesterday morning, workers brought out bodies in black bags, with an AFP reporter counting four in one 15-minute period.

Vehicles unloaded corpses at a mortuary in nearby Sha Tin, another reporter saw, with families arriving in the afternoon for identification.

At one hospital in Sha Tin, a woman surnamed Wong was looking for her sister-in-law and her sister-in-law’s twin, with no luck.

“We still cannot find them. So we are going to different hospitals to ask if they have good news,” the 38-year-old told AFP in tears.

“We were already waiting at the Prince of Wales Hospital on the first day but there was no news. We also came here yesterday.”

The last contact anyone had with the twins was on Wednesday afternoon, said Wong, around the time the fire was reported.

X
TOP
4
TWEETS
01



1.1 billion people live in multidimensional poverty. Ending poverty is not charity – it is justice, dignity, human rights and an investment in peace. Let’s act to #endpoverty and keep the promise of the SDGs.

@AminaJMohammed

02



The Digital Progress and Trends Report 2025 is now live. It spotlights our Four Cs framework: Connectivity, Compute, Context, & Competency. These foundations help countries adopt, adapt, and innovate with AI.

@Axel_vanT

03



AI can transform Europe’s productivity—but only if decisive action is taken. Read in our latest blog how deepening the single market, investing in innovation, and keeping regulation flexible are essential to unlock AI’s potential

@KGeorgieva

04



Author-signed books are one of the most affordable gifts you can give a friend or loved one. The American Museum of Natural History shop stocks a dozen of my books, pre-signed. You’ll pay near-list or a Black-Friday price, but proceeds go to the Museum.

@neiltyson

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