



13 civilians killed by security forces in India's northeast

Pope calls neglect of migrants 'shipwreck' on Lesbos visit

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OXFORD, Michigan: Signs in the window of a store show support for the community after the Oxford High School shooting, in downtown in Oxford, Michigan. — AFP

US school shooter parents plead not guilty

Michigan judge set a combined million-dollar bond for their release

WASHINGTON: The parents of a 15-year-old who shot dead four students at a US high school with a gun bought by his father pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter Saturday, as a Michigan judge set a combined million-dollar bond for their release.

James and Jennifer Crumbley, the parents of shooting suspect Ethan Crumbley, were arrested overnight after police tracked them down in an industrial building in Detroit — 40 miles (65 kilometers) from the shooting in Oxford. The pair were considered fugitives—having reportedly withdrawn \$4,000 in cash and switched off their phones—although the Crumbleys' lawyers told the court their clients "were absolutely going to turn themselves in."

But Sheriff Michael Bouchard of Oakland County—where the shooting took place—told reporters during a news conference Saturday that it appeared the couple had help in "hiding" from police. "They weren't looking toward surrendering at that point," he said. "We believe they were assisted in that location, to get there, to get in," Bouchard said.

"Clearly somebody helped them into that location and made it available to them," even after there was a warrant out for their arrests, he said.

At their arraignment Judge Julie Nicholson set bond at \$500,000 for each parent, calling the

charges "very, very serious" and saying "the court does have some concern about the flight risk." Four students, aged 14 to 17, were killed in the Tuesday shooting at Oxford High School north of Detroit and six more were wounded, along with a teacher.

The couple's son Ethan has been charged as an adult with state murder and terror charges, while his parents each face four counts of involuntary manslaughter—each carrying a sentence of up to 15 years in jail. In announcing charges against the boy's parents on Friday, Oakland County prosecutor Karen McDonald said the rare move was intended to "send the message" that gun owners have a responsibility.

The Crumbleys are accused not only of supplying their son with a weapon, but of ignoring escalating warnings that he appeared to be on the brink of violence—including on the day of the shooting.

Four days before the tragedy, James Crumbley bought the 9mm Sig Sauer semi-automatic handgun for his son, McDonald told the judge at Saturday's hearing. His wife took their son to a shooting range the following day, posting on social

media that she had bought a gun for her "baby" for Christmas, the prosecutor said. "Instead of disclosing to the school that he had full access to this weapon, they chose not to," she said.

Gun purchase

While school shootings carried out by teens have become a sadly familiar part of American life, it is highly unusual for parents to face charges. Ethan was with his father at the time of the purchase at a local firearms store and the teen posted a picture of the gun on his Instagram account, writing "just got my new beauty today" along with a heart emoji.

But the Crumbleys' lawyer Shannon Smith told the judge it was "absolutely not true" that Ethan Crumbley had free access to a gun. "Our clients are going to fight these charges," Smith said. "Our clients are just as devastated as everyone else."

According to police, Ethan Crumbley recorded a video on his cell phone the night before the attack saying he was planning a shooting at the school the next day, but it was not posted online. That same day, a teacher observed Ethan

Crumbley searching for ammunition on his cell phone during class.

McDonald said Jennifer Crumbley exchanged a text message with her son that day, writing: "lol I'm not mad at you. You have to learn not to get caught." There is evidence the shooting was "premeditated, and he was actually looking forward to it," Bouchard said.

'Don't do it'

The Crumbleys were summoned to the school on the day of the shooting after a teacher was "alarmed" by a note she found on Ethan's desk, McDonald said. The parents were shown the drawing and advised they needed to get the boy into counseling. McDonald said they resisted taking their son home and he returned to class.

He later entered a bathroom, emerged with the gun, which he had concealed in his backpack, and opened fire. McDonald said Jennifer Crumbley, when she heard about the shooting, had texted her son, saying: "Ethan don't do it."

And James Crumbley called the emergency line 911 to report that a gun was missing from his house and that he believed his son may be the shooter, McDonald said. According to Bouchard, all three family members are in custody at the Oakland County jail, unable to communicate with each other. — AFP

“They weren't looking toward surrendering”

Indonesia volcano eruption death toll rises to 14

JAVA: Rescuers in Indonesia raced to find survivors in villages blanketed by molten ash yesterday after the eruption of Mount Semeru killed at least 14 people and left dozens injured. The eruption of the biggest mountain on the island of Java caught locals by surprise on Saturday, sending thousands fleeing and forcing hundreds of families into makeshift shelters.

At least 11 villages of Lumajang district in East Java were coated in volcanic ash, submerging houses and vehicles, smothering livestock and leaving at least 1,300 evacuees seeking shelter in mosques, schools and village halls.

"We did not know it was hot mud," said Bunadi, a resident of Kampung Renteng, a village of about 3,000 people. "All of a sudden, the sky turned dark as rains and hot smoke came." Dramatic footage showed Semeru pumping a mushroom of ash into the sky that loomed over screaming residents of a nearby village as they fled.

"The number of victims who died until now is 14 people," national disaster mitigation agency spokesman Abdul Muhari told a press conference

yesterday. Two of the victims have been identified, he said in an earlier statement.

At least 56 people including two pregnant women were injured in the eruption, health officials said, and most suffered serious burns. President Joko Widodo on Sunday ordered a rapid emergency response to find victims after the scale of the disaster became clear, said state secretary Pratikno, who like many Indonesians goes by only one name.

As many as 10 trapped people were rescued from areas surrounding Lumajang, Muhari said, as villagers and rescuers worked through the night to find anyone alive or retrieve bodies. But the rescue efforts were hindered by hot ash and debris, with evacuations temporarily suspended yesterday due to ash clouds, Indonesia's Metro TV reported, highlighting the difficulty of the operation.

The country's geological agency said rain is expected in the next three days that could further hinder rescue work. There is also a risk of the rain causing ash sediment to form a new river of hot lava, the country's top volcanologist Surono told the TV station.

Many people who sustained burns had mistaken the hot mud flow for floods so stayed in their villages, said Lumajang Public Order Agency spokesman Adi Hendro. "They did not have time to run away," he told AFP. Authorities said they are still trying to confirm the whereabouts of at least nine people. — AFP

Moscow says US spy plane nearly caused mid-air 'catastrophe'

MOSCOW: Moscow has said that a US plane threatened civilian aircraft but "catastrophe" was avoided when a Russian passenger plane dived to avoid the NATO reconnaissance aircraft that crossed its path above the Black Sea.

On Friday morning a NATO CL600 reconnaissance aircraft descended rapidly across the planned route for a Tel Aviv to Moscow Aeroflot service with 142 people on board, Russia's Federal Air Transport Agency said in a statement.

The Aeroflot flight reportedly had to drop 500 metres (1,600 feet) to keep its distance from the reconnaissance aircraft, which the pilots saw from the cockpit with the naked eye. A second plane, a smaller CL650 aircraft, flying from the Black Sea resort Sochi to Skopje, the capital of Northern Macedonia, also had to divert to avoid the spy plane, the Russian air transport authority said Saturday.

"The direction and altitude of the commercial

flights were immediately altered" to avoid a collision, the agency said, adding that the unknown plane did not respond to radio hails from air traffic control. While the Federal Air Transport Agency did not say which nation had operated the spy plane, Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova indicated on Sunday that the reconnaissance aircraft belonged to the United States. "The actions of the US Air Force have created a threat to civil aviation," Zakharova said on messaging app Telegram. "If now a catastrophe in the airspace over the open waters of the Black Sea has been averted, this does not mean that the United States and NATO can continue to risk people's lives with impunity."

The Federal Air Transport Agency said it would lodge a diplomatic protest. "Increased activity by NATO aircraft near Russia's borders, including above the Black Sea, creates a risk of dangerous accidents involving civilian aircraft," the agency said. The incident came as tensions rise between Russia and Western nations, which accuse Moscow of massing troops on its border with Ukraine in preparation for a possible invasion.

Russia has denied it has any such plans, in turn accusing NATO countries of "provocations" including military exercises near its borders. — AFP