

Train Heroes Highlight Security Concern

PARIS (AP) — The gunman had an arsenal that he claims to have stumbled upon in a park near the train station. Like three other men accused of drawing up failed plans for attacks in France recently, the suspect denied any links to terrorism, telling his lawyer he was homeless and only wanted to rob a train “to eat.”

Instead, the assault rifle jammed, and he was tackled and bound with a necktie by three Americans and a Briton who were celebrated Monday with France's highest honor. Now, with many lives potentially saved on the high-speed train by quick-thinking and courageous passengers, the limits of a continent's worth of security were thrown into relief by a lone attacker during a less-sophisticated act of violence.

“I don't think we can rely entirely on the police, the law enforcement services. They will do their best. We can put in place the best intelligence networks, but somebody is probably going to get through at some stage. And my vision of this is that as citizens, we need to be prepared to think about how to act,” Chris Norman, the British businessman who helped bind the suspect, told The Associated Press.

“We need to have it in our minds, because if I had never thought it before, then I probably would've just been sitting in a corner cowering,” Norman said.

With thousands of Europeans believed to be radicalized by propaganda from the Islamic State group, and legions of security forces guarding the most visible targets, governments are increasingly worried about the possibility of carnage by individuals, with little planning, in a setting where there is minimal or no security.

Hacker Might Have Led To Suicides

TORONTO (AP) — The hacking of the cheating website Ashley Madison has triggered extortion crimes and led to two unconfirmed reports of suicides, Canadian police said Monday.

The company behind Ashley Madison is offering a \$500,000 Canadian (US \$378,000) reward for information leading to the arrest of members of a group that hacked the site.

Hackers last week released detailed records on millions of people registered with the website, a month after a break-in at Ashley Madison's parent company, Toronto-based Avid Life Media Inc. The website, whose slogan is, “Life is short. Have an affair,” is marketed to facilitate extramarital affairs.

Toronto Police acting staff Superintendent Bryce Evans said the hack is having an “enormous social and economic fallout.”

“This hack is one of the largest data breaches in the world,” Evans said. “This is affecting all of us. The social impact behind this leak, we're talking about families, we're talking about children, we're talking about wives, their male partners.”

Obama Caught Between Clinton, Biden

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is the man in the middle, caught between the White House aspirations of two of his closest advisers: Vice President Joe Biden and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

For months, White House officials expected Clinton to be the Democratic nominee in the 2016 election. Some of Obama's top political advisers moved to New York to run her campaign and Obama appeared to give his tacit approval, saying she would be an “excellent president.”

But that bet on Clinton suddenly looks less certain. With Biden weighing his own presidential run more seriously amid signs of weakness in Clinton's campaign, the White House faces the prospect of a family feud over who will become heir to Obama's legacy.

“Certainly he's got something at stake here,” White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Monday of Obama's interest in the 2016 election.

Biden's recent overtures to donors and Democratic officials have led to palpable awkwardness in the West Wing as aides — many with close ties to Clinton, the vice president or both — try to maintain impartiality.

Trump Campaign: A Boon For TV Ratings

NEW YORK (AP) — Opinion polls are one thing, but Nielsen numbers speak more loudly to television executives: Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump's ability to pull in viewers makes him catnip for news programs and wins a level of coverage that feeds on itself.

NBC's “Meet the Press” had its biggest audience in more than a year for its Trump interview on Aug. 16, leading that show's biggest competitors — ABC's “This Week” and CBS' “Face the Nation” — to feature phone interviews with the New York businessman this past Sunday.

After CNN turned Jake Tapper's interview with Trump into a prime-time special last week and earned its best ratings at that hour in a month, the network repeated it two nights later. Two Trump interviews on Sean Hannity's Fox News Channel show this month both brought in around 2.2 million viewers, well above his typical audience.

Trump is generally considered the biggest reason why Fox reached a startling 24 million people for the first GOP presidential debate earlier this month — the most watched program in Fox News history. That instantly made him a big “get” for TV producers, and the media savvy ex-reality show host has eagerly played along.

Keenly aware of his drawing power, Trump suggested in a Time magazine interview that he could ask CNN to pay \$10 million to charity for his participation in the next GOP debate.

Tax Procrastinators Urged To File Now

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sign-up season for President Barack Obama's health care law doesn't start for another couple of months, but the next few days are crucial for hundreds of thousands of customers at risk of losing financial aid when they renew coverage for 2016.

Call them tardy tax filers: an estimated 1.8 million households that got subsidies for their premiums last year but failed to file a 2014 tax return as required by the law, or left out key IRS paperwork.

Because of coordination issues between the IRS and marketplaces like HealthCare.gov, consumers who keep procrastinating into the fall are taking chances with their financial aid, according to insurers and the tax agency. That means, for example, that someone who's been paying a monthly premium of \$90 could suddenly get hit with a bill for \$360.

Government officials say they have a backstop planned that should help many procrastinators. Nonetheless, insurers and advocacy groups say they've been told the best way returning customers can avoid hassles is to file their taxes correctly by Aug. 31.

“You don't want to get to December and realize that your subsidy amount isn't there,” said Clare Krusing, spokeswoman for the industry group America's Health Insurance Plans. Sign-up season starts Nov. 1, and insurers typically send bills for January in mid-December.

Colo. Judge Defends Killer's Trial, Jury

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP) — The judge who oversaw Colorado theater shooter James Holmes' trial gave an impassioned defense of the jury and the process Monday after the mother of one of the wounded said Holmes' life sentence showed more concern for Holmes than for the victims.

“You can't claim there was no justice because it wasn't the outcome you expected,” Judge Carlos A. Samour Jr. said in an unusual speech from the bench during Holmes' formal sentencing hearing for the 2012 attack.

Samour said the jury was fair and impartial and that he tried his utmost to be the same.

“And that's how you know it was justice,” he said.

Samour spoke after Kathleen Pourciau testified that her daughter, Bonnie Kate Pourciau, suffers constant, excruciating pain and terrible nightmares from the gunshot wounds she suffered at Holmes' hand.

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RODRIGO REYES MARIN/AFOLO/ZUMA PRESS/TNS

Pedestrians look at an electronic board showing the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average, which dropped 895.15 points at the end of trading on Monday in Tokyo. The Tokyo Stock Exchange tumbled more than 4 percent to a new low on Monday following massive declines in overseas markets on Friday and nervousness about China's economy. The Nikkei had dropped to a near-five-month low just 15 minutes after the market opened in the morning.

China Syndrome: Dow Ends Down 588 After Early Dive

BY ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writers

U.S. stocks slid again Monday, with the Dow Jones industrial average briefly plunging more than 1,000 points in a sell-off that sent a shiver of fear from Wall Street to Main Street.

Stocks regained some of that ground as the day wore on, but the Dow finished with a loss of 588 points, the eighth-worst single-day point decline and the second straight fall of more than 500.

The slump — part of a global wave of selling touched off by signs of a slowdown in China, the world's second-largest economy — triggered worries among Wall Street professionals and ordinary Americans who are saving for retirement or a down payment on a house.

With the lease on her car up, health insurance worker Deirdre Ralph of Wayne, New Jersey, had planned to get a less pricey vehicle and invest the savings. Now she's having doubts.

“That money, I wanted to take and put it toward my retirement,” said Ralph, 61. “Should I? Or should I just have a great old time?”

The Dow ended up losing 588.40 points, or 3.6 percent, closing at 15,871.35. As scary as the sell-off was, the Dow's decline doesn't even make the list of the Top 10 biggest drops in percentage terms.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index slid 77.68 points, or 3.9 percent, to 1,893.21, and is now in “correction” territory, Wall Street jargon for a drop of at least 10 percent from a recent peak. The last market correction was nearly four years ago.

The Nasdaq composite shed 179.79 points, or 3.8 percent, closing at 4,526.25.

All three major indexes are down for the year.

“There is a lot of fear in the markets,” said Bernard Aw, market strategist at IG.

U.S. stocks have been on a bull run for more than six years, after bottoming out in March 2009 in the aftermath of the financial crisis and the Great Recession. The rout began in China last week and continued on Monday, when the country's main stock index sank 8.5 percent.

China concerns aside, U.S. stocks have been primed for a sell-off for several months, said Jim Paulsen, chief investment strategist and economist for Wells Capital Management.

“I've been of the view since late last year that this market is in a vulnerable position,” he said. “It's gone almost straight up for six years.”

Stocks have kept rising even as corporate earnings growth has slowed. The price-earnings ratio for the S&P 500, a measure of how much investors are willing to pay for each dollar of company earnings, climbed as high as 17.2 in March. That was the highest level in at

least a decade, according to FactSet.

The Dow plummeted 1,089 points Monday within the first four minutes of the opening bell as traders dumped shares. But a wave of buying by bargain-hunters cut the Dow's losses by half just five minutes later.

The U.S. market slide was broad. The 10 sectors in the S&P 500 headed lower, with energy stocks recording the biggest decline, 5.2 percent, amid a slump in the price of oil. The sector is down almost 25 percent this year.

U.S. Treasuries surged as investors bought less risky assets. The yield on the benchmark 10-year note fell to 2.01 percent from 2.04 percent.

Oil, commodities and the currencies of many developing countries also tumbled on concerns that a slowdown in China might hurt economic growth around the globe. Crude oil closed below \$40 a barrel for the first time since early 2009. Gold and silver also fell.

In Europe, Germany's DAX stock index fell 4.7 percent, while the CAC-40 in France slid 5.4 percent. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares dropped 4.7 percent.

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei index fell 4.6 percent, its worst one-day drop since in over 2½ years. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 5.2 percent, Australia's S&P ASX/200 slid 4.1 percent, and South Korea's Kospi lost 2.5 percent.



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