

Bomb explodes on Paris commuter train

PARIS (AP) — A bomb exploded on a commuter train in a station in the heart of Paris during the evening rush-hour Tuesday, killing at least two people and seriously injuring 35.

Police said there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast on the edge of the city's famed Latin Quarter. French television said the bomb was made from a gas canister similar to those used in the 1995 wave of bombings claimed by Algerian militants.

Officials said the explosion occurred at 6:05 p.m. at the Port-Royal station, on the RER regional line used by thousands of commuters in and out of the French capital.

It detonated just as the train was pulling into the station, where the platform is partially above-ground. French radio said two people were killed instantly, but that more might have died had the entire station been under-

Two die, 35 injured in unclaimed terrorist attack

ground, concentrating the force of the blast.

Besides those who were seriously hurt, police at the scene told The Associated Press that 50 others suffered minor injuries.

A witness told France Info radio she heard a large boom when the blast went off and smelled something like gun smoke right away.

"There was a sort of detonation and a strong odor like on a firing range," she said.

A few minutes later, the wail of ambulances filled the area around the station between the Boulevard St. Michel and the Boulevard Montparnasse.

"There was an explosive device that was put in a subway car," Prime Min-

ister Alain Juppe told reporters.

He said officials put back into effect an emergency vigilance plan activated after France was hit last year by eight deadly subway bombings. Algerian Islamic extremists claimed responsibility for most of the bombings, which involved gas canisters packed with nails, nuts and bolts.

Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debre said France was tightening its borders as a precaution, and train stations and airports across France were on alert.

Tuesday's blast was close — about a half-mile — from the worst of the bombings, a July 25, 1995, explosion at the St. Michel station that killed eight people and wounded 84. Seventy-six were wounded in the other bombings.

Witnesses said Tuesday's scene was one of panic, thick black smoke, the chilling sound of ambulances, and paramedics frantically carrying away the thrashing wounded on stretchers.

"People were crying and in a state of shock," said a man who gave his name only as Jean-Francois.

Police sealed off the neighborhood.

The first ambulances were on the scene within two minutes, a witness said. The wounded were rushed to a nearby military hospital specializing in trauma victims.

Smoke could be smelled blocks away from the station. Dozens of ambulances, fire trucks and at least 30 buses carrying silver-helmeted riot police surrounded the station. An anti-terrorist squad was on the scene.

An emergency medical station was set up in the lobby where passengers purchase their tickets.

Officials said the bomb exploded on the second car of a long commuter train that was en route to the southern Paris suburb of St. Remy les Chevreuse. The subway car was a burned-out hulk of wreckage, its doors blown off by the force of the blast.

President Jacques Chirac condemned what he called "these unacceptable acts, these barbaric acts that always attack innocent people."

"The government and I are determined to fight against terrorism in all its forms. Nothing will be neglected," Chirac said outside the presidential Elysee Palace.

Chirac had been meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the time of the blast, and the pair abruptly canceled a joint appearance.

Serbian protests continue against president

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Twenty thousand students marched Tuesday in Belgrade, drawing sympathy from some police and backed by U.S. warnings that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic might face new sanctions for any crackdown.

At one point in Tuesday's protest, the 10th straight day students have demonstrated over the annulment of Nov. 17 local elections won by the opposition, a column of marchers came across a busload of police.

The students flashed a traditional Serb three-finger salute at the police. Policemen responded with the same salute, a sign of sympathy for the demonstrators.

Later the students marched through Belgrade, putting gas masks on in front of Serbia's parliament. They then

swayed the building with detergent and wrote on its walls such messages as: "Red Bandits, Thieves, We Are the Winners."

A few police and parliamentary security officers tried to stop the crowd, but soon withdrew.

Several Supreme Court judges lent support to the protests.

The court last week upheld the annulment because of alleged irregularities, but several judges Tuesday distanced themselves from those decisions.

"I won't accept the slave role of the court, dependent judiciary, loyal and incompetent judges, and I won't keep quiet about their shameful role," Judge Zoran Ivosevic said in a letter to the independent Nasa Borba daily.

The education minister late Mon-

day in effect banned student demonstrations by ordering university departments to make sure classes were held. Dragoslav Mladenovic said measures would be taken against the youthful protesters, but he didn't specify.

The Clinton administration warned Milosevic on Monday that it would act, perhaps by reimposing economic sanctions, if Serbian authorities tried to stifle the protests.

"Our government has made it perfectly clear ... to the Serbian authorities at every level ... that the United States would be outraged if any attempt was made to use force against the demonstrators," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

When war broke out in the former Yugoslavia in 1989, most young people felt trapped between warriors they did

"If we don't win this battle, we will lose the war for our future."

DJORDJE SAKIC
20, biology student

not support and stuck in a nation condemned by the outside world as an aggressor.

They were sent into the army, where many died as soldiers or deserted. Tens of thousands fled Yugoslavia, and escaped the draft. Now, students say they want a normal life in Serbia and a fu-

ture that holds the promise of democracy.

Now, they are a force for change, challenging the government's annulment of opposition victories in municipal elections in dozens of towns and cities.

Lott to be majority leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans re-elected Sen. Trent Lott on Tuesday as their majority leader for the next Congress. The Mississippiian immediately promised cooperation with President Clinton — plus tough investigations of alleged campaign finance violations by Democrats.

Shortly after being chosen without opposition as majority leader, Lott told reporters that the GOP and Clinton could work together on balancing the budget, cutting taxes and other issues.

"We look forward to working with the president to get legislative achievements signed into law," Lott said.

He also said the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee would hold hearings on allegations of ille-

gal fund-raising by Democrats during the recent campaign. Attorney General Janet Reno's decision to not appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the charges makes a Senate investigation "even a greater necessity," he said.

"It's looking more and more like we have got to get into it and find out what happened," Lott said. "So we have a responsibility to do that."

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., also re-elected Tuesday as leader by his colleagues without opposition, said Democrats would make campaign finance legislation their top priority next year. He said Democrats would support hearings into alleged fund-raising abuses if they are "broad-based" and included GOP infractions, which he refused to describe.

Scientists find ice pond on moon

Human exploration, life could be easier with available water supply

WASHINGTON (AP) — The moon, long thought to be bone dry, has a pond of ice hidden deep inside a crater, scientists disclosed Monday, increasing chances that humans may someday live on its surface.

The discovery came from the Clementine spacecraft, which used radar signals to examine the depths of the moon's deep craters.

Officials at the Pentagon, who co-sponsored the project with NASA, announced the findings at a news conference Tuesday.

"If you could wish for any one thing there to make it easier to explore with, it would be water," said Anthony Cook, astronomical observer at the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles.

The ice was found in a huge crater deep in the south pole of the moon, said Rick Lehner, spokesman for the

Pentagon's Ballistic Missile Defense Organization. He said that a panel of scientists has concluded that the ice is frozen water.

"It is an extremely significant discovery," said Cook, adding that water would make exploration easier.

"With water there you could have enclosed areas to grow plants, grow your own food, make your own fuel, make your own air," he said. "You don't have to launch all that stuff from big rockets on the Earth."

Lehner said the crater is twice the size of Puerto Rico and 13 kilometers deep, or higher than Mount Everest, the tallest peak on earth. He said the ice formation is the size of a small lake and is between 10 and 100 feet deep.

"People have theorized that there may be water on the moon but the (six) Apollo missions didn't find any evi-

dence," he said.

Scientists think that about 3.6 billion years ago, a comet crashed into the moon, and water droplets on its tail were left in the bottom of the crater, the deepest hole in the solar system, he said.

Because the south side of the moon is always dark, the temperatures in this crater are about minus 382 degrees Fahrenheit, or nearly as cold as any environment can ever get. The water couldn't escape from the crater's "cold traps," he said.

Lehner said the water can be used for drinking, turned into breathable oxygen and transformed into fuel, allowing humans to explore the moon, colonize it or use it as a launch pad to explore other planets.

Justices question Brady gun-control law

WASHINGTON (AP) — Several Supreme Court justices voiced doubts Tuesday about a central part of the Brady gun-control law — the requirement that local police check the backgrounds of prospective gun buyers.

"Can the states require the federal government to do something?" Justice Anthony M. Kennedy asked acting Solicitor General Walter Dellinger, who argued in defense of the 1993 law.

When Dellinger answered "No," Kennedy responded, "Why does it work in reverse? ... Isn't the point not to have one government interfere with another?"

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor ques-

tioned "the notion that the federal government can just commandeer" state officials to carry out a federal program.

Two sheriffs from Montana and Arizona are challenging the background-check requirement, saying the federal government cannot make them help enforce the Brady law.

There is a "prohibition on requiring states to administer a federal regulatory policy," said attorney Stephen P. Halbrook, representing Sheriff Jay Printz of Ravalli County, Mont., and Sheriff Richard Mack of Graham County, Ariz.

But Dellinger argued that the requirement is a lawful effort to curb the

nation's 13,000 handgun murders each year.

Under questioning from O'Connor, Dellinger said the government probably could not require states to administer a federal welfare program without offering federal money and the chance to opt out.

The Brady Bill requires a five-day waiting period before the sale of a handgun. During that time, local authorities must try to find out if the buyer has a felony record, a history of mental illness or drug use, or some other problem that would make the sale illegal.

Daily Nebraskan

Editor: Doug Kouma 472-2588
Managing Editor: Doug Peters
Assoc. News Editors: Paula Lavigne, Jeff Randall
Opinion Editor: Anne Hjersman
AP Wire Editor: Kelly Johnson
Copy Desk Chief: Julie Sobczyk

Layout Editor: Nancy Zywiec
Night News Editors: Bryce Glenn, Jennifer Milke, Antone Oseka
Art Director: Aaron Steckelberg
General Manager: Dan Shattil
Advertising Manager: Amy Struthers
Asst. Ad Manager: Tracy Welshans

FAX NUMBER: 472-1761

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions. Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling 472-2588. The public has access to the Publications Board. Subscription price is \$55 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, Neb.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1996 DAILY NEBRASKAN