

A mass shooting at a house in South Africa leaves 11 dead and 3 wounded, police say

CAPE TOWN, SEPT 23: Three shooters killed at least 11 people, including a woman who was believed to be pregnant, in an attack at a house party in South Africa, police said Wednesday.

Three others were wounded in the mass shooting late Tuesday night in KwaMakhutha township around 30 kilometres south of the city of Durban on the east coast.

The people had gathered at the house for a party when the suspects entered the house and opened fire, police said. Ten people, including the pregnant woman, died at the scene and an 11th was declared dead at the hospital.

Authorities did not immediately give out details on the condition of the three people who were wounded.

Police said they were searching for the attackers and no arrests had been made.

The motive for the shooting was not known, police said, but added that some of the people at the house were known to police as part of investigations into criminal activity. Police said they



couldn't give out any more information on those investigations.

"Although the motive of the shooting cannot be confirmed yet, (a) feud between rival groupings cannot be ruled out," police said.

Thami Ntuli, the premier of KwaZulu-Natal province, told reporters at the scene that the killings were "really disturbing." He said that there were known problems with drug dealing and illegal firearms in the community.

It's the latest in a series of mass shootings in South Africa in recent

years, including one in June when multiple shooters killed 12 people in a poor neighbourhood in Johannesburg. Two mass shootings two weeks apart in December killed 21 people.

South Africa has extremely high rates of violent crime, with official police statistics recording 5,427 homicides in the latest three-month period between April and June at an average of nearly 60 homicides a day. Shootings are the most common form of homicide in South Africa, and police and crime experts have long

said that one of the biggest problems is that there is a high number of illegal firearms in circulation.

The bodies of some of the victims of Tuesday night's shooting were laid out on the ground and covered with white sheets outside the small house where the shooting took place. Police cordoned off the larger neighbourhood with yellow tape while forensic investigators worked through the scene.

Police were also investigating if the torching of a car near the house was connected to the shoot-

DLSA Srinagar organises Awareness Program on NALSA SAMVAD Scheme 2025

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 23

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar organised an awareness programme on the NALSA SAMVAD Scheme, 2025 and the NALSA Scheme on Access to Justice for Victims of Human-Wildlife Conflict, with the objective of creating awareness regarding free legal aid, legal rights and access to justice among vulnerable and tribal communities, at Check-Sangri, Khonmoh, Srinagar.

The programme, held under the 60-Day Mega Drive for implementation of NALSA Schemes at Grassroot level (Phase-I), conducted through the Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Srinagar, who sensitized the participants about the objectives and benefits of the schemes, availability of free legal services and the role of Legal Services Authorities in facilitating access to justice. The resource persons for the programme included Safa, Minhaaj Ur Rasool and Ayesha Showkat Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsels who elaborated on the key pro-



visions of the schemes and addressed the queries of the participants. The participants were informed about the importance of seeking timely legal assistance, particularly in mat-

ters relating to tribal rights, welfare entitlements, displacement and rehabilitation, and issues arising from human-wildlife conflict. The programme was conducted under the guid-

ance of Tasleem Arief Chairman (Incharge), DLSA Srinagar/Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and overall supervision of the Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

'Batman 2' a different take from the first movie: Robert Pattinson

LOS ANGELES, Sept 23: Robert Pattinson says "The Batman: Part II", which marks his return as the Caped Crusader for the second time, is a totally "different take" on the franchise than the first film.

Set to release in cinemas on February 18, 2028, "The Batman Part II" is Matt Reeves' follow-up to 2022's "The Batman", which first introduced the "Tenet" star as Bruce Wayne aka Batman.

In an interview with Collider, Pattinson said he is really excited to see how the new film turns out to be.



"It's so ambitious. I mean, I sort of said the other day on something that the first one was a different take on a Batman movie, and this one is another," he said.

"It's a real left turn from the first one, but somehow it keeps elements

of the kind of feel of it. But it just feels really ambitious," he added.

Scarlett Johansson and Sebastian Stan will star alongside Pattinson in the film that also features Charles Dance, Brian Tyree Henry and Sebastian Koch.

"The Batman", a reboot of the DC franchise, was a success at the box office with a gross haul of over USD 770 million. Released on March 4, 2022, the movie also featured Zoe Kravitz, Paul Dano, Jeffrey Wright, John Turturro, Peter Sarsgaard, Andy Serkis, and Colin Farrell. (PTI)

Rana reviews physical, financial progress of Jal Shakti, I&FC works in Kashmir

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 23

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of various schemes and developmental works being executed by the Jal Shakti Department and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Departments in Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineers of the Jal Shakti and Irrigation & Flood Control Departments, besides all Superintending Engineers of the Hydraulic Circles of Kashmir Division. During the meeting, the concerned officers briefed the Minister on the progress of ongoing schemes, achievements recorded so far, bottlenecks and the status of expenditure against funds sanctioned and earmarked for different works.

While reviewing the



progress, the Minister directed the officers to accelerate execution of works on the ground and ensure that all projects nearing completion are completed within the prescribed timelines, particularly before the onset of winter.]

Reviewing the functioning and progress of the Jal Shakti Department, Rana directed the officers to accord top priority to all incomplete drinking water supply schemes and make every effort to commission them before the winter season sets in.

He stressed the need for advance functional testing of pipelines,

pumping arrangements, storage tanks and other associated infrastructure so that any technical deficiencies are identified and rectified well in time.

The Minister also called for close field-level monitoring of schemes and directed the concerned officers to undertake regular inspections of works, particularly those at advanced stages of completion, to ensure adherence to quality standards and approved timelines.

Reviewing the progress of works under the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, the Minister directed that de-silting of water channels and

strengthening of flood-protection infrastructure and embankments along vulnerable stretches be undertaken and completed on priority.

Rana asked the Chief Engineer, I&FC, to furnish a river-wise status report detailing the progress of flood-protection works and the preparedness of vulnerable areas ahead of the winter season.

He stressed that physical progress and financial expenditure must move in tandem and that funds allocated for developmental works should be utilised judiciously, transparently and within the prescribed timelines.

DC Bandipora interacts with Students at Nathpora Middle School

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 23: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today visited Government Middle School, Nathpora, and interacted with students and staff, besides reviewing preparations for the upcoming Inter-District UT-Level Handball Competition at SK Stadium Bandipora.

During her interaction with the students, the Deputy Commissioner discussed career opportunities, nurturing hobbies and skills, newspaper reading, cleanliness and awareness. She encouraged students to cultivate reading

habits, identify their interests and develop skills alongside academics.

On the occasion, the students expressed their willingness to participate in cleanliness drives in their respective areas and contribute towards taking forward the Swachhata 50-50 campaign. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated their enthusiasm and encouraged them to continue promoting cleanliness, waste segregation and responsible waste management practices in their communities.

The DC informed that the District Administration Bandipora, in collab-

oration with the School Education Department and other concerned departments, would organise a Skill Development Camp at the school. The camp would focus on skill and capacity building and refresher courses for parents of school-going children.

During the interaction, the Deputy Commissioner also spoke to the students about the autumnal or fall equinox, which will occur on September 23, explaining its significance and encouraging them to remain curious about scientific and natural phenomena.

Speaker inaugurates macadamisation work on Nowgam-Kanidajan Charar-i-sharief Road at Watkaloo

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 23

Speaker, Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather today inaugurated the macadamisation work of the Nowgam to Kanidajan Charar-i-sharief road, marking an important step towards strengthening road connectivity and improving transportation facilities for the people of the area.

The 9 kilometre long road is being macadamised at an estimated cost of Rs 1.72 crore. The project is expected to significantly improve the condition of the road, facilitate smooth and hassle-free vehicular movement and provide better connectivity to the adjoining villages and localities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker underscored the importance of robust road infrastructure in promoting overall development and improving the quality of life of the people. He said that improved connectivity plays a vital role in facilitating access to education, healthcare, markets and other essential services besides providing impetus to local economic activities.

He emphasized that



timely completion and proper execution of development works should remain a priority so that the intended benefits reach the people at the earliest.

Speaker also visited Darekanjan and Braripatri, where he interacted with local residents and listened to their demands, grievances and issues requiring government's attention.

The locals apprised the Speaker of various issues concerning basic amenities, infrastructure and other developmental requirements of their respective areas.

The Speaker gave a patient hearing to the people and assured them that their genuine demands and issues would be taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate

consideration and necessary action.

He stressed the importance of regular interaction with the public and directed that issues of genuine public concern should be addressed in a timely and coordinated manner.

Later, the Speaker visited Watkaloo, where he inaugurated a Primary Health Centre (PHC) aimed at strengthening healthcare services in the locality. The newly inaugurated PHC is expected to provide essential medical facilities closer to the people and reduce the need for residents to travel to distant health institutions for routine healthcare requirements.

On the occasion, the Speaker highlighted the importance of accessible

and quality healthcare services, particularly for people living in rural and far-flung areas. He said that strengthening healthcare infrastructure at the grassroots level is essential for ensuring timely medical assistance to the public.

The inauguration of the PHC is expected to benefit the local population by providing essential healthcare services in the vicinity and further strengthening the public health delivery system in the area.

The Speaker reiterated his commitment to ensuring sustained development of the constituency and stressed that infrastructure, healthcare and other essential public services would continue to receive due attention.

CM Omar Abdullah meets IUST VC, KCCI delegation at Raabita

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 23: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, and a deputation of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) at Raabita here.

During his meeting with Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, the Chief Minister discussed matters relating to higher education and academic development in Jammu and Kashmir. The interaction reflected the Government's continued engagement with academic institutions to strengthen educational initiatives and promote excellence in



higher education.

The Chief Minister also met KCCI delegation led by its President Javid Ahmad Tenga and discussed matters concerning trade,

business and the economic growth of the region.

The meetings provided an opportunity to exchange views on strength-

ening collaboration with academic and business stakeholders and advancing initiatives of wider public and economic significance.