

Site of bomb blast reopens to public

BANGKOK (AP) — A central Bangkok shrine where a deadly bomb blast killed 20 people reopened Wednesday to the public as authorities searched for a man seen in a grainy security video who they say is the prime suspect in an attack authorities called the worst in the Thailand's history.

A stream of people arrived at the Erawan Shrine, kneeling in prayer, lighting incense and placing flowers at the site where 36 hours earlier an explosion scattered body parts across one of the capital's busiest intersections. Buddhist monks in saffron robes joined members of the public to chant prayers at the popular Hindu shrine.

Among those who paid respects was an office worker, Nuansupha Sarun-sikarin, who expressed shock and sadness over the attack, which no one has claimed responsibility for. Authorities say it came by surprise, with



Buddhist monks walk at the Erawan Shrine, the site of the explosion, at Rajprasong intersection in Bangkok, Thailand, Wednesday.

no clear motive.

"I'm depressed for those innocent people who had to pay for something they're not involved with and now have no chance to live their lives," Nuansupha said.

Police said they had no doubt that the man seen in the video wearing a yellow shirt and carrying a large,

dark-colored backpack was responsible for the attack. But authorities gave no indication that they were aware of his whereabouts.

"The yellow shirt guy is not just the suspect. He is the bomber," police spokesman Lt. Gen. Prawut Thavornsiri told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha called the bombing at the shrine, located in an upscale neighborhood of shopping malls and 5-star hotels, "the worst incident that has ever happened in Thailand." More than 120 people were injured in the attack, and he promised to track down those responsible.

"There have been minor bombs or just noise, but this time they aimed for innocent lives," Prayuth said. "They want to destroy our economy, our tourism."

Prawut released several photos of the man, with and without the backpack, on social media. The images were apparently taken from closed-circuit video at the shrine before the bomb exploded.

Video posted separately on Thai media appeared to show the same man sitting on a bench at the shrine, taking off the backpack and leaving it behind as he walked away.

LINES: Expected to cost between \$880-\$940 million

Continued from 1A

routes to avoid productive farmland. That bill ultimately died in committee.

Mitch Colburn, engineering leader on 500-kilovolt projects for Idaho Power, said they have worked for several months with local stakeholders to come up with a plan that sticks Boardman to Hemingway on the west side of Bombing Range Road.

"We would avoid constructing a line on landowner property that could ultimately remove acres of production due to reduced land availability and equipment operability," Colburn said.

But, in order to do that, Idaho Power needs a stamp of approval from the Navy.

Numerous officials and landowners signed on to a letter of support sent July 10 to Capt. Michael Nortier, commanding officer for Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington,

supporting a Navy easement for Boardman to Hemingway on the west side of Bombing Range Road.

If that easement is approved, Idaho Power would build roughly 10 miles of line along the eastern edge of the bombing range, which would replace an existing 69-kilovolt BPA line on the property.

Umatilla Electric Cooperative owns and operates a 115-kilovolt line on private property across the road, and would cooperate with BPA to maintain electrical service for customers displaced by the removal of the 69-kilovolt line.

Towers would follow the Navy's requested height limit of 100 feet to avoid conflicts with military operations, according to Idaho Power. The Boardman Bombing Range is currently used as the principal training ground for Boeing EA-18G Growler aircraft based at Whidbey Island.

Colburn said he hasn't

received a clear answer yet from the Navy. Rick McArdle, community planning liaison officer for the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex, did not return a call Tuesday for comment.

Jerry Rietmann, co-owner of the Lone-based Wheatridge Wind Energy, said the plan would make best use of both energy corridors to meet the region's power needs.

The route along the east side of Bombing Range Road could also become a singular site for new wind energy transmission, Rietmann said. Wheatridge Wind Energy is proposing a 500-megawatt wind farm in southern Morrow and Umatilla counties.

"The different wind companies have been working on a single-use electrical corridor to the Longhorn Substation," Rietmann said. "It would have some impact, but not the kind of impact Boardman to Hemingway would have."

Don Rice, director of operations at the 24,000-acre Boardman Tree Farm, said the action will take compromise on everyone's part, but appears to be the most promising solution available.

"It's the only plan the parties have been able to coalesce around," Rice said. "The key to making it all work is an agreement from the Navy."

Colburn said it was good for Idaho Power to hear from communities during the recent public comment period, and fully understand where landowners were coming from.

"We are satisfied," he said. "We'll find a way to minimize impacts while at the same time achieving our project's objectives."

Boardman to Hemingway is expected to cost between \$880-\$940 million and come online by 2020.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

FAIR: Morrow County Fair runs through Saturday

Continued from 1A

year Clough, along with Karen Smith-Griffith, have headed up the foods department. Both are retired educators and said volunteering has expanded their culinary knowledge.

"This is all new, I'm learning a lot," Smith-Griffith said. "It's amazing the judge can taste if someone has used old flour or old yeast."

Wynona McCurdy, a two-time Umatilla County Fair homemaker of the year, is in her first year judging at the Morrow County Fair.

She enjoys seeing youths and adults who are entering for their first time. McCurdy said even though she has cooked and canned her whole life, she is still learning.

After working in the department last year, Smith-Griffith was motivated to spend time in her own kitchen prior to this year's fair, entering several items. She was pleasantly surprised to receive a first place ribbon for her zucchini bread and a second for dinner rolls.

"As a kid, I did sewing one year — one skirt. That was about the extent of my 4-H experience,"

Smith-Griffith said.

Volunteering at the fair provides an opportunity for the retired teachers to visit with friends and former students.

"The kids always get really excited to see you looking at their animals or projects," Clough said.

In her second year as fair secretary, Ann Jones is pleased with the increase in entries. Jones, who worked in child care for 12 years, came on board six weeks prior to the 2014 fair.

Looking for a new challenge, she is enjoying the experience. Jones said meeting new people and having more family time has been a plus with the job. Also, she gained insight regarding the magnitude of the job in putting on a county fair.

"The volunteers are essential," she said. "If it weren't for them, we wouldn't have a fair."

The Morrow County Fair runs through Saturday. Admission is \$3 or \$1 for youths ages 6-12. For a schedule of events, visit www.morrowcountyoregon.com.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

MARIJUANA: Three residents testified in favor of dispensaries

Continued from 1A

voters had spoken in favor of marijuana legalization, reminding them that Umatilla voters did not join the statewide majority in passing Measure 91.

"The voters spoke and they're the ones who drove this decision," he said. "The west side wanted it, but folks out here, they're a little more conservative and they're not there yet."

Councilor Mel Ray said he had been "up in the air" about whether to pass the ordinance banning dispensaries until the council's Aug. 3 meeting, when planning commissioner Boyd Sharp pointed out that a new ordinance can always replace the ban if the council felt new circumstances warranted it.

The city's moratorium, which was already extended once, runs out Thursday. The city has no regulations in place for commercial marijuana operations after sending the planning commission back to the drawing board on a proposed set of commercial zone regulations the council had planned to pass earlier in the summer.

Ray said to him it seemed like a "very reasonable move" to pass a ban under those circumstances.

Steve Bunn, owner of Honey Bunnz Hideout, blasted the council for both its anti-dispensary stance and for declining to consider his petition to host a beer garden next week to celebrate the strip club's

"The west side wanted it, but folks out here, they're a little more conservative and they're not there yet."

— Roak TenEyck, Umatilla City Council member

one year anniversary. He said the council shouldn't single out certain business owners to treat differently. "You guys chase every business out of town," he said.

Steve Rodarte and William McMillan, who testified at previous meetings in favor of allowing Umatilla residents to purchase medical marijuana locally, also urged the council not to ban marijuana dispensaries at the beginning of the meeting.

Despite the council unanimously passing an ordinance prohibiting commercial marijuana activity within city limits, TenEyck said he did appreciate the tenacity of those who had returned meeting after meeting to testify on the issue.

"If we could get that kind of energy behind some of those other things we need to take care of we could do so much," he said.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

FIRE: More than 1,000 people battling fires near Chelan

Continued from 1A

The troops are all coming from the 17th Field Artillery Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma and will be sent to a fire north of Republic, a town in central Washington, about 30 miles south of the Canadian border.

Fire managers at the center are able to enlist military help when there are not enough civilian firefighting teams, thanks to a 1975 agreement between the Defense, Interior and Agriculture departments.

The help can be crucial in particularly active years like this one, when the center's firefighting teams and equipment are fighting hundreds of fires across many states. In the last two weeks alone, more than 1,500 square miles have burned in the Lower 48 states, center spokesman Ken Frederick said.

"It's like the fire season gas pedal has been pushed to the floor in a really short period of time, and that's stressed our resources," Frederick said. "And that's got us relying on help from resources we don't normally use."

The fires in the Pacific Northwest get top priority when it comes to allocating pinched resources.

More than 1,000 people are battling the massive fires near Chelan that have burned more than 170 square miles and destroyed an estimated 75 buildings. They are just some of the huge blazes raging in the West.

A lightning-sparked fire in Oregon's Malheur National Forest has grown to 63 square miles and destroyed at least 26 houses. An additional 500 structures are threatened by the flames near the community of John Day.

In the Northern Rockies, so many wildfires have ignited this month that officials are letting some that might be suppressed under normal circumstances



Photo contributed by Mark Moulton

A wildfire burns Saturday south of the John Day airport in Grant County.

burn because manpower and equipment are committed elsewhere.

The area experienced a normal fire season until last week, when a combination of drought, high temperatures and lightning-packed storms created new blazes across western Montana and Idaho.

As of Tuesday, at least 95 fires were burning in the two states, about 30 of them considered large, according to the Northern Rockies Coordination Center in Missoula.

That included a group of fires in northern Idaho that have scorched 90 square miles and destroyed 42 homes in the last several days, as well as a wildfire in the western part of the state that led about 120 residents to evacuate and others to prepare to flee near McCall.

California is doing well in terms of resources, despite a pair of massive blazes in the north. Officials prepared for a drought-fueled fire season by bringing in several hundred more firefighters than in previous years.

In Chelan, about 180 miles east of Seattle, flames burned through grass, brush and timber. Air tankers established containment lines to keep the flames from reaching downtown, and utility workers replaced

burned power poles and inspected wires.

No buildings have been lost in the Chelan fires in the past two days, officials said.

But nearly 1,000 people remained under mandatory evacuations.

On Tuesday, smoke was thick in the air of downtown Chelan. Particles of ash fell from the sky. Some residents wore surgical masks as they walked through town.

The firefighters sleep in the woods, get up every morning and work a full day, said Allen, the deputy incident commander.

"It's hot. It's dirty," said Allen, who usually works for the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska. He said authorities were looking for all the resources they could muster.

"The military has been activated. We have National Guard here to help us out," Allen said, adding that Canada loaned resources, too, and authorities were also talking to New Zealand and Australia.

Everyone is working to save Chelan, at the south end of Lake Chelan in the Cascade Range.

"Chelan is still at risk, but we have very significant amounts of structure protection," said fire spokesman Brian Lawatch. "The name of the game today would be

going on offense."

The Chelan fires are about 30 percent contained, Lawatch said. That includes deliberate burnouts in some areas, plus trying to direct the fire into previously burned areas or areas with little fuel.

SUN RIDGE
Retirement Community

3234 S.W. Nye Pendleton, OR

Join us at 5 pm on
**August 20th for our for our annual
ROUND-UP BBQ!**

**ROUND-UP QUEEN & COURT
HAPPY CANYON PRINCESSES
MAIN STREET COWBOYS
SIDE SADDLERS
GOOD FOOD
GREAT ENTERTAINMENT WITH
VENUES INSIDE AND OUT.**