

Online post suggests
rampage suspect may
have resented women

TORONTO (AP) — The suspect in the deadly van attack in Toronto posted a chilling Facebook message just minutes before plowing into a crowded city sidewalk, authorities said Tuesday, raising the possibility that he may have nursed grudges against women — a possible echo of a 1989 massacre of 14 women that remains one of Canada’s most

traumatic acts of violence. The 25-year-old suspect, Alek Minassian, was charged Tuesday with first degree murder in the deaths of 10 pedestrians he mowed down in the rented van he sent careening along the busy walkway. Fourteen others were injured. Toronto Police Services Det. Sgt. Graham Gibson told a news conference that those killed and injured were “predominantly” women, though he declined to discuss a possible motive. Authorities have not yet released a list of victims. Those

known to have been killed include a 30-year-old woman from Toronto, as well as a female student at Seneca College, which Minassian also attended. A Jordanian citizen and two South Koreans were also among those killed. The gender issue arose because of what police called a “cryptic” Facebook message posted by Minassian just before the incident that suggested he was part of an online community angry over their inability to form relationships with women.

UN says farming
should be at heart
of Syria reconstruction

BRUSSELS (AP) — International efforts to rebuild Syria once the civil war is over should center on agriculture to kick start the economy and quickly improve the livelihoods of the people, a high-level United Nations official said Tuesday. In an interview with The Associated Press ahead of an international Syria donors

conference, the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization’s Deputy Director General Daniel Gustafson said that in case of a return to peace the impact of funding farming would yield almost immediate results. Despite seven years of warfare through much of the Middle Eastern nation, which also blighted farmland and destroyed facilities, farming still accounts for about a quarter of Syria’s gross domestic product. UN figures show that some \$16 billion in production has been lost because of the war.



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