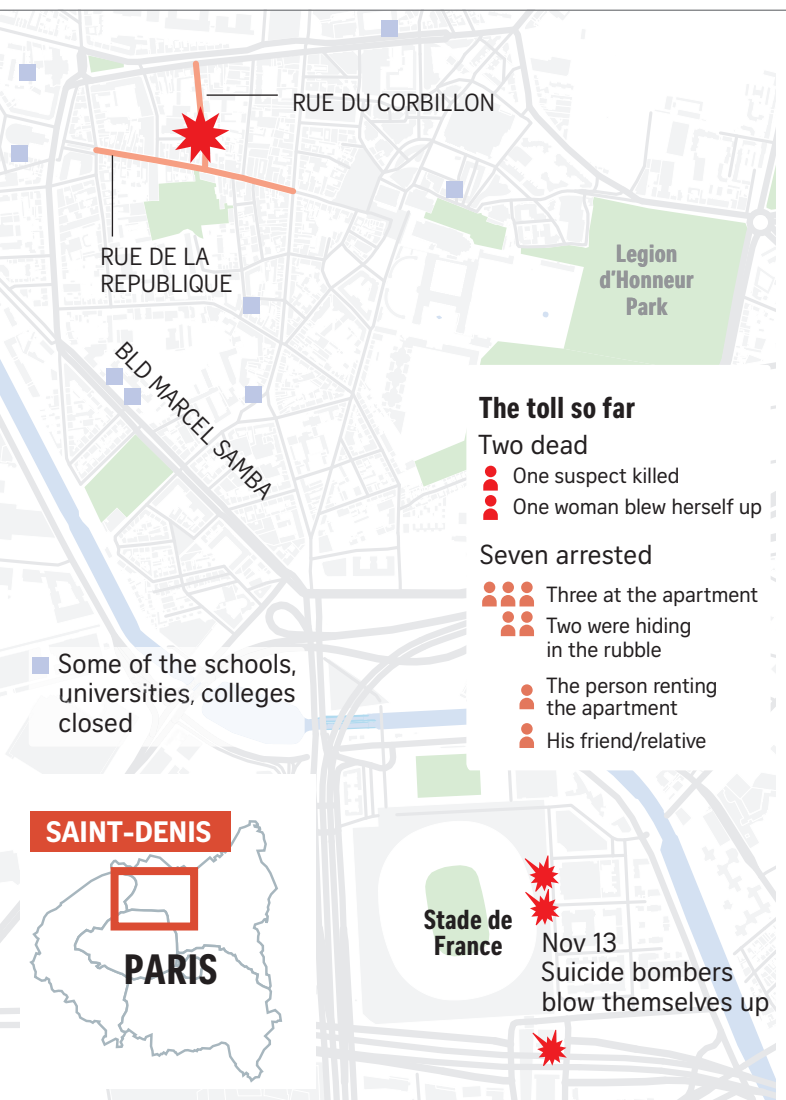


Pre-dawn raid: The drama



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French special police forces securing the area as shots are exchanged in Saint-Denis, near Paris, yesterday during an operation to capture fugitives from the deadly terror attacks in the French capital last Friday. PHOTO: REUTERS

4.15am Anti-terrorist police raid an apartment in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis. Shooting breaks out.

4.31am Firemen say they have joined the operation against "an armed group holed up in an apartment".

5.00am Intermittent gunfire can still be heard.

5.49am A source close to the operation says two police officers are injured.

7.03am At least one person is killed in the apartment.

7.30am Large explosions and firing are heard.

7.40am The local authorities recommend that local inhabitants stay indoors.

7.56am Two suspected militants holed up in the apartment die during the police siege, including a woman who detonated an explosives vest. At least three police officers are injured in the operation.

9.17am Three men in the apartment are arrested, while a man and woman are arrested nearby.

11.47am Police say the assault is over and that seven people have been arrested, including two in a neighbouring apartment.



Special forces personnel taking cover during the gunfight with suspected terrorists at an apartment block in Saint-Denis. PHOTO: REUTERS



Residents being evacuated from the building where the raid is taking place. PHOTO: REUTERS