



Fellow students taking Shoyeb Mahmud to a hospital and try to feed him water on the way after he fell sick while on hunger strike for Ducusu re-polls yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

President, PM

FROM PAGE 1

recovery of the injured ones, the message added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also

condemned yesterday's shooting in

New Zealand that killed at least 49

people and injured more than 20.

In a message to the New Zealand

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Hasina

expressed her deep shock over the

attack on New Zealand's history by

persons which is termed as 'one of the darkest

days in New Zealand's history by

Ardern, reported BSS.

A gunman yesterday opened fire on

two mosques in Christchurch – Masjid

Australian High Commissioner Sufur

trays.

Describing the attack as a "very well-

planned event", New Zealand's Police

Commissioner Mike Bush told reporters

that as many as 41 people died at

one mosque, seven at another and one

person died in hospital.

The man charged with murder is in

his late 20s and should appear in

Christchurch court on Saturday, Bush

added.

In another message, Foreign

Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen

expressed his grave concern over the

attack.

"We don't have any mission in New

Zealand but we are getting updates

about the attack through our

Australian High Commissioner Sufur

Rahman," the foreign minister said.

Mentioning that New Zealand is a

safe and terrorism-free country,

Momen said it is a tragic incident for

the country indeed.

Responding to a query over possi-

bility of such attack in Bangladesh, Momen said, "We are highly active in

resisting such evil attempts in our

country and our security forces are

doing a good job in this regard."

Along with the president and the

prime minister, Jatiya Sangsad

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury

also condemned the attack that

claimed so many lives in a barbaric

manner.

Liberation War Affairs Minister

AKM Mozammel Huq, Agriculture

Minister Muhammad Abdur

Razzaque, Finance Minister AHM

Mustafa Kamal, Planning Minister MA

Manna, Science and Technology

Minister Yeasmin Osman and State

Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud

Chowdhury, among others, con-

demned the killing.

FAKHRUL CONDEMNES

NZ ATTACK

BSP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul

Islam Alamgir also condemned the

terror attack.

Fakhrul, in a statement, offered

deep condolences to the New Zealand

government and urged them to find

out the culprits.

"I hope the New Zealand govern-

ment would ensure exemplary punish-

ment to the attacker," he added.

Law Minister Anisul Huq also con-

demned the terror attack on the wor-

shippers at the two mosques in New

Zealand.

Expressing his deep condolences

and sorrow, Anisul, in his statement,

prayed for the salvation of the departed

souls and expressed his sympathy to

the bereaved family members.

FROM PAGE 1

In 1998. He was stunned by yesterday's

massacre.

"This is a disaster for New Zealand.

A black day," said Hamzah, who had

blood on his clothes from trying to

help the wounded. "I can't imagine

something like this happening at all. It

hasn't sunk into my head yet. I think

I'll go into shock over the next couple

of days. I hope I am strong enough. We

have to bury a lot of people."

'RUNNING FORTH LIVES'

Mohan Ibrahim is one of around 400

people who were praying inside the

mosque when the shooting began.

"I didn't get a glimpse of the gunman

as I was in the next room, but all of

a sudden we heard the shots being

fired and people just started running

for their lives. I'm still in shock.

"A lot of people have been killed

and many are injured. I can see a girl

dead in the middle of the road,"

Ibrahim said through tears.

"I am scared for my friends. Some

are still injured and we have been calling

but can't get hold of them," Ibrahim

said.

Ibrahim said his friends who were at

the other mosque in Linwood had

called him saying the shooting

occurred there at the same time.

"I have friends at both Islamic cen-

tres - it's terrifying and I don't know

what to do."

He said it was completely un-

expected. "You think New Zealand is

the safest place in the world, it's just

unexpected."

Sophie Nears, 19, told the Herald

her friend had called her screaming

that he had been shot in the leg and he

was hysterical - she did not know if her

friend was alive.

"He just hung up and I haven't been

able to get back in contact with him.

I've never heard him cry before. He was

screaming that heaps of people were

dead and then the line just cut out."

SHOT MAN SOUGHT HELP

A Christchurch resident heard up to

20-40 gunshots and soon a shooting

victim arrived at the house with a

bullet wound 7cm into his leg.

A young man and his three

flatmates, who live on Brockworth

Place near Masjid Al Noor Mosque,

rushed to the aid of a male Muslim

who fled to his house after the mass

shooting.

"I had to deal with that really

quickly considering I just woke up," he

said. "We called an ambulance and

police and I applied pressure to the

wound. It's just human nature to help

someone in that situation."

When the Muslim man ran into

their house he told the young man that

he had just been at the mosque, filled

with people who were being shot.

"The victim said he didn't see the

armed gunman but he heard bullets

ringing around, one had just missed

his stomach area. He would have had

a far more serious injury in that case,"

he said.

"I thought he was making it up... I

didn't realise something of this magni-

tude could happen in New Zealand. I

was just in an utter panic."

The bullet was embedded 7cm into

the man's leg.

'RUNNING AND SCREAMING'

A 14-year-old victim of the mosque

shooting has described the "running

and screaming" that followed.

Rahimi, said 14-year-old Hillmont

High School student.

"At first I thought it was just like

construction work or something, then

people were all running and scream-

ing. I said 14-year-old Hillmont

High School student.

His uncle Tamizl was one of about

six persons he knew had been shot.

Idris said he was sitting near the door.

He said he saw people falling down but

wasn't sure if they were injured.

"I just ran as fast as I could, over the

fence to Hagley Park, I didn't stop," he

said. "The gun shots sounded like pop,

pop, pop... I heard over 50."

Idris and his uncle were both

Malaysians living in Christchurch.

"I was in the backside. I am just

praying it is not too serious. This week

is the first time I went to the mosque... I

am still shaking, and I am trauma-

tised," Idris said.

He said everything was a chaos as

people scrambled to get out of the

mosque.

CHILD PLAYED OUTSIDE MOSQUE

Rahimi Ahmad, 39, went for Friday

prayers at the Masjid Al Noor Mosque

in Deans Avenue with his 11-year-old

son and did every week.

His son was playing outside when

gunshots were heard in the mosque -

another mosque-goer grabbed his

hand and took him for shelter at a

house next door.

However, no one knows what has

happened to Rahimi. His wife, Azila,

says she is waiting anxiously to hear

from him.

"I just want to know he's safe, and

I'm praying and hoping that he will

call," she said.

"Rahimi has his mobile phone with

him, so I'm sure he will be able to get in

contact soon. But right now I don't

know what's happened to him."

Rahimi went to the mosque at

around 1:00pm with his son, she said.

But when she heard news about the

shooting, she got worried about his

safety.

She got a call from her friend saying

her son was safe, but Rahimi was

believed to be inside the mosque at the

time of the shooting.

"My son was playing outside, so

when the shooting happened, a friend

just grabbed him and took him to a

Kiwi's house next to the mosque."

MISSING PERSONS WEBSITE

Police are also making an effort to

inform the public of the Restoring

Family Links (RFL) website where

people can register missing persons or

register themselves as alive.

The Red Cross has been asked by

police to activate the website due to

yesterday's massacre in Christchurch.

The RFL website is a tool where the

public can self-register if they are alive

so family and friends know they are

safe. Members of the public can also

register missing persons.

People living in New Zealand can

also register missing persons on 0800

115 019, and a member of police will

get in touch with you.

The longest 10 minutes of my life

FROM PAGE 1

As a journalist, I was given shelter by the

players with the situation of the city in mind.

They actually insisted that I stay in the

room until it was safe for me to return

to my hotel.

At 12:00am midnight here in

Christchurch, we have just watched

the video of the shooting from the

killer who recorded that massacre live

and just looked at each other, mouths

open in disbelief.

While, Tamim received a

phone call from his son, who asked:

"Baba, how are you?"

"Baba, I survived today and I am

coming to you soon," was the reply

from Tamim.

Going back to the start of the day,

which was just like another day in

New Zealand and everything was

calm, but nature may have been warn-

ing us -- it was gloomy and the skies

were dark, but I thought it was just

another day in a country where the