

3 Bangladeshis among dead

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"I was on the floor in a pool of blood. I was still conscious before police turned up and carried me to an ambulance," the survivor said, adding that he had been sitting on the second floor on the right side inside the mosque. Reuters said at least 41 devotees were killed in that building.

This is the mosque, close to Hagley Park, where most of the Bangladeshis in the crowd attended their prayers. Although Mohsin survived, three other Bangladeshis have been killed in the grisly attack that New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern described as "the country's worst ever mass shooting".

Till filing of this report last night, the New Zealand authorities and hospital sources did not disclose details of the 49 dead.

According to Reuters, seven of the victims were killed at another mosque in Linwood neighbourhood while one person died after being taken to the hospital.

A Bangladesh foreign ministry handout did not give details about the three Bangladeshis.

"Among the casualties [about 50], there are reports of death of three person of Bangladesh origin, and a few others are critically injured. We still await details of them from the New Zealand security officials and hospital authorities officially," it said.

However, Shafiqur Rahman Bhuiyan, a former consul to the Consulate of Bangladesh in Auckland, told The Daily Star over phone, "So far, we can say three Bangladeshis are among the dead."

Other officers were injured and being treated at the hospital. Several others could be missing, he said.

At one point, he handed over the phone to his wife Mahbuba Aziz, who

said the dead had been identified as Dr. Abus Samad, his wife, and Hosne Ara Parvin.

Talking to this newspaper, Hosne Ara's family members in Jagathat Sylhet's Golapganj upazila confirmed that she was among the dead.

According to their relatives in New Zealand, they claimed that Hosne Ara died while trying to save her husband, who is living with disabilities.

The man survived. GATEWAY Christchurch University's College of Business and Law teacher Meshabuddin Chowdhury also said those three were dead.

He added that Abus Samad, a former teacher of Bangladesh University of Professionals in Mymensingh, had been living in Christchurch for about 20 years.

However, Samad's son Toha Mahbubul yesterday evening told The Daily Star he was not sure whether his father was dead or alive. He said he was told by the hospital authorities that his father had suffered bullet wounds.

He also said his mother did not go to the mosque yesterday.

The Christchurch Hospital was teeming with people. Among them were a number of Bangladeshis desperately looking for their missing family members and friends.

The four critically injured at the hospital were identified as Lipi, Rubel, Mohsin and Zakaria.

Another victim sustained a bullet wound on her left chest. The doctors had an operation. It has been four to five hours since then and we are yet to hear of any more updates," said the victim's friend Md. Akter Rina.

"What we have learnt is that she still did not want of danger. We still don't know when she will regain consciousness," she added.

Rina said she was also supposed to attend yesterday's prayers but skipped as her husband was ill.

"We are still looking for two more missing friends. We don't know what happened to them," she added.

She said one of them was Zakaria, and the other one was Omar Faruk. Zakaria was later spotted at the ICU of the hospital.

Asif Sheikh, an Indian dentist, was also looking for his Bangladesh roommate Mozammel Haque, also a dentist.

Another Bangladesh at the hospital, Mahbuba, said "It is difficult to ascertain the number of Bangladeshis who was at the mosque."

"There is almost a curfew-like situation. Even the New Zealand government cannot ascertain the actual number of the casualties," she added.

Consul Shafiqur Rahman said he would go to Christchurch tomorrow morning to extend support to the Bangladeshis victims.

The Bangladesh High Commission directly and through the Honorary Consul of Bangladesh in Auckland was circulating messages to the Bangladesh diaspora in general, and Christchurch in particular, to remain calm and avoid any kind of congregation and to obey the instructions of the law enforcers.

Mahbuba Aziz, Meshabuddin and others living in Christchurch said that about 50 to 200 people of Bangladesh origin live in the city. Some of them are teachers and students at the Canterbury Christchurch University and Lincoln University, Christchurch.

Some of the Bangladeshis, who migrate to Singapore as skilled labourers, also go to Christchurch to work as welders and technicians at different places, including at ship building sites, they added.

'Our lands will never be theirs'

FROM PAGE 1
conspiracy theory originating in France that believes European populations are being displaced in their homelands by immigrant groups with higher birth rates.

The dossier, which has been described by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison as a "work of hate", praised US President Donald Trump as "the greatest leader of our time" and "a blessing from the Norwegian mass killer for his future actions."

The 28-year-old Tarrant also claimed that he had "brief contact" with Anders Breivik, the Norwegian white supremacist who murdered 77 people in 2011. He also claimed to have received a "blessing" from the Norwegian mass killer for his future actions.

The dossier stated objections to immigration and multiculturalism, and decries the "decaying" culture of the white, European West. It also mentioned the town of Grafton, where Tarrant lived in New South Wales, is in shock, trying to come to terms with what a "polite, well-mannered young man" came to find himself on a path that led to this attack.

He was a student at the local high school and went on to work at a gym, where his former boss said he regularly volunteered his time to train kids for free, say News added.

In 2010, his father died suddenly around the world. It was at some time during this journey that former friends now speculate he was "perhaps radicalised."

The header photo on Tarrant's Twitter account shows a victim of the 2016 Bastille Day terror attack in Nice.

The famous photo by Reuters photographer Eric Gaillard came to symbolise the Bastille Day massacre when it was used to kill a truck ploughing into holiday crowds.

Tarrant described his reasons for the disgusting attack as to "show the invaders that our lands will never be their lands, our homelands are our own and that, as long as a white man still lives,

they will NEVER conquer our lands and they will never replace our people."

Tarrant revealed he had been planning the attack for up to two years, and that he had been targeting Christchurch three months ago.

He said New Zealand was not the "original choice for attack", but described it as "target rich of an environment as anywhere else in the West".

The gunman described the attack as an act of revenge for the thousands of the hundreds of thousands of death caused by foreign invaders in European lands throughout history ... for the enslavement of millions of Europeans taken from their lands by the Islamic world ... and for the thousands of European lives lost to terror attacks throughout European lands.

"We must ensure the existence of our people, and a future for white children," he added in his manifesto.

He also said he wanted to take revenge for Ebba Aderikolu, the 11-year-old child who was killed in a 2017 terror attack in Stockholm.

Tarrant described the Stockholm attack as the "first event" that inspired him to "take revenge for the death of the 11-year-old girl."

"Ebba (sic) died at the hands of the invaders, the indignity of her violent demise and my inability to stop it broke through my own jaded cynicism like a sledgehammer. I could no longer ignore the attacks."

However, the mother of the Swedish girl expressed her horror at yesterday's shooting.

"She spread love and caring not hate. I feel the pain of the families affected by this, in the form of violence," Jeannette Akerlund told Swedish public television SVT.

"It's deeply tragic that Ebba's name is abused in the name of political propaganda," she told daily Aftonbladet.

Tarrant said yesterday's attack was also inspired by a trip he took to France in 2017.

"For many years I had been hearing and reading of the invasion of France by non-whites, many of these rumours and stories I believed to be exaggera-

tions, created to push a political narrative."

"But once I arrived in France, I found the stories not only true, but profoundly underplayed. In every French city, you see French town the invaders were there."

Tarrant said he feels no remorse for the attack. "I only wish I could have killed more invaders and more traitors as well." He also said there "was a racial component to the attack" and described it as "anti-immigration" and "anti-multiculturalism."

He also said he will plead not guilty if he survives and goes to trial.

Shortly before the attack began, an anonymous post on the discussion site 8chan, known for a wide range of content including hate speech, said the writer was going to "carry out an attack against the invaders" and included links to a Facebook live stream in which the shooting appeared.

"If I don't survive the attack, goodbye, god bless and I will see you all in Valhalla," it added.

Many anonymous users responded praising him for the attack, with comments such as "Godspeed" and "that video is so goddamn good".

In the days leading up to the attack, Tarrant posted photos to his now suspended Twitter account of what appears to be guns, ammunition and a military-style vest.

The weaponry is scrawled with references to ancient battles and more recent attacks against Muslims.

In one image he writes "For Rotherham, Alexandre Bissonnette, Luca Traini".

Bissonnette was sentenced to 40 years for shooting six people dead in the 2017 shooting at a mosque in Quebec, Canada. In an Italian man, is now in prison for the shooting of six African migrants in a racially motivated attack in October last year.

Tarrant also frequently posted links to articles about extremism in Europe, multiculturalism and previous terror attacks.

UPDF member

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was not involved in the incident.

Nure Alam, officer-in-charge of Police North Zone, said the body was sent to Kharagchatri District Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

No case was filed till 9.00pm yesterday.

Meet

FROM PAGE 1
Lufar said, "I don't want money. I teach the unprivileged children so that they can make their own money."

"People from all walks of life respect me. This is my achievement. I have taught thousands of children all through my life, many of them are well-established now," he said.

One of his students, Mehedi Hassan, is the deputy assistant engineer at the Education Engineering Department in Rangpur's Pirgachha upazila.

Mehedi told this paper, "When I was in class-11 in 1996, I could not afford to go to school. I met two Lufar sir taught me for Tk 1 only."

Locals described how Lufar enlightened the backward community. "People in this area were not aware of the importance of education."

Lufar, 68, used to visit homes of poor farmers and convince them to send their children to schools," said Azam Khan, a 59-year-old resident of Baguria.

For Lufar's contribution to education, the upazila parishad gave him a bicycle as a reward.

Before that, Lufar used to walk to adjacent villages, said his wife Latiful Begum. The couple has two sons.

Md Harun-ur Rashid, chairman of Geedari Union Parishad, said almost everyone in Geedari respects him for his contribution to education.

He tackled so many obstacles and faced criticism even from his family, but he never gave up.

Umamoy Nirbahi Officer Uttam Kumar Roy said, "I personally know him. Lufar serves respect from the society for what he is doing. I have assured him of kind of help, but he never asked for anything."

Lufar used to make Tk 40 to Tk 50 a day before and he still makes similar amounts today as many children get lessons for free. He had struggled to make ends meet before, but things have changed a little with his sons — one an auto-rickshaw driver and the other a madrasa teacher — contributing to the family.

'Drug peddlers'

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Station, said the siblings were listed as "drug dealers" and wanted in several narcotics cases.

Mustaqa and Mokter first used to work for drug dealers — Bakhtiar Uddin and Jahangir Alam — who are also siblings. After Bakhtiar and Jahangir were arrested, police sent to jail and Mokter took over the business and used to smuggle in yaba tablets, he added.

With the death of Mustaqa and Mokter, over 300 suspected drug dealers and peddlers have been killed since nationwide anti-narcotics drive began on May 4 last year.

Police claimed that over 60 of them were killed in "gunfights" triggered by internal conflicts.

AL, BNP share

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Besides, pro-Awami League lawyers Jasim Uddin and Kazi Shamsul Hasan have also been elected as members of vice-president and assistant secretary by the Afifa Afroz Rani, Chanchal Kumar Biswas and Shahim Sardar have been elected as executive members.

Several other candidates of the BNP-backed panel who were elected are Abdul Jahar Bhuyan (vice president), Imam Hossain (treasurer), Sharif U-Ahmed (assistant secretary), Kazi Shamsul Hasan (general member), Syeda Shahena Ara Laily (executive member), Rashida Alam Oishi (executive member) and Osman Chowdhury (executive member).

'Belly destruction'

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The Belly Destruction program started gaining attention after photos of overweight officers taking part in the daily exercise routine went viral online.

"There are so many problems if you're a fat cop," Senior Sgt Maj Sornpetch Chantarak, a dietary enforcer in the new program, said. "You work slow and move slow as you go tumbling about. That's unacceptable if you're an officer tasked with arresting criminals, since you have to be fit and fast."

About 20 Thai police officers took part in the Belly Destruction pilot, and the results encouraged authorities to implement the program indefinitely.

According to local reports, policemen weighing as much as 200 kilograms managed to lose up to 60 kilos of extra weight, while slightly overweight ones (around 80 kg) shed up to 20 kg.

Inspired by the program, police officers sent to the camp have their heads shaved and have to strip down to the waist to expose their bellies.

They are also reportedly handing individual Q-D cards to the police weight before and after the program is recorded to track their progress.

The photos posted on the Love Police Facebook page got quite a lot of attention.

Police officers in the program are commending the officers for working hard to shed extra weight.

"It's good you're losing some. I always see cops chugging beer while patrolling. Now they've stopped to catch criminals like that," one Facebook user wrote.

Mosque massacre

FROM PAGE 1
to room-to-room, victim-to-victim, shooting the wounded from close range as they struggled to crawl away.

A 28-year-old Australian-born man was arrested and charged with murder.

He is set to appear at the Christchurch District Court early today. Two other men remain in custody, though their link to the attack is unknown.

The chief suspect allegedly published a racist "manifesto" on social media before the attack, featuring anti-Muslim theories about Muslims being displaced, and details of two years of preparation and radicalisation leading up to the shootings.

"It is clear that this can now only be described as a terrorist attack," said Ardern. "From what we know, it does appear to have been well planned."

Two IEDs (improvised explosive devices) were found in a car and neutralised by a New Zealand police officer. Speaking in Sydney, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison described the gunman as "an extremist, right-wing, violent terrorist."

His two targets were the Masjid al Noor mosque, where 50 people died, and a second, smaller mosque in the suburb of Linwood, where seven were dead. The remaining victim succumbed in hospital.

The dead were said to include women and children. Around 48 people were treated for gunshot wounds at Christchurch Hospital, including young children, with injuries ranging from cracked skulls to missing teeth.

Three Bangladeshis were among the dead, according to the Bangladesh consulate in Auckland.

In a chilling account, Khaled Masud, Bangladesh's cricket team manager, described how most of the Bangladesh team drove up to the Masjid al Noor in a bus just as the attack got underway.

Just when the players were about to enter the mosque, a loud warning came that a gun attack was going on inside the mosque, saving their lives, reported our reporter Mazhar Uddin, who was with them.

"We were very close, we could see the mosque. We were maximum 50 yards away. I would say we are very lucky," Masud told reporters in Christchurch.

"If we were there three to four minutes earlier, we would have been in the mosque, massive thing might have happened."

The distraught players managed to safely make their way back to the Hagley Oval cricket ground — a kilometre away from the shooting scene.

Bangladesh Cricket Board spokesman said that the Bangladesh team were "shocked" but unharmed and had been ordered to stay in the team hotel.

New Zealand police described the footage shot by the gunman as "extremely distressing and disturbing" and users that they could be liable for up to 10 years in jail for sharing such "objectionable content".

In addition to the footage — which AFP reported, but is not distributing — a number of pictures were posted to social media.

They mainly show densely populated areas such as in front of shopping mall or intersection so that they could easily mix with the crowd, said the commanding officer.

Legal action will be taken against the arrestees, the officer added.

Palestinian land

seized by Israeli army, given to settlers: NGO

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel grabbed over 100 hectares (24,700 acres) of Palestinian land in the West Bank, a watchdog said, and nearly half has gone to its West Bank settlements, an Israeli NGO said Thursday.

According to the report, the appropriations in the occupied West Bank, covers seizure orders issued between 1969 and 2014.

It said that nearly 47 percent of the land requisitioned under rules permitting seizure for "urgent military needs" is today used for settlement housing or access roads.

Some was initially used to house military infrastructure that was later passed to settlers, it says.

Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967. Six days War and today about 450,000 Israelis live there in settlements deemed illegal under international law.

The Israeli military said on Thursday that it was unaware of the report but that it would be "studied by the competent authorities" and given a reply.

The report's author, researcher Dror Etkes, said that the first wave of settlement took place under the relatively diverse Labour party.

The settler party between 1967 and 1977, is the party that establishes the concept of seizure of land for settlements," he said at a press briefing ahead of the report's publication.

Seizures peaked, however, between 1979 and 1983 under the right-wing Likud party.

Kerem Navot says that under humanitarian law such requisitions must be temporary and the owners must be compensated.

But it says that its research shows that 60 percent of the Palestinian land appropriated by Israel is being held indefinitely and there is no "fair compensation mechanism."

Even the setting up of the Palestinian Authority under the Oslo peace accord in 1993 did not result in the return of land under PA control, Etkes said.

And in the rare case when seizures were cancelled, "not once was the land returned to its original owners or given prior to confiscation," he said.

Azahar's wife Roshna Begum said, "My in-laws had strong emotional sense. But I am not emotionally understand them. I frequently repair my mind."

The residents now use some rooms for storing harvests and some as guest rooms. "All the rooms are used in summer. The in-laws keep us cool in summer and in winter."

Sometimes the house moves when someone walks on certain parts on the floor, she said.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mobarah Khan said that he was working to protect the mud house considering its tourism value.

US throw away golden chance

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atmosphere of hostility and mistrust, and therefore, obstructed the constructive effort for negotiations between the supreme leaders of North Korea and the United States," TASS quoted the report.

Kim is set to make an official announcement soon on his position on the denuclearisation talks with the United States and the North's further attack, TASS said, citing a Reuters report.

Bolton told reporters outside the White House that he had seen the statement from the North Korean official and that "I think that's inaccurate."

He said he had spoken to his South Korean counterpart but wanted to consult with other US officials before responding further.

US SEEKS MORE 'CONVERSATIONS' Pompeo told reporters it was not the first time he had been called "gang bangers" by North Korea. "And following that we continued to have very professional conversations ... I have every expectation we will be able to continue these conversations."

Pompeo said he had seen Cho's remarks, and she had left open the possibility that negotiations would

continue.

"It's the administration's desire that we have an open conversation around this," Pompeo said. "As the president said when he was in Hanoi, the offer that they made simply didn't rise to the level that was acceptable, given that they were asking for an exchange."

Kim had committed multiple times to Trump in Hanoi that he would not to resume nuclear or missile testing. Pompeo said he had seen Cho's remarks, and she had left open the possibility that negotiations would

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