

3 Bangladeshis among dead

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"I was lying 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 row 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 city attend their prayers.

Although Mohtasim 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 Bangladeshi origin, and a few 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, honorary 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."

At least four others 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 Abdus Samad, his wife, and Hosne Ara Farid.

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

Quoting 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.

Canterbury Christchurch University's College of Business and Law teacher Mesbahuddin Chowdhury also said those three were dead.

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

However, Samad's son Toaha Mohammad 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.

Toaha 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, Mohtasim and Zakaria.

Lipi Bhabi 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 Mazfuza Akter Rina.

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

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Tarrant revealed he had been planning an attack for up to two years, noting he decided to target 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 on the invaders for 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 slavers ... (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 the attack was to take revenge for Ebba Akerlund, 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 commit the attack, particularly the death of the 11-year-old girl.

"Ebba (sic) death 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. I condemn any form of violence," Jeanette 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 exaggerated."

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, sky News added.

In April 2010, his father died suddenly of cancer aged 49, leading Tarrant to set off on a seven-year trip 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 84 people were killed by a truck ploughing into holidaying 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".

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

"It's the administration's desire that we continue to have conversations 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 what they were asking for in exchange."

Kim had committed multiple times to Trump in Hanoi that he would not resume nuclear or missile testing, Pompeo said. "That's Chairman Kim's word. We have every expectation he will live up to that commitment."

South Korea, which has an ambitious agenda of engagement with North Korea that is dependent on Pyongyang and Washington resolving at least some of their differences, said it was too early to tell what Choe's comments might mean.

"We cannot judge the current situation based solely on Vice Minister Choe Son Hui's statements. We are watching the situation closely. In any situation, our government will endeavour for the rest of North Korea's negotiations." South Korea's presidential Blue House said in a statement.

Choe's comments echoed the

North's usual rhetoric at tense points in its dealings with Washington. North Korea expert Joshua Pollack said North Korea may be delivering an ultimatum.

"They're putting down a marker, saying which way things are headed if nothing changes," Pollack, of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey, California, said.

The second Trump-Kim summit broke down over differences about US demands for Pyongyang to denuclearise and North Korea's demand for dramatic relief from international sanctions imposed for its nuclear and missile tests, which it pursued for years in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions.

The photos posted on the Love Police Facebook page got quite a lot of attention, with most commentators 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. How are you supposed to catch criminals like that?" one Facebook user wrote.

No case was filed till 9:00pm yesterday.

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