

Gunman at US military base showed mass shooting videos at party: report

AFP, Miami

The Saudi military student who carried out a deadly shooting spree at a US naval base showed videos of mass shootings at a dinner party the night before the attack, US media reported Saturday.

The shooting Friday in a classroom building at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida killed three sailors and wounded eight other people, including two responding sheriff's deputies, before police shot dead the assailant.

The dinner party revelation came as authorities probed whether the shooter had any accomplices.

"We're finding out what took place, whether it's one person or a number of people," President Donald Trump told reporters. "We'll get to the bottom of it very quickly.

The FBI on Saturday formally identified the attacker as Mohammed Alshamrani, 21, a second lieutenant in the Royal Saudi Air Force and a student naval flight officer.

The SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist media, said he had posted a short manifesto on Twitter prior to the attack that read: "I'm against evil, and America as a whole has turned into a nation of evil."

"I hate you because every day you (are) supporting, funding and committing crimes not only against Muslims but also humanity."

The Twitter account that posted the manifesto -- which also condemned US support for Israel and included a quote from Al-Qaeda's deceased leader Osama bin Laden -- has been suspended.

The shooter did not have any apparent ties to terror groups and no group has officially claimed the attack, the Times reported, citing an unnamed senior American official.

However, "given that ISIS has very little to lose at this point, it wouldn't be surprising if it claimed the attack, regardless of the attacker's potential allegiances," tweeted SITE Director Rita Katz, referring to the Islamic State group.

Naval Air Station Pensacola hosts the US Navy's foreign military training programs, established in 1985 specifically for Saudi students before being expanded to other nationalities.

2 sent to jail

FROM PAGE 16

stealing a mobile phone. As the boys were severely tortured, locals rescued them and took them to the upazila health complex, said Rakib's mother Rashida Begum.

She filed a case with the police station later that day.

According to Manusher Jonno Foundation, out of 1,006 child-victims of rape, sexual harassment, and physical torture last year, some 271 succumbed to the abuses.

Take down

FROM PAGE 16

information, post and telecommunication and the BTRC have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Barrister Tahsina Tasnim Mridu, a supreme court lawyer, seeking a necessary order.

Tahsina told The Daily Star that the constitution and law of the state have guaranteed personal security and safety of people and prohibited publishing personal, confidential, indecent photos and information of people in the media without their consent.

Personal and confidential pictures of Mithila and Fahmi were published on news portals and social media without their consent, which is a violation of the constitution and law, she said.

The respondents are responsible of regulating the publishing of personal and confidential information and pictures of people on news portals and social media but they have failed to discharge their duties, Tahsina added.

One held

FROM PAGE 16

The victim was sent to one-stop crisis centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital for medical test.

Bilkis Begum, coordinator at the centre, said the girl was traumatized.

Man arrested

FROM PAGE 16

behind the killing.

SM Abdur Rashid, brother of the deceased Ratna, said Razzak, being a drug addict, took Tk 70,000 from him six months ago saying he would get rid of the addiction and start up a business.

He further asked for money recently. As Ratna's family refused this time, he began torturing her. He alleged that his sister and her children were killed over the money.



French climate activists of the Nonviolent Action COP21 (ANV-COP21) association hold upside down official portraits of French President Emmanuel Macron, after they were unhooked from town halls across the country, at the Trocadero esplanade in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, yesterday, during a demonstration to denounce the government's inaction against global warming.

PHOTO: AFP

43 killed in Delhi factory fire

FROM PAGE 16

Sajjamuddin Ahmad spent two hours searching for his father-in-law and brother-in-law among the bodies and injured before discovering they were dead, he told AFP.

Other relatives said they still did not know what had happened to their loved ones.

"I don't know whether they are alive or dead," Noorjehan Bano, whose father and brother-in-law worked and lived in the factory, told AFP outside one of the hospitals.

Families of the victims told AFP they were mostly migrant workers who had come from Bihar, one of India's most impoverished states. Some of them were paid just 1,000 rupees (\$14) a month, they added.

Locals had called the police and emergency services as the blaze lit up the early morning sky, but firefighters struggled to reach the victims amid the narrow lanes.

Police and fire officials said at least 58 others were rescued, with local

television networks airing footage of firemen carrying people out of the narrow lanes to nearby emergency vehicles.

The flames had been extinguished and they did not expect to find more bodies, officials added.

"Most who've died were sleeping when the fire broke out and died due to asphyxiation," Sadar Bazar's assistant commissioner of police told AFP.

Authorities said they did not yet know the cause of the blaze but

Delhi's fire services director told the Press Trust of India the site had been operating without the required fire safety clearances.

Many factories and small manufacturing units in big Indian cities are often located in old, cramped areas, where the cost of land is relatively cheaper.

Such units often also serve as sleeping quarters for poor, mostly migrant, workers, who manage to save money by staying overnight at their workplaces.

Man eats piece of art

FROM PAGE 16

But the kerfuffle was resolved without a food fight.

"He did not destroy the art work. The banana is the idea," Lucien Terras, director of museum relations for Galerie Perrotin, told the Miami Herald.

As it turns out, the value of the work is in the certificate of authenticity, the newspaper reported. The banana is

meant to be replaced.

A replacement banana was taped to the wall about 15 minutes after Datuna's stunt.

"This has brought a lot of tension and attention to the booth and we're not into spectacles," Terras said. "But the response has been great. It brings a smile to a lot of people's faces."

Gallery director Peggy Leboeuf

said that no legal action was planned against Datuna.

"He was not arrested, but we asked him to leave the booth and to leave the fair," she said.

"We have his contact and everything, so we can go further, but I don't think we will."

Cattelan is perhaps best known for his 18-carat, fully functioning gold

New malady for BNP

FROM PAGE 16

BNP standing committee member, said.

He also said he was against participating in the election while Khaleda was in jail, but the party did not agree to that.

"That is the beauty of a party. If I resign from the party expressing grievances, then I am not a democratic person," Roy said.

Khaleda Zia has been behind bars since February 8 last year following a court verdict on corruption charges.

Party leaders said since she was sent to jail, the BNP failed to wage any movement to mount pressure on the government to release her.

"The party participated in the election and the lawmakers joined parliament. But neither the standing committee members nor the other leaders were aware of these issues. Who took these decisions?" a vice chairman of the party, wishing not to be named, told The Daily Star.

He also said Khaleda may not have been fully involved in how the matter

unfolded.

Party sources said although many in the top brass were frustrated over the current leadership, they did not want to make tough decisions while Khaleda was in jail.

"The way the party is going is embarrassing. If I resign from the party right now, party leaders and activists will call me a traitor. On the other hand, the way the party is being run, it is tough to do politics with prestige and honour," a vice chairman of the party, said.

BNP Joint Secretary General Syed

Moazzem Hossain Alal, on the other hand, said Tarique did not take any decisions alone, but rather consulted with the standing committee members.

"So, if anyone blames Tarique Rahman for everything, then they might have other agendas on their minds," he said.

BNP vice Chairman Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury, Mosaddek Ali Falu, Enam Ahmed Chowdhury and some other senior leaders have already resigned from the party on different grounds.

Rumpa's friend on remand

FROM PAGE 1

Later, Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mamunur Rashid granted a four-day remand.

According to the remand prayer, Rumpa and Saikat were in a relationship, which recently turned sour. They met outside their campus in Siddeshwari area around 4:00pm that day and had an argument, which led to Saikat breaking the relationship off.

Saikat's lawyer Abdul Hamid Bhuiyan, however, told the court that Saikat was not involved in the alleged murder.

Within a span of a week, his father and uncle died. In this condition, he could not have killed anyone. Besides, there was still no evidence of this being a murder case, and thus, there was no logic of taking him on remand, the lawyer said.

The lawyer said that Saikat when to

the office of the detective branch after they asked him to meet them.

About the death of his father and uncle, Saikat had earlier told journalists that the incidents happened in a span of week about 6-7 months ago and he transferred to another university after that.

Saikat was a BBA student at Stamford University. But after one semester, he transferred his admission to a college under the National University because of the family crisis, he claimed to this newspaper before his arrest.

Different agencies are investigating the murder case filed with Ramna Police Station. The case was shifted to DB on Saturday.

Police are yet to get proof like CCTV footages or mobile phone locations about Saikat's whereabouts in the Siddheshwari neighbourhood after

4:00pm on Wednesday, said a police official working on the investigation.

Police, however, are still in the dark about where Rumpa was and what activities took place in the four hours after she left her Shantibagh home at 6:45pm.

Twenty-two-year-old Rumpa, a second-year English student of the private university in the capital's Siddheshwari, was found dead in an alley behind Ayesha Shopping Complex on Wednesday around 10:45pm. Police learned her identity the next day.

They said Rumpa had visited the 11-storey Ayesha Shopping Complex around 5:00pm as one of her schoolfriends lives there on the fourth floor.

During the visit, Rumpa shared her frustrations over her relationship with Saikat and even cried, said police,

quoting the friend.

Around 6:40pm, she returned to her home in Shantibagh after taking tuition classes and asked her 12-year-old cousin to bring a pair of sandals for her. She then left her purse and shoes with the cousin and left the place wearing the sandals.

Around four hours later, her body was found in the alley. The pair of sandals was found near the body.

On Friday, police said they found fresh sandal prints on an edge of Ayesha Shopping Complex's rooftop.

According to police, Rumpa had gone to the complex rooftop before. They were trying to find whether the footprints and the sandals were of the same person.

The investigators were now waiting for the forensic report and also looking into CCTV cameras installed in the area.

Feisty Biden clings to top spot in 2020 Democratic race

AFP, Washington

He's supposedly too old, too moderate, too prone to campaign stumbles.

But despite the criticism long circulating about Joe Biden, he has proven the most resilient candidate in the Democratic presidential nomination race -- at least for now.

The 77-year-old former US vice president is capping off a big week that has seen him take on a more aggressive tone on the campaign trail.

Eleven months from the 2020 election, the elder statesman is still the national frontrunner in the race to take on President Donald Trump.

He was feeling so invigorated and pugnacious during his eight-day "No Malarkey" bus tour through early-voting Iowa that he challenged an obstinate voter to a push-up contest Thursday.

"The Biden thing is the strangest thing I've ever seen in politics because the guy is up there in the air and everybody is just assuming he's going to come down," Barack's Obama's campaign guru David Axelrod told Politico recently.

"But he's still driving, you know? He's still moving forward."

As Obama's deputy for eight years, Biden today has a commanding lead among African Americans, a critical constituency in the Democratic nomination battle.

His blue-collar roots and appeal is also seen as a selling point to working-class white voters, many of whom may be frustrated with Trump and are looking for a viable alternative.

Biden has slipped to fourth place in Iowa and New Hampshire, the two states that vote first in the nomination race.

But on the national stage he maintains a commanding lead with 28 percent support according to the RealClearPolitics polling average -- far ahead of his progressive challengers Bernie Sanders on 16 percent and Elizabeth Warren on 14, and fellow moderate Pete Buttigieg on 11 percent.

Malaysia reports first case of polio since 1992

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

A three-month-old Malaysian infant has been diagnosed with polio, the first case reported in the country in nearly three decades, a top health official said yesterday.

The baby boy from Tuaran in Malaysia's Sabah state on Borneo island tested positive for polio on Friday after being admitted to hospital with a fever and muscle weakness, Director General of Health Noor Hisham Abdullah said in a statement.

"The patient is being treated in an isolation ward and is in stable condition, but still requires assistance to breathe," he said.

Malaysia was declared polio-free in 2000, after reporting its last known case of the disease in 1992. Its resurgence comes just months after the Philippines, north of Borneo, reported its first cases of polio since 1993 in September.

Noor Hisham said tests showed the child was infected with a polio strain that shared genetic links with the virus detected in the Philippine cases.

Checks in the area where the baby lived showed 23 of 199 children between 2 and 15 had not received the polio vaccine, he said.

"This is a worrying situation as the spread of the disease ... can only be stopped with polio immunisation," he said, adding vaccination rates needed to be above 95% to prevent infection.

There is no cure for polio, which invades the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis within hours, but it can be prevented with vaccines.

The virus spreads rapidly among children, especially in unsanitary conditions in underdeveloped or war-torn regions where healthcare access is limited.

Afghanistan and Pakistan are the last countries where the disease is endemic.

Noor Hisham said fecal samples from the infected child's close contacts and his surroundings had been collected in a bid to detect the polio virus.

50 hurt

FROM PAGE 16

official added.

Talking to The Daily Star, Riaz Uddin, convener of Siraganj Sadar upazila AL, alleged that BNP men first attacked their rally and injured at least 20 AL men including a freedom fighter.

Harunur Rashid, joint secretary of the district unit BNP, however, denied the allegation and said AL men attacked their rally and injured at least 25 men.

Meanwhile, police said they were investigating the matter and trying to find the real culprits.