NEW ZEALAND MOSQUE CARNAGE

Life term without parole urged for 'remorseless' gunman

AFP, *Wellington*

Families of victims gunned down at two New Zealand mosques urged a judge to impose the toughest possible sentence, life without parole, on the gunman as he showed no remorse and appeared to smirk at one survivor during a sentencing hearing yesterday.

Mirwais Waziri, who was wounded during the 2019 attack at Christchurch's Al Noor mosque, put aside his prepared court statement and addressed white supremacist Brenton Tarrant directly, after seeing that he did not have "any regrets".

"He does not regret anything," said Waziri in the High Court in Christchurch on day two of the sentencing hearings.

"Today you are called terrorist and you proved to the world that us Muslims are not terrorists. I say to the people of New Zealand that terrorist do not have religion, race and colour," said Waziri," whose words drew applause from the public gallery.

Nathan Smith, originally from Britain and a survivor of the Al Noor mosque shooting, also spoke directly to Tarrant who sat in grey prison clothes cornered by guards.

"When you get a free minute, which you will have plenty of. Maybe you should try to read the Quran. It's beautiful," he said, reacting to Tarrant's apparent smirk.

Tarrant, a 29-year-old Australian, is scheduled to be sentenced this week after pleading guilty to 51 murders, 40 attempted murders and one charge of committing a terrorist act during the 2019 shooting rampage in the city of Christchurch which he livestreamed on Facebook.

Prosecutors have told the court Tarrant carefully planned the attacks to cause maximum carnage by accumulating high-powered firearms and ammunition, training at rifle clubs and studying mosque layouts.

A murder conviction carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison. The judge can impose a life term without parole, a sentence that has never been used in New Zealand.

GOP warns of 'era of chaos' under Biden

Securing nomination, Trump claims Democrats using pandemic to steal election

Reuters, *Charlotte*

President Donald Trump and his fellow Republicans opened their national convention on Monday by painting a dire portrait of America if Democrat Joe Biden wins the White House in November, arguing he will usher in an era of radical socialism and chaos.

Trump set the tone early in the day when he addressed delegates in Charlotte, North Carolina, after formally securing their nomination for another term, and claimed without evidence that Democrats were trying to steal the election.

Republicans had vowed to offer an inspiring, positive message in contrast to what they characterized as a dark and gloomy Democratic convention last week. But the first night's prime-time program featured speakers who peppered their remarks with ominous predictions if Democrats win power.

"They want to destroy this country and everything that we have fought for and hold dear," Trump campaign adviser Kimberly Guilfoyle said. "They want to steal your liberty, your freedom. They want to control what you see, and think, and believe, so they can control how you live."

The four-day convention opened at a critical juncture for Trump, 74, who trails Biden, 77 in national opinion polls during a pandemic that has killed more than 176,000 Americans and erased millions of jobs.

Democrats drew their own dismal picture of what four more years under Trump would look like at their convention last week.

Donald Trump Jr., the president's oldest son and Guilfoyle's boyfriend, portrayed the ongoing civil unrest as violent assaults on small businesses by anarchists and said Democrats would fail to keep neighborhoods safe.

The convention's opening night also laid out what promises to be a central theme of the week: that Biden, a former vice president, and his running mate, US Senator Kamala Harris, will merely be puppets of radical left-wing activists.

Two Republican rising stars - Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina and Nikki Haley, Trump's former ambassador to the UN, who is Indian American - dismissed the idea that Biden and his party would be better stewards of minority voter interests.

"In much of the Democratic Party, it's now fashionable to say that America is racist," said Haley, widely seen as a possible future presidential contender. "That is a lie."

Earlier in the day, the president repeated his assertion that voting by mail, which is expected to be far more common during the pandemic, will lead to widespread fraud.

As he has done repeatedly, Trump described states' responses to infections of Covid-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus, in starkly partisan terms, casting lockdowns and other steps recommended by public health officials as attempts to influence voting in November.

"What they're doing is using COVID to steal an election," Trump said of Democrats. "They're using COVID to defraud the American people - all of our people - of a fair and free election."

Cars burn in a used car lot as protests turn violent on Monday after a Black man, identified as Jacob Blake, was shot several times by police on Sunday in Kenosha, Wisconsin, US. Arsonists set buildings ablaze and torched much of the Black business district in a second night of unrest in the city of Kenosha, Wisconsin, triggered by the wounding of the Black man shot in the back by officers as his three young sons looked on. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN brief

Israel continues pounding Gaza

AFP, *Jerusalem*

Israeli tanks and aircraft carried out new strikes on Hamas targets in Gaza overnight in response to the launch of so-called fire balloons across the border, the army said yesterday. Israel has bombed the Hamas-ruled enclave almost daily since August 6, in response to the airborne incendiary devices and, less frequently, rockets launched across the border. The flare-up comes after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Israel on Monday and as British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab was due to hold talks in both Israel and the Palestinian Territories yesterday.

India building collapse toll hits 5

Reuters, *Mahad*

Rescue workers in western India yesterday pulled a toddler alive from the rubble of an apartment building some 20 hours after it collapsed killing at least five people. The emergency services have found 76 people alive, but there are still around 14 unaccounted for following the disaster on Monday evening in Mahad, an industrial town about 165 km south of Mumbai.

Greta Thunberg back in school after a year

AFP, *Stockholm*

Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg said Monday she has returned to school after a year off campaigning to curb climate change. "My gap year from school is over, and it feels so great to finally be back in school again!" the 17-year-old tweeted. Since her last school year finished in June 2019, the teenager's travels around the world meant that she ended up doing lessons remotely.

Congress likely to appoint panel to assist Gandhi

Report says 4 senior leaders to help the interim party chief to take important decisions

The Statesman/ ANN

The Indian National Congress is likely to appoint a panel of senior leaders to assist interim chief Sonia Gandhi till she is at the helm of affairs, for though the party maintains all is well but the discontent, evinced by a letter seeking a leadership change, may not have been fully doused.

Sources quoted by IANS said that the party may appoint a panel of four persons to take important decisions.

After a marathon seven-hour long meeting in the wake of a letter demanding change in leadership, the Congress party on Monday decided that Sonia Gandhi will remain party chief, at least for the next six months.

The party has reportedly set a time frame of six months for a session of the All India Congress Committee to search for the new chief as Sonia has made it clear that she is not willing to continue at the post any more.

The Congress working Committee (CWC), the party's highest decision-making body, has authorised the Congress president to affect "necessary organisational changes" that she may deem appropriate to take on the challenges.

Hinting at the committee, several leaders said that Sonia Gandhi will be assisted by four persons so that the consultation process is more wide than what she had done in past while going for treatment abroad.

The meeting came weeks after around 23 top Congress leaders wrote a letter to Sonia Gandhi on the issue of leadership change and elections in the CWC.

The letter called for an urgent need for "full time and effective leadership", which is both "visible" and "active" and an "urgent establishment of an institutional leadership mechanism" to "collectively guide the party's revival". It also asked for decentralisation of power, elections in the party at all levels and empowerment of its state units.

In silence they remembered

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sheltered in camps in Cox's Bazar stayed inside their makeshift homes and prayed for those killed and tortured.

"No, there was no gathering of people anywhere in the camps. All the activities in the camps were off. We stayed indoors. Some went to mosques and prayed for those killed," said Mohammad Noor, leader of a camp at Kutupalong, reports our correspondent in Cox's Bazar.

"Those of us involved with NGOs also did not work. It was almost a total silent day," said Badrul Islam, another camp leader known as Majhi at Noapara in Teknaf.

"We still didn't get our rights and still all Rohingya people and other ethnics in Myanmar continuously face this threat. It's because the UN officially didn't declare the crimes as genocide," said a joint statement of several Rohingya organisations. Those include Rohingya Students' Union, Rohingya Students' Network, Rohingya Youth for Legal Action, Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights, Rohingya Youth Federation, Rohingya Community Development Program, Education For Rohingya Generation and Rohingya Women For Justice and Peace.

They demanded that the UN declare August 25 as Genocide Day for the Rohingya.

Meanwhile, Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK (BROUK) said the world must not forget the ongoing genocide against the Rohingya people.

"This is a day when Rohingyas everywhere remember the genocide and the worst crimes committed against us in our history," said Tun Khin, president of BROUK, in a statement.

"But just because the headlines have become fewer today, it does not mean that the Rohingya people are no longer suffering. Make no mistake -- the genocide is going on, and Myanmar's leaders are still intent on erasing the Rohingya as a people."

For the 600,000 Rohingya, who remain in Rakhine today, life continues to resemble an open-air prison, he said. Close to 128,000 Rohingya, who were displaced by state-sponsored violence in 2012, continue to live in squalid displacement camps, with limited access to education and other basic necessities. Besides, renewed fighting in Rakhine between the Tatmadaw and the Arakan Army, combined with the Covid-19 pandemic, has further imperiled the lives of civilians in the region.

BROUK said the Bangladesh government has generously sheltered some one million Rohingyas, but restrictions on refugee rights, access to education, work and freedom of movement remain matters of concern.

Tun Khin said despite well-documented serious human rights violations by the Tatmadaw and others against the Rohingya, not a single person has been meaningfully brought to justice over the past three years. However, following the Gambia's case last year, the International Court of Justice issued a provisional order for Myanmar to prevent acts of genocide, while the International Criminal Court approved an investigation.

BROUK has furthermore brought a universal jurisdiction case in Argentina against Myanmar's military and civilian leadership for their role in the genocide against the Rohingyas.

"We do not want revenge, but a chance to build a life of dignity, which is only possible if there is justice for crimes against us.

"The world must support international justice efforts. We call on more states to support the Gambia's case at the ICJ, and to launch universal jurisdiction cases in their own countries," added Tun Khin.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD
Mechanical Wing, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

International Re-Tender for Procurement of Goods

01.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges/Road Transport & Highways Division.
02.	Agency	Roads & Highways Department.
03.	Procuring entity name	Project Director.
04.	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
05.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
06.	Invitation for	Package No. GD-03.
07.	Invitation Ref. Number	Road Transport & Highways Division's Memo No. 35.00.0000.032.014.75.15(Part)-216, Date: 19-03-2020 Chief Engineer, RHD, Dhaka's Dairy No. 938-CE, Date: 23-03-2020
08.	Tender Notice No.	03/PD-PE&M(LoC-II)/(Re-Tender)/2019-2020
09.	Date	24-08-2020
KEY INFORMATION		
10.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (International).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
11.	Budget and source of funds	Line of Credit (LoC) Agreement dated: March 09, 2016 for USD 2 billion signed between the Government of Bangladesh & Export-Import Bank of India (Ref: ERD-09.00.0000.183.24.051.16-401, date: 06 November 2016).
12.	Development partners	**India.**
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
13.	Project/program code	224086800 (Old 5344).
14.	Project/program name	Procurement of Equipment and Machineries for Construction, Repair and Maintenance of Road Infrastructure.
15.	Tender package number	GD-03.
16.	Tender package name	Procurement of 5-Ton Truck for RHD under Indian Line of Credit in completely built-up condition with 10% spare parts and related services.
17.	Tender publication date	27-08-2020
18.	Tender last selling date	29-09-2020 up to 4.00pm BST.
19.	Tender submission date & time	30-09-2020 at 12.00 Noon BST.
20.	Tender opening date & time	30-09-2020 at 3.00pm BST.
21.	Name and address of the office(s)	
(a)	- Selling tender documents (principal)	Executive Engineer, RHD, Procurement & Storage Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
(b)	- Selling tender document (others)	1. Executive Engineer, RHD, Planning Division-1, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka. 2. Executive Engineer, RHD, Equipment Control Division, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
(c)	- Receiving tender documents	1. Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Mechanical Wing, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. 2. Superintending Engineer, RHD, Equipment Control & Procurement Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka. 3. Executive Engineer, RHD, Procurement & Storage Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
(d)	- Opening tender document	Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Mechanical Wing, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
22.	Place, date & time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Mechanical Wing, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208 on 09-09-2020 at 11.00am BST.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
23.	Eligibility of tenderer/manufacturer	Tenderers are limited to Manufacturers from India only. Other eligibility criteria are described in tender document.
24.	Brief description of goods	Brief description of goods has been described in the **Sl. No. 27 indicating the Column named "Identification of the Package."** More description of goods & spare parts and related services are described in tender document.
25.	Price of tender document (Tk)	For the Package No. GD-03 price will be BD Tk 10,000.00 (ten thousand) only.
26.	Tenderer's criteria	Tender security must be submitted by the tenderer/manufacturer. Other Tenderer's criteria are described in tender document.

27.	Package No.	Identification of the package	Location (delivery point)	Tender security amount in foreign currency of US$ (USD in lakh)	Completion time
	GD-03	5 (five) Ton Truck	RHD, Procurement & Storage Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka.	0.83	08 (eight months)

28.	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Rafiqul Islam.
29.	Designation of official inviting tender	Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Mechanical Wing, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
30.	Address of official inviting tender	RHD, Mechanical Wing, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
31.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone # 88-02-8878122, Fax # 88-02-8878123 Email address: acemw@rhd.gov.bd
32.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.	

N.B.: If under any unavoidable circumstances last selling, receiving or opening day of tender is disturbed, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.

24-08-2020
Nur Mohammed
Assistant Engineer, RHD
Mechanical Wing, Sarak Bhaban
Tejgaon, Dhaka

24-08-2020
Md. Rafiqul Islam
Additional Chief Engineer, RHD
Mechanical Wing and
Project Director
Procurement of Equipment and Machineries for Construction, Repair and Maintenance of Road Infrastructure Under LoC-II Project
Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka

GD-1330