

INTERNATIONAL

Jerusalem bus shooting wounds 8

Suspect arrested

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli police yesterday arrested a suspect in a pre-dawn shooting spree targeting a bus just outside Jerusalem's Old City that wounded eight people, including a pregnant woman, and several US citizens.

"The terrorist is in our hands," police spokesman Kan Eli Levy told Israeli public radio hours after the bloody attack not far from the Western Wall, the holiest prayer site for Jews.

Several American citizens were among the wounded, said the US embassy, which declared that "we are shocked and saddened by the terrorist attack" but gave no further details on the victims, citing privacy concerns.

The gunman started spraying bullets at the public bus and people on the street in the attack at the Tomb of David bus stop near the Old City's Zion Gate, recounted bus driver Daniel Kanievsky.

One of the wounded was a pregnant woman, whose baby was delivered by Caesarean section after the attack, a spokesman at Jerusalem's Shaarei Tsedek Hospital told AFP.

"She remains intubated and in serious condition," he said. "The infant was delivered and is in serious but stable condition."

Local media reported a US Jewish family of four who had been waiting for a taxi were among the casualties.

Following an hours-long manhunt, police said a suspect had turned himself in. Prime Minister Yair Lapid told his cabinet meeting that "this is a lone assailant, a resident of the city with a criminal record".

The Palestinian militant Islamist group Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, hailed a "heroic operation" without claiming responsibility for the attack.

The shooting came a week after the end of a three-day conflict between Israel and Islamic Jihad militants in Gaza. At least 49 Palestinians, including Islamic Jihad fighters and a number of children, died in the violence.

Man accused

FROM PAGE 16

with the clearing and forwarding agency.

Alam, who was nabbed by immigration police, was yesterday produced in court, according to Shakil Khandakar, deputy director of the CIID. The court sent him to jail.

"Now it will be possible to arrest the other members of this gang and find out the final destination of the illegally imported goods," he told The Daily Star.

Can govt hike fuel

FROM PAGE 16

In reply, DAG Arobinda told the HC that the energy ministry can raise fuel prices as this is a policy decision of the government.

The ministry has issued a notification increasing the prices of diesel, kerosene, petrol and octane under the directive from the president of the republic, he argued.

Earlier in the day during the hearing, petitioner Eunus Ali Akond, also a Supreme Court lawyer, told the court that Sheikh Md Belayet Hossain, deputy secretary of energy ministry, issued the gazette notification on August 5 hiking the fuel prices under the directive from the president, "though the responsibility does not lie with the president".

The lawyer said the "unreasonable" hike of fuel price will impact very adversely on the livelihood of common people, including farmers.

The HC also heard opinions from lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua, who has earlier moved several cases on price hike of fuel, gas and electricity.

The lawyer told the court that the government has increased the fuel price in violation of section 34 of the BERC Act, 2003.

After concluding yesterday's proceedings, the HC bench adjourned the hearing of the petition till 2:00pm tomorrow.

On August 8, Eunus filed the petition as a public interest litigation. In the petition, he requested the HC to primarily pass a stay order on the government notification.



People watch as a bulldozer clears the rubble of a building that was destroyed by an Israeli airstrike in the latest round of fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday. An Egypt-brokered ceasefire reached late on August 7 ended the intense fighting that killed 49 Palestinians including children and wounded many others, according to Gaza's health ministry. PHOTO: AFP

Trump vs Biden again?

Political analysts say the documents scandal makes it more likely

AFP, Washington



role in stoking the violent January 6 assault on Congress, a rematch would be ugly.

"If you think Trump's 2016 and 2020 campaigns were nasty, you ain't seen nothing," said American University history professor Allan Lichtman, a leading authority on US presidential elections.

"I believed he was gonna run before -- I'm stronger in my belief now," Republican Senator Lindsey Graham told Fox News.

If Trump does run, goes the theory, then Biden surely does, too. Despite being the oldest man ever in the job at 79, Biden sees it as his mission to rid the United States of Trump.

And so, after surviving the tense, at times nightmarish 2020 election, Americans may do it all over again.

This time it would be in reverse -- the incumbent a by-then 81-year-old Biden and the challenger a 78-year-old Trump.

Given Trump's constant lies that he won the 2020 election and searing evidence of his

role in stoking the violent January 6 assault on Congress, a rematch would be ugly.

"If you think Trump's 2016 and 2020 campaigns were nasty, you ain't seen nothing," said American University history professor Allan Lichtman, a leading authority on US presidential elections.

"I believed he was gonna run before -- I'm stronger in my belief now," Republican Senator Lindsey Graham told Fox News.

If Trump does run, goes the theory, then Biden surely does, too. Despite being the oldest man ever in the job at 79, Biden sees it as his mission to rid the United States of Trump.

And so, after surviving the tense, at times nightmarish 2020 election, Americans may do it all over again.

This time it would be in reverse -- the incumbent a by-then 81-year-old Biden and the challenger a 78-year-old Trump.

Given Trump's constant lies that he won the 2020 election and searing evidence of his

wipe-out, or even scoring their own surprise victory, in November midterm elections to decide control of Congress.

"Trump is like a steroid boost for Democrats," Jim Kessler, at the Democratic think tank Third Way, told The Hill.

Yet Trump will also see benefits.

Once again he's dominating the national psyche, while his fervent base has a new conspiracy theory to feed off, lighting up right-wing social media with calls to arms and threats of Civil War 2.0.

"Donald Trump has more than \$100 million in his political war chest. But he has something even more valuable -- an active FBI investigation against him," wrote Richard Lowry, editor of the conservative magazine National Review.

"It has put him front-and-center again. It has made it easy for him to portray himself as an embattled victim."

In a Republican primary, Trump's political footprint would likely crush the strongest of rivals.

And Trump getting in would also essentially trigger Biden's decision to follow -- scotching any thoughts he may privately have of stepping aside for a younger figure before 2024.

Voters may not want either man.

A July poll by NewsNation/Decision Desk HQ found 60 percent said Biden shouldn't run in 2024 and 57 percent said the same of Trump.

DHAKA MONDAY AUGUST 15, 2022
SRABAN 31, 1429 BS
The Daily Star 11

Bachelet raises

FROM PAGE 1

Yesterday, the three ministers spoke separately to the media.

Foreign Minister Momen said, "There is nothing called enforced disappearance in Bangladesh. Some, however, say 76 people fell victim to enforced disappearance in the last 10 years."

Of them, 10 were found while the families of the rest have not provided necessary information. The government will inform the UN about it, he said.

Momen further said there might have been extrajudicial killings between 2003 and 2005, but not since 2008.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman said disappearance takes place for three reasons -- people flee to other countries via Myanmar and India after committing crimes, becoming bankrupt or because of family conflicts.

About the missing ones, he said law enforcers are looking for 32 people who are wanted in different criminal cases. There is no truth in the claim that law enforcers are responsible for all the disappearances.

If anyone disappears voluntarily, it will take time to find him or her, said the home minister.

Asked if the UN rights chief talked about extrajudicial killings, Momen said she did not raise the issue but he told her that such incidents happen because of comments on social media as the people in Bangladesh are very sensitive about religion. The authorities act immediately in such cases.

"They [the UN] appreciated all the steps and praised us," he added.

When Bachelet wanted to know about the situation in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), The home minister elaborated on the government's efforts to fully implement the CHT Peace Accord.

Bachelet appreciated Bangladesh's regular reporting to human rights treaty bodies, and suggested a mechanism for further streamlining this.

She also talked about the possible visits of several special rapporteurs of the UN to Bangladesh, as well as the country's efforts to implement the Universal Periodic Review recommendations.

The law minister said they also spoke about the latest development regarding

possible

tonnes of rice in July.

Until Thursday, 34,000 tonnes was imported since the approval, said Muhammed Mahbubur Rahman, senior assistant secretary (external procurement) of the ministry.

However, some importers are choosing not to import rice due to high prices in India.

Md Shahjalal, proprietor of Jalal Auto Rice Mill, said his brother Arshad Ali, who owns Dada Agro Food Products, is among those who received approval for importing rice.

"The quality of the Indian variety is not as good as the native one. After bearing all costs, the price becomes higher than the local ones. We've sent our people to India but seeing the high price we have refrained from importing rice," he said.

Saying that the price of paddy has shot up, Shahjalal also claimed that farmers are selling paddy at Tk 1,800 per maund (37.32 kg). "After processing [the paddy into rice], the cost is Tk 3,700 [per maund]," he said.

50 LAKH FAMILIES

The food minister said the government was going to introduce an FFP for 50 lakh poor families.

The families will be able to get 30kg rice per month at Tk 15 per kg. "About 4 crore people will get the benefit, if we assume each family to have four members," he said.

He also said the government will expand its OMS programme to upazila level through 2,013 dealers and double the daily sale limit to 2 tonnes.

Each person will be able to buy 5kg rice per day at Tk 30 per kg.

Rice prices go up again

FROM PAGE 1

"Transport cost has increased.

But the price of rice has gone up disproportionately compared to the rise in transport cost. There is no scope to deny that there are some dishonest businessmen," he said while talking to journalists at his office at the Secretariat.

"Besides, we are now between two seasons -- Boro season is already over and Aman cultivation is beginning. People in many areas are fearful of poor Aman harvest due to drought," said Sadhan.

Meanwhile, price of rice of various brands shot up by Tk 4 to Tk 6 per kg in Kushtia's Khajangan -- the country's second largest rice hub.

Every day, about 200-250 trucks laden with rice go to different districts including Dhaka and Chattogram from Khajangan.

According to locals, the price of rice has increased by Tk 4 to Tk 6 after the government hiked fuel prices.

Umar Farooq, managing director of Fresh Agrofarm in Khajangan, said the transport cost has shot up by Tk 2,000 per truck.

Rice mill owners have to use generators due to load shedding, which has also impacted rice prices.

On June 23, the government cut import duty to 25 percent from 62.5 percent in order to encourage imports, increase supply of the staple in the domestic market, and cool down its prices.

Bangladesh and India share 54 rivers. The two countries, however, have only one relevant treaty signed in 1996 which oversees the sharing of the Ganges river water.

Malik Fida A Khan, executive director of Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services and also a member of JRC technical committee, said, "We want to initiate the discussion on next water sharing treaty of the Ganges. Also, we will discuss about a joint study on the best use of the Padma river water."

Malik Fida A Khan, executive director of Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services and also a member of JRC technical committee, said, "We want to initiate the discussion on next water sharing treaty of the Ganges. Also, we will discuss about a joint study on the best use of the Padma river water."

The Ganges water-sharing deal will expire in 2026.

Sudan floods kill 52 people: state media

AFP, Khartoum

Flooding caused by torrential rains in Sudan have killed at least 52 people and damaged or destroyed thousands of homes, state media reported Saturday.

Heavy rains usually fall in Sudan between May and October, and the country faces severe flooding

every year, wrecking properties, infrastructure, and crops.

"A total of 52 people have been killed and 25 others wounded due to torrential rains and floods since the beginning of the fall season," SUNA reported, quoting Abdel Jalil Abdelreheem, spokesman for Sudan's National Council for Civil Defense.