INTERNATIONAL

DHAKA MONDAY JANUARY 23, 2023
MAGH 9, 1429 BS
The Daily Star
7

LUNAR NEW YEAR SHOOTING

10 dead in California's Asian city

10 others hurt

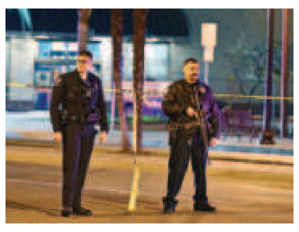
AFP, *Monterey Park*

Ten people have died and at least 10 others have been wounded in a mass shooting in a largely Asian city in southern California, police said yesterday, with the suspect still at large hours later.

The gunman opened fire at a dance venue in Monterey Park, as the local community were celebrating Lunar New Year, with witnesses saying he shot indiscriminately with a semiautomatic weapon.

Captain Andrew Meyer of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said officers had responded to emergency calls around 10:20pm on Saturday and found people pouring out of the premises.

"The officers made entry to the location and located additional victims," he said.



"The Monterey Park Fire Department responded to the scene and treated the injured and pronounced 10 of the victims deceased at the scene.

"There are at least 10 additional victims that were transported to numerous local hospitals and are listed in various conditions from stable to critical.

"The suspect fled the scene and remains outstanding."

Police gave no description of the wanted man, and did not say what kind of gun he used.

Monterey Park, about eight miles (13 kilometers) east of downtown Los Angeles, is home to around 60,000 people, the majority of them Asian or Asian American.

Meyer said detectives were also aware of another incident in the neighboring city of Alhambra.

"It's just too early in the investigation to know whether this incident was a hate crime or not," he told reporters.

People take photographs next to lanterns in the Chinatown area of Yokohama, Japan yesterday, on the first day of the lunar new year. Lunar New Year is the beginning of a lunar calendar or lunisolar calendar year, whose months are moon cycles. The event is celebrated by numerous cultures in different ways and at different dates. PHOTO: AFP

SURGE IN COVID CASES

China logs 13,000 deaths in a week

Top official says vast majority of population already infected

AFP, *Beijing*

China reported nearly 13,000 Covid-related deaths in hospitals between January 13 and 19, after a top health official said the vast majority of the population had already been infected.

The death toll came a week after China said nearly 60,000 people had died with Covid in hospitals in just over a month -- but there has been widespread scepticism over official data since Beijing abruptly axed anti-virus controls last month.

China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said in a statement on Saturday that 681 hospitalised patients had died of respiratory failure caused by coronavirus infection, and 11,977 had died of other diseases combined with an infection over the period.

The figures do not include anyone who died at home.

Airfinity, an independent forecasting firm, has estimated daily Covid deaths in China will peak at about 36,000 over the Lunar New Year holiday. The firm also estimated that more than 600,000 people have died from the disease since China abandoned the zero-Covid policy in December.

China has passed the peak period of Covid patients in fever clinics, Guo Yanhong, an official from the National Health Commission told a news conference on Thursday.

Tens of millions of people have travelled across the country in recent days to mark Lunar New Year, raising fears of fresh outbreaks.

Russia pushing towards 2 towns in Zaporizhzhia

Putin ally says West's deliveries of new weapons to Ukraine will lead to global catastrophe

AGENCIES

Moscow's forces are pushing towards two towns in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region, where fighting intensified this week after several months of a stagnant front, Russian state media reported yesterday.

Russian-installed official in the region Vladimir Rogov said offensive actions were concentrated around two towns: Orikhiv, around 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Ukrainian-controlled regional capital Zaporizhzhia, and Hulyaipole, further east.

"The front is mobile, especially in two directions: Orikhiv and Hulyaipole," Rogov was quoted as saying by the Ria Novosti news agency.

He said there was active fighting in those areas, according to the agency. "The initiative is in our hands."

In its daily report yesterday, the Ukrainian army said "more than 15 settlements were affected by artillery fire" in Zaporizhzhia.

Earlier this week, Rogov announced a "local offensive" around Orikhiv and said the Russian army had taken control of the village of Lobkove, near the Dnipro river, reports AFP.

He also said this week that fighting has "sharply increased" in the southern region.

On Saturday, the Russian army said its troops held "offensive actions" in the Zaporizhzhia region and claimed to have "taken more advantageous lines and positions."

Meanwhile, a close ally of President Vladimir Putin said yesterday that deliveries of offensive weapons to Kyiv that threaten Russia's territories will lead to a global catastrophe and make arguments against using weapons of mass destruction untenable.

Vyacheslav Volodin, speaker of the Duma - Russia's lower house of parliament - warned that the United States and Nato's support of Ukraine is leading the world to a "terrible war", reports Reuters.

"If Washington and Nato countries supply weapons that will be used to strike civilian cities and attempt to seize our territories, as they threaten, this will lead to retaliatory measures using more powerful weapons," Volodin said on the Telegram messaging app.

"Arguments that the nuclear powers have not previously used weapons of mass destruction in local conflicts are untenable. Because these states did not face a situation where there was a threat to the security of their citizens and the territorial integrity of the country."

Western allies pledged billions of dollars in weapons for Ukraine last week, although they failed to persuade Germany to lift a veto on providing German-made Leopard battle tanks, which are held by an array of Nato nations but whose transfer to Ukraine requires Berlin's approval.

ANTI-GOVT RIOTS

Brazil's Lula sacks army chief

AFP, *Brasilia*

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva sacked the commander of Brazil's army Saturday, two weeks after an election-denying mob loyal to his far-right predecessor ransacked the halls of power in Brasilia.

The veteran leftist's dismissal of Julio Cesar de Arruda came a day before Lula was to make his first trip abroad -- to Argentina -- as he moves to put the South American powerhouse back on the international stage.

Arruda had only taken up the post on December 30, two days before the end of outgoing president Jair Bolsonaro's term, and was confirmed by Lula's administration in early January.

On January 8, Bolsonaro supporters ransacked the presidential palace, Supreme Court and Congress in Brasilia, breaking windows and furniture, destroying priceless works of art, and leaving graffiti messages calling for a military coup.

GUARDS TERROR LABEL VOTE

Iran FM vows response to EU

AFP, *Tehran*

Iran yesterday warned the European Union it would take "reciprocal" measures after the European Parliament voted to list the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist group. "The parliament is working to place elements of European countries' armies on the terrorist list" of the Islamic republic, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Twitter. Members of the European Parliament voted on Wednesday to include the Guards on the 27-nation bloc's terror list in "light of its terrorist activity, the repression of protesters and its supplying of drones to Russia".

COW SLAUGHTER IN INDIA

Court blames it for earth's problems

NDTV ONLINE

A court in Gujarat has made some curious observations on cow slaughter while sentencing a man to life imprisonment for illegally transporting cattle. "All the problems of the earth will be solved if cow slaughter is stopped," legal news website Live Law quoted the Principal District Judge of Tapi district court as saying while passing the order. Samir Vinodchandra Vyas also said that "houses made of cow dung are not affected by atomic radiation" and use of gaumutra (cow urine) is a "cure for many incurable diseases".

Avoid middle-income trap at all costs

FROM PAGE 1

Higher and sustained levels of infrastructure investment, digitalisation and especially human capital will be a sine qua non for higher growth.

A vibrant private sector and export diversification will be central for staying on the course of a strong growth path, the Dutch-Austrian national said.

For this, rationalising the tariff system to reduce the nominal protection rate, removing non-tariff barriers and liberalising trade in services will be critically important.

To safeguard the country's successful development outcomes and support sustained growth and poverty reduction, it is important that the country maintains stable macroeconomic conditions underpinned by sound macroeconomic-fiscal management.

"There should be no compromise in improving education as this is the key to improving human capital. Primary and secondary education needs long-term investment so that a child can get proper guidelines from a very early stage."

Asked about the country's macroeconomic challenges, he said the WB recently slashed the global growth projection from 3 percent to 1.7 percent, which is the lowest growth projection in three decades.

The commodity prices, disruption in the supply chain and international food prices are challenges for all countries.

At the event, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said Bangladesh is the 35th largest economy now and the country's per capita income is also rising thanks to contributions from development partners like the WB.

"We want more contributions from them," he added.

While Bangladesh's infrastructure has developed markedly in the last few years, more needs to be done to get the desired GDP growth, said Sharifa Khan, the economic relations division secretary.

"The development partners can do more here."

In recent times, the country's foreign exchange reserves are fast depleting and the cost of borrowing is rising as the interest rate has gone up, she said.

"But we are not solely responsible for this situation, so budget support can play a vital role in this regard," Khan added.

The Washington-based multilateral lender is committed to working with the government in the upcoming months, said Martin Raiser, the WB's vice-president for the South Asia region.

The present economic situation of Bangladesh is mainly due to the global situation, so the government has already taken steps in the situation, said Ahmad Kaikaus, the WB's alternate executive director.

The government ordered to bring down the demand, so that foreign exchange dependency is reduced.

Another order is not to keep any land unfarmed, he said in a panel discussion on 'Celebrating Success: Exploring Possibilities".

In the present supply chain disruption, Bangladesh is trying to improve connectivity with development partners and bilateral relationships, said Kaikaus, who is also the former principal secretary of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is going through macroeconomic challenges and it needs to take some steps to overcome these, said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute.

It needs to make the interest rate and foreign exchange rate market-based, increased the tax-to-GDP ratio and restore good governance in the banking sector, he added.

The government should reduce the cost of doing business and increase competitiveness in the country so that the private sector can play a bigger role in the economy, said Nihad Kabir, a former president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

She suggested giving more focus on skills, training and human capital.

Abdoulaye Seck, the WB's country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, and Junaid Kamal Ahmad, vice-president for operations of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), also spoke at the event.

Court bins

FROM PAGE 1

Sanjit Kumar Roy, Biplob Kumar Das, Mehedi Hasan and Biplob Kumar Sarker, Deputy Commissioner Hayatul Islam Khan and Assistant Commissioner Golam Ruhani, Ansar member Al Amin and 200-300 unnamed policemen.

Nazim, also a former lawmaker from Bhola-4, said in the complaint that the accused broke into the BNP office and vandalised it to create fear ahead of the BNP rally.

They looted valuables worth Tk 47,30,000 and damaged properties worth Tk 3,52,500, it added.

On December 7 last year, a man was killed and over 50 others, including four journalists, were injured in a clash in the Nayapaltan area.

Police filed five cases with Paltan, Ramna, Motijheel and Shahjahanpur police stations the next day, accusing 885 BNP leaders and over 2,250 unnamed individuals.

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, ফরিদপুর।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ১৮ অব ২০২২-২০২৩ খ্রিঃ

তারিখ-২২/০১/২০২৩খ্রিঃ।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিঃ

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ২০২২-২০২৩ খ্রিঃ আর্থিক সালে সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, ফরিদপুর এর অধীন পূর্বগংগাবদী, ফরিদপুর/রাজবাড়ী/গোপালগঞ্জ/মাদারীপুর ও শরীয়তপুর জেলায় রাস্তা সম্প্রসারণ, মেয়াদউত্তীর্ণ, ও বিভিন্ন উন্নয়নমূলক কাজের লক্ষ্যে বিভিন্ন সনে সৃজিত তফশীলে বর্ণিত ষ্ট্রীপ বাগানের মার্কাকৃত তালিকাভুক্ত খাঁড়া গাছ, বিগত দরপত্রের অবিক্রিত, জব্দকৃত, ঝড়েপড়া, বিভিন্ন ভাবে আহরিত গাছ/কাঠ/জ্বালানী কাঠ লট আকারে বিক্রয়ের জন্য কাঠ ব্যবসায়ী/করাতকল মালিক/প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদার/আগ্রহী ব্যক্তিবর্গের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র আগামী ০৮/০২ /২০২৩ তারিখ বেলা ১২.০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়সহ নিম্নোক্ত স্থানে গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং প্রাপ্ত দরপত্র ঐদিন অর্থাৎ ০৮/০২ /২০২৩ তারিখ বিকাল ৩-০০ ঘটিকার সময় সংশ্লিষ্ট দরপত্র মুল্যায়ন কমিটির সদস্যদের উপস্থিতিতে খোলা হবে। দরপত্রদাতা নিজে বা তার মনোনীত প্রতিনিধি দরপত্র খোলার সময় ইচ্ছা করলে উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন।

আগামী ০৭/০২/২০২৩ তারিখ বিকাল ৪-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, পূর্বগঙ্গাবদী, ফরিদপুর/রাজবাড়ী/গোপালগঞ্জ/মাদারীপুর/শরীয়তপুর সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারী ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের কার্যালয় হতে খাড়া গাছের জন্য প্রতিটি দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় বাবদ ৪০০/-(চারশত) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরৎযোগ্য) এবং জব্দকৃত কাঠ/জ্বালানী কাঠের জন্য প্রতিটি সিডিউল ক্রয় মূল্য বাবদ ২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরৎযোগ্য) মূল্যে ক্রয় করা যাবে।

দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত বিস্তারিত তথ্য এবং জ্ঞাতব্য বিষয়াবলী প্রতিটি কার্যদিবসে ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, পূর্বগঙ্গাবদী, ফরিদপুর/রাজবাড়ী/গোপালগঞ্জ/মাদারীপুর /শরীয়তপুর সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারী ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের কার্যালয় হতে দেখতে ও জানতে পারা যাবে। দরপত্রদাতাগণ দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বে গাছের অবস্থান, প্রজাতি ভিত্তিক সংখ্যা, কাঠ ও জ্বালানী কাঠের পরিমান সরেজমিনে দেখে নিবেন। পরে লটের অবস্থান, গাছের পরিমাণ/পরিমাপ ইত্যাদি না দেখার অজুহাতে দাখিলকৃত দরপত্র প্রত্যাহার/বাতিল ইত্যাদি করার জন্য আবেদন করলে তা মোটেও গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থানঃ-

০১। বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, ফরিদপুর।
০২। পুলিশ সুপার-এর কার্যালয়, ফরিদপুর।
০৩। ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, পূর্বগঙ্গাবদী, ফরিদপুর সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারী ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের কার্যালয়, ফরিদপুর।
০৪। ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, রাজবাড়ী সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারী ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের কার্যালয়, রাজবাড়ী।
০৫ ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, গোপালগঞ্জ সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারী ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের কার্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ।
০৬। ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, শরীয়তপুর সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারী ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের কার্যালয়, শরীয়তপুর।
০৭। ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, মাদারীপুর সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারী ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের কার্যালয়, মাদারীপুর।

২২/০১/২০২৩

(মোহাম্মদ গোলাম কুদ্দুছ ভূঁইয়া)
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, ফরিদপুর।
ফোন-০২-৪৭৮৮০৩০৮৩
ইমেইল-dfosfdf@gmail.com

GD-104