

TRUMP assassination attempt How it unfolded



1:00pm ET

Rally grounds at Butler Farm Show grounds opens to Trump supporters, more than four hours before Trump was scheduled to speak. Fans immediately begin pouring in.



4:11pm ET

Former GOP Senate candidate Sean Parnell makes opening remarks by attacking the Biden administration, to cheers from onlookers.



6:15pm ET

Trump takes to the stage and is shot moments after he begins speaking, with gunshots ringing out as he says the words: "Take a look at what happened."



Trump rally shooting reshapes US election

AFP, Milwaukee

A bloodied candidate, his fist raised in defiance after surviving an assassination attempt.

It is still early to know what impact the attempt on Donald Trump's life will have on the 2024 White House race, but the image of the former president as he was rushed from the stage of a rally in Pennsylvania has already taken on iconic status.

The great disrupter whom many see as the clear and present threat to democracy and the rule of law has himself become a victim -- and survivor -- of the ultimate act of political violence.

Pennsylvania's junior senator, John Fetterman, yesterday cautioned that the attack should not become "an opportunity for politics or strategy, or how this might play out."

Yet the dynamics of the Republican Party's national nominating convention, starting today in the Midwestern city of Milwaukee, are sure to be transformed along with the campaign more broadly, as Trump seeks to make political capital from his ordeal.

An often divisive figure but a canny campaigner with unswerving political instincts, Trump took the high ground yesterday as he called for Americans to stand together in "not allowing evil to win."

He might have expected a ticker-tape parade anyway in Milwaukee, but his brush with death ensures near-mythic status among the 50,000 expected attendees there who already see the Republican tycoon as

their warrior and champion.

Plastered on front pages around the world and spreading virally on social media, the image showing Trump's raised fist against the backdrop of an American flag flying above him will be worth more than even the most lavish ad campaign.

Election messaging is about contrasts and, seizing the moment, Trump demonstrated courage and fortitude that voters are certain to compare with weeks of disastrous headlines about President Joe Biden's frailty.

Crucially, the attack plays into Trump's grievance narrative about Democrats being out to get his support base and his insistence that he is taking the slings and arrows -- literally, now -- so that they don't have to.

Discussing the impact of the shooting on the convention, Democratic former White House strategist David Axelrod predicted on CNN that Trump would be "greeted as a kind of martyr."

Meanwhile, the Republican's adversaries are likely to find criticizing the former president a trickier proposition.

Biden has been taking the fight to Trump recently, in an aggressive effort to present his predecessor as a threat to democracy.

It is a message that could fall on deaf ears, though, against a target who barely escaped with his life in an act many will see as akin to domestic terrorism.

The Biden campaign said it was "pausing all outbound communications and working to pull down our television ads as quickly as

possible," multiple media outlets reported, in response to the assassination attempt.

Biden also postponed a trip to Texas.

On the Democratic upside, the attack on Trump solves a more immediate problem for Biden.

The president has been lambasted for his lackluster debate showing against Trump last month in Atlanta, when he struggled even to finish sentences, let alone articulate a clear case for four more years.

Suddenly, days of painful splash headlines for the Democrat have been relegated to the inside pages or swept away entirely, as the parties argue over whose political rhetoric is most to blame for fomenting violence.

Biden's opponents within his own party may also find it hard to mount a serious challenge to his candidacy without appearing nakedly opportunistic at a time of national crisis.

In terms of ramifications for the vote itself, it seems obvious that Trump would receive some kind of boost from Americans angered by the shooting, and the anti-Trump rhetoric that many Republicans say contributed to it.

But the longer-term benefit might be more to do with juicing turnout than converting agnostics, according to veteran pollster Frank Luntz.

"In the end, voters will settle down and return to their candidate of choice. The people who move towards Trump out of sympathy will probably move back," he posted on X.

"But what happened in (Pennsylvania) will definitely impact the final vote, guaranteeing that every Trump voter will actually vote."

Luntz believes the participation gap could be worth up to two points nationwide, with a more accentuated boost in Pennsylvania, a crucial swing state that Biden needs to defend if he is to have any hope of prevailing in November.

"This doesn't guarantee that Trump flips Pennsylvania. But the long and winding road for Joe Biden just became even longer and windier," Luntz added.

Russia blames Biden admin for attack

REUTERS, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday said it did not believe the US administration was responsible for Saturday's assassination attempt on US presidential candidate Donald Trump, but that it had created an atmosphere that provoked the attack.

Trump was shot in the ear during a rally in Pennsylvania, in an attack now being investigated as an assassination attempt. The attacker was shot dead and law enforcement officials said they had not yet identified a motive.

"We do not believe that the attempt to eliminate and assassinate Trump was organised by the current authorities," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"But the atmosphere around candidate Trump ... provoked what America is confronting today."

His comments echoed those of some of Trump's Republican allies, who immediately pinned the blame on Biden.

"After numerous attempts to remove candidate Trump from the political arena - using first legal tools, the courts, prosecutors, attempts to politically discredit and compromise the candidate - it was obvious to all outside observers that his life was in danger," Peskov said.

He added that there were no plans for Putin to call Trump now.

PREVIOUS SHOOTINGS OF US LEADERS



AFP, Washington

RONALD REAGAN (1981)

President Reagan was shot and seriously wounded as he left an event at the Hilton hotel in Washington. The attacker was John Hinckley Jr, who was granted unconditional release in 2022.

Reagan spent twelve days in the hospital. The incident boosted Reagan's popularity, as he displayed humor and resilience during his recovery.

GERALD FORD (1975)

President Ford was left unscathed in two separate assassination attempts by women in September 1975, both in California and within a span of just 17 days.

JOHN F. KENNEDY (1963)

Riding in his motorcade with his wife Jackie, President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas by Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Warren Commission investigating the assassination concluded in 1964 that Lee Harvey Oswald, a former marine who had lived in the Soviet Union, had acted alone.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (1933)

As president-elect, FDR was the target of an assassination attempt in Miami, Florida. He was unharmed, but Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak was killed in the attack.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT (1912)

Like Trump, Teddy Roosevelt was running for the White House as a former president when he was shot in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY (1901)

President McKinley was shot and killed by anarchist Leon Czolgosz in Buffalo, New York.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1865)

Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, a well-known actor and Confederate sympathizer, while watching a play called "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater in Washington.

Take steps in 24hrs or face tougher demo

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keeping five percent quotas for members of underprivileged communities and those with special needs.

When the procession reached Gulistan intersection on the way back from Bangabhaban around 3:15pm, Dhaka University student Nahid Islam, an organiser of the movement, announced, "If the president doesn't convene an emergency session within 24 hours, we'll announce tougher programmes."

A 12-member delegation of the protesters submitted the memorandum to Major General Mohammad Adil Choudhury, military secretary of the president,

said Joyanal Abedin, press secretary of the president, reports BSS.

"Don't force us to call any programmes that cause public sufferings. Take an initiative within 24 hours," Nahid said, adding, "It's still unclear to us what the government's stance is. They've the authority to reform the quota system, which has been our consistent demand."

He said the boycott of classes and exams will continue until their demand is met.

About Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's comments that the government cannot take any initiative until the

court settles the issue, Nahid said the government order that abolished the quotas for first- and second-class government jobs and its reinstatement later is a sub judice matter.

"But our demand is for a rational reform of the quotas for government jobs in all grades. Only the executive branch do that."

Students of public universities and colleges, along with jobseekers, have been demonstrating against the quota system for over two weeks, occupying key city intersections, highways and rail lines.

The protests began after the High Court on

June 5 ruled that the 2018 government circular abolishing the quotas was illegal, effectively reinstating the quota system.

The government appealed against the decision, and the Supreme Court on July 10 issued a status quo on the HC order.

The government's 2018 circular abolished the quota system for first and second class jobs in the wake of massive quota reform protests.

Then too, the students asked for its reform, not abolition.

Before that, 56 percent of government jobs had been reserved for candidates from

various quotas.

Of them, 30 percent were for freedom fighters' children and grandchildren; 10 percent for women; 10 for people from underdeveloped districts; five for members of indigenous communities; and one for persons with disabilities.

At 11:00am yesterday, as part of their pre-announced programmes, several thousand students started the march from Dhaka University.

They broke through barricades near the High Court and then at Zero Point in Gulistan. They carried the national flag, placards and posters, and chanted different slogans in favour of

their demand.

Police kept water cannons and riot vehicles ready when the protesters held a sit-in at Gulistan.

Students from DU; Jagannath University; Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University; seven colleges affiliated with Dhaka University; along with private universities and National University took part in the procession.

Meanwhile, students in others districts, including Chattogram, Rajshahi, Cumilla, Narayanganj and Patuakhali also handed over memorandums to respective deputy commissioners for submitting to the president.

calling students to join in.

The agitating students started returning to their dorms around 1:45am, and most of them had left by 2:30am.

Students of Chittagong University also took to the streets on their campus, during which BCL leaders and activists reportedly attacked them and injured four to five people.

Later, BCL activists were

seen gathering in the Zero Point area, chanting pro-ruling party slogans.

At Rajshahi University, several hundred students took out a procession from the campus and blocked the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway a little after midnight.

At Jagannath University, hundreds of protesters were seen chanting slogans inside the campus around 11:40pm yesterday.

Late-night protests rock DU, other universities

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fighters?" If the grandchildren of the freedom fighters don't get quota benefits, should the grandchildren of Razakars get the benefit?"

For over two weeks, students of different universities and colleges have been demonstrating for reforms to the quota system in government jobs.

At DU, students marched

from the halls and gathered in front of the Raju Bhaskarjio.

Students from Bangladesh Kuwait Maitree Hall, Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, Shamsun Nahar Hall, and Rukayyah Hall were among the protesters.

They chanted "Chaito gelam odhikar, hoye gelam Razakar [Asked for rights and became a Razakar]".

Nahid Islam, one of the

organisers of the quota protests, said they did not call for any gathering and that the students came out of their dorms spontaneously.

Meanwhile, Chhatra League activists, armed with sticks, gathered at several points around the campus, including Madhur Canteen, and Shahbagh and Sheraton intersections.

Some protesters were also seen carrying sticks.

Meanwhile, there was strong police presence in Shahbagh, Chankharpool, and Nilkhet areas as of filing this report at 3:15am today.

A student said activists of Chhatra League tried to stop them from joining the protests at home dorms.

Asif Mahmood, another coordinator of the anti-quota protests, alleged he was attacked in front of Bijoy Ekattor Hall when he was

Tk 400cr peon is Jahangir!

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personal anecdote yesterday.

While talking about the alleged corruption of a former PSC driver, Abed Ali, who amassed crores of taka by selling question papers for government jobs, the premier informed that she has taken action against a former peon (office aide) of her residence who had amassed Tk 400 crore.

Although the PM, at a press conference at the Gono Bhaban, did not mention the name of her peon, The Daily Star learnt that the person is Jahangir Alam.

According to sources, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) recently froze the bank accounts of Jahangir and his wife, Kamrun Nahar, for 30 days due to suspicious transactions under the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012.

The BFIU also asked banks and financial institutions to provide it with updated bank statements of the couple and the companies owned by them.

Jahangir, hailing from Chatkhil of Noakhali, worked as a personal aide to the prime minister during her first two tenures from January 2009 to December 2018.

Prior to that, Jahangir was the Awami League president's personal aide when she stayed

at the Sudha Sadan.

Jahangir was dismissed at the beginning of the PM's third term in January 2019.

Despite losing his job, Jahangir continued to misuse his former position, prompting the Prime Minister's Office to issue a circular to media, warning about his illegal activities.

The circular, issued on December 6, 2023, also said the PMO has no connections with Jahangir and urged people to take assistance from law enforcement agencies if needed.

Sources revealed that Jahangir, known for his influence in local politics and charity work, even traveled by helicopter to visit his in-laws' in Majdee Court.

He was denied the AL nomination for the Noakhali-1 constituency in both the 2018 and 2024 national elections.

At yesterday's press briefing, the prime minister questioned how he accumulated such wealth, referring to his extravagant helicopter trips. "How did he make so much money?"

Jahangir used his influence to get his brother elected chairman three times in Khilpara union of Chatkhil and helped one of his followers, Mohammadullah, get elected as Chatkhil municipality mayor, according to local sources.