



Uzbek man mows down 8 in New York terror attack

NEW YORK, NOV 1 /- An Uzbek man yelling 'God is great' ploughed a pickup truck down a crowded bike path near the World Trade Centre here today, killing eight people and injuring 11 others in an ISIS-inspired plot termed as the deadliest terrorist attack on the city since 9/11.

The 29-year-old suspect was shot in the stomach by a police officer before being ar-

country's foreign ministry. They were part of a group of 10 friends who came to in New York to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their graduation. After smashing the truck into a school bus, injuring two adults and two children, the suspect exited the truck displaying 'imitation firearms' and was shot by police, according to the New York Police Department (NYPD). Officers were able to



Saipov (seen left) was 'proud' of the attack when questioned in hospital on Tuesday night. He is seen right fleeing the scene with two imitation guns in his hands

rested. The media named the Uzbek man as Sayfullo Habibullaevic Saipov, an immigrant who came to the US legally in 2010. The incident took place along the normally gridlocked West Side Highway, a major thoroughfare that runs along the western edge of Manhattan by the Hudson River as Americans celebrated Halloween. Manhattan is the most densely populated borough of the New York City. The attacker left nearly a half km crime scene - a tree-lined bike path strewn with mangled bicycles and their parts. Police said the truck drove south after entering a pedestrian and bicycle path, where it struck multiple people. Six men were pronounced dead at the scene on the cycle lane and two other people were dead on arrival at the hospital. The victims included five Argentinians and a Belgian citizen. Two other victims have not yet been identified. The deaths of the five Argentinians were confirmed by the

talk to Saipov before the surgery, but it was unclear if he told them anything, a law enforcement source told CNN. The driver shouted 'Allahu Akbar' (God is great) after getting out of the vehicle, New York Post reported. A note in English was found in the truck that referred to the Islamic State terror group, media reports said. A pellet gun and a paintball gun were recovered from the scene, officials said. Eleven people were transported to the hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries, according to New York Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said the incident was being treated as an act of terrorism, "a particularly cowardly act of terror". US President Donald Trump denounced the attack, saying "we must not allow ISIS to return". "In NYC, looks like another attack by a very sick and deranged person. Law enforcement is following this closely. NOT IN THE U.S.A!" The President tweeted.



Parents pick up their children from P.S./I.S.-89 school after the tragedy in New York — Reuters

Vice-Prez, PM, Mamata condemn attack

NEW DELHI, NOV 1 /- Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi today strongly condemned the terror attack in New York. A 29-year-old Uzbek man ploughed a rental truck down a crowded bike path in Manhattan today, killing at least eight persons and injuring 11. "Strongly condemn the terror attack in New York in which 8 people were killed and several injured... perpetrators and those who support and shelter them should be punished for this crime against humanity," Naidu said in a series of tweets. The Prime Minister said his thoughts are with the families of the deceased. "Strongly condemn the terror attack in New York City. My thoughts are with the families of the deceased & prayers with those injured," Modi tweeted. Congress president Sonia Gandhi today strongly condemned the terror attack in New York and called for a sustained global effort to combat terrorism. Terming it an unacceptable act of "brutal" terror against innocent citizens, Gandhi said, "Our heart goes out to the families of those who have lost their family members."

TMC to launch campaign in state to mark November 8 as 'Black Day'

KOLKATA, NOV 1 /- The ruling Trinamool Congress will launch a massive campaign across West Bengal to mark November 8, the first anniversary of demilitarisation as 'Black Day' and against the "hurried implementation" of GST in the country, a senior party leader said. Protest rallies and street corner meetings will be organized throughout the week in each and every district of the state covering all the 77,000 booths of West Bengal. TMC's protest programme will be part of the 'Black Day' campaign by several opposition parties on that day to highlight the ill-effects of demilitarisation on the economy, he said. "The adverse impact of hurried implementation of GST in the country will also be highlighted as small traders are facing immense problems," he said adding the TMC leadership has already asked its grassroots leaders to make preparations for the programme.

State not following trend of opposing MHRD orders, says Education minister

KOLKATA, NOV 1 /- West Bengal education minister and senior TMC leader Partha Chatterjee today said the state was not following any trend of opposing MHRD directives and had implemented those it felt were "practicable". Chatterjee was answering questions by newsmen who sought his comment on the West Bengal government recently asking the state-run institutes of higher education to ignore the Centre's directive on organising events to remember Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary, violating the state government's position on the Centre's directive on celebrating Sardar Patel's birth anniversary, he said: "The state government believes in paying tribute to our national heroes. But why should the event be photographed and why has the copy to be forwarded to them (Centre)?" "This kind of instruction is unbecoming of a federal structure," Chatterjee, who is also the Trinamool Congress (TMC) secretary general, said.

3 arrested in hills in connection with SI Amitava Malik's killing

State police seals GJM head office

DARJEELING, NOV 1 /- Three people have been arrested here in connection with the killing of West Bengal Police Sub Inspector Amitava Malik, said a senior police officer today. Malik was shot dead while three other policemen were injured in an exchange of fire between police and Gorkha Jananukti Morcha chief Bimal Gurung's followers in "Shyam Kamal, 30, Mahindra Kamal, 29 and Dewaj Lepcha, 30, have been arrested from Darjeeling's Pulbanan on Wednesday for their alleged involvement in the October 13 case," said special superintendent of police, CID, Ajay Prasad. "The arrested persons have been slapped with charges of murder (IPC 302), attempt to murder (IPC 307), criminal conspiracy (IPC 120B), voluntarily causing hurt (IPC 323) and various sections of the Arms Act," he added. Malik was part of a police team that raided a forested area close to Gurung's residence at Patlebas on October 13 in order to catch the GJM supremo who has been in hiding since a lookout notice was issued against him. Though police failed to catch Gurung, it allegedly seized a huge cache of arms and ammunition, including AK-47 assault rifle and gelatin sticks, from the camp. The state CID department took charge of the case from state police on October 23. Meanwhile, the police today sealed the head office of the GJM at Singhmari, a stronghold of GJM supremo Bimal Gurung, a senior official said. The Singhmari office here, located close to Gurung's residence at Patlebas, was where protesters and security forces clashed on several occasions during the GJM-led 104-day agitation in the Darjeeling hills. During the heidays of Gurung, it was seen as the nerve centre of the hills. "We have sealed the head office of the GJM at Singhmari under the instructions of the district magistrate. The land on which the office has been constructed is government land. The land had been illegally encroached upon by the GJM as per records. So we sealed the office," Darjeeling police superintendent Akhlesh Chaturvedi said.



No security threats to Mukul Partha

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, NOV 1 /- Trinamool Congress secretary general Partha Chatterjee today said that expelled TMC leader Mukul Roy who is reported to be getting 'Y' category security by the Centre soon, did not face any security threat. "What can I do," Chatterjee retorted when asked about reports that Roy was being provided 'Y' category security cover by the Centre. Roy, who has been negotiating with BJP leaders to settle terms of his joining the party and has surrendered the security provided to him by the state government, is going to be provided security by the Centre soon, according to media reports. "Not even an ant will attack him. I don't want to make any personal comment against him. If he (Roy) wants to have the security, it is his wish," Chatterjee today said. On Roy's expulsion from the TMC, the state minister said: "We have found that within the party he was involved in anti-party activities in his position. No one, anybody can see that the charges levelled against him are true." Asked if he was satisfied that the central forces were partially withdrawn from Darjeeling Hills, he said: "We are not satisfied. We are asking for more companies of paramilitary forces to be posted in the hills."

Ghani Khan Choudhury's 91st birthday observed with grandeur by Cong and TMC

SOUMYA DE SARKAR

MALDA, NOV 1 /- Even 11 years after his demise former union railway minister and legendary Congress leader ABA Ghani Khan Choudhury appeared to be a institution that is still equally revered by ruling Trinamool Congress and opposition Congress. Both the ruling and the opposition parties took up several programmes separately to commemorate late Ghani Khan's 91st birthday today.



ABA Ghani Khan Choudhury's birthday celebration by Congress and Trinamool leaders on Wednesday. Photo: Utpal Mandal, Santosh Karanikar & Sudip Roy Choudhury

The district Congress committee celebrated birthday of Ghani Khan Choudhury fondly known as 'Barkat Da' centrally at Malda town hall. Ghani's younger brother and Congress MP from Malda south Abul Hasem Khan Choudhury (Dalu), district Congress president and Malda north MP Mausam Noor, who is Ghani's niece along with Congress MLAs and other senior Congress leaders cut a cake in presence of hundreds of Congress supporters. "I'm his brother but Barkat Da considered all the citizens of Malda and West Bengal as members of his extended family. He was rightly termed as the 'messenger of Bengal's development.' His priority was the state's development and he fought against all odds to ensure it," Dalu said. Mausam Noor said, "It is entirely Ghani Khan's contribution that people of Malda still favour Congress in all elections. He

was not only my affectionate uncle but also a true guardian of Malda." Congress leaders said that Ghani Khan was an iconic symbol of communal harmony. "He held the flag of secularism and integrity till his last breath. We dearly miss his presence at a time when communal forces are trying to divide the country," said Congress MLA from Kalichak and Ghani Khan's nephew Isha Khan Choudhury. Senior Congress leaders like district party general secretary Narendranath Tiwary, Hemant Sharma, Congress MLAs Mottakin Alam, Bhupendranath Halder, Sobha Yasmin, Mostaque Alam, Asif Mehbub and others paid reverence to Ghani Khan Choudhury at different blocks. Ghani Khan's life-size statue at Rathbari turning was covered with

civic body chief Krishnendu Choudhury was present in a programme held at Ghani Khan Choudhury Institute of Engineering & Technology (GKCIET) today to observe Ghani's birthday. Choudhury in his speech explained Ghani Khan's contribution both as a colourful political character and an able administrator. "I am indebted to Mamata Banerjee and Ghani Khan Choudhury as their affection and patronage inspired me to work for people from different capacities," Choudhury said.

garlands and flowers by Congress leaders and workers. Chairman of municipality and MLA, English Bazaar Nihar Ghosh, who is now with Trinamool Congress garlanded Ghani Khan's statue at Vrindavan ground. "Barkat Da was above all politics. He was a living legend. All through his life he fought for development of people and eradication of unemployment. He was a true visionary who first envisaged the capabilities of Mamata Banerjee to successfully lead the state as the chief minister," Ghosh said. Youth Trinamool workers observed Ghani Khan's birthday also. Youth leader and a councillor of English Bazaar municipality Prasenjit Das garlanded Ghani Khan's statue with the workers of his organization. Former minister and

Demonstration by ASKS against alleged 100 point roster violation in UGB

MALDA, NOV 1 /- Leaders of an organization of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward communities served a deputation to the authorities of the University of Gour Banga (UGB) following a demonstration today alleging violation of 100 point roster and interest of SC, ST and OBC. Jadavchandra Mondal, secretary of Anangrasar Samaj Kalyan Samity (ASKS) said, "The 100 point roster system was made to ensure the right of SC, ST and OBC community. But several appointments were made

in UGB violating the 100 point roster. We already communicated our grievances to the varsity authorities twice. But so far we have not received any logical and satisfactory reply from UGB's end. So, we served a deputation today." Sunirmal Mandal, a member of ASKS said, "We have evidences of how the roster was dishonoured. We want justice and punishment of those who paid no respect to 100 point roster." Chittaranjan Kiritina, a senior member of the organization said that they would move to state board



class welfare commission if UGB authorities neglected their grievances. Pro Gopalchandra Mishra, vice chancellor of UGB was not present in his office today. Development officer of UGB Rajib Patitundi received the deputation from ASKS leaders. Patitundi however refused to comment about the demands of ASKS. (In pix) ASKS members demonstrating in front of University of Gour Banga on Wednesday — Bubai Das

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