



REDDING, California: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at the Redding Municipal Airport on Friday. —AP

TRUMP CAMPAIGNS IN CALIF, SLAMS PROTESTERS AS 'THUGS'

REDDING, California: Presumptive Republican US presidential nominee Donald Trump on Friday denounced protesters in California as "thugs" a day after another demonstration outside one of his political rallies turned violent ahead of the state's presidential primary. Demonstrators traded blows on Thursday evening in the street outside the San Jose Convention Center, videos posted to Twitter and online by media showed. Hundreds of protesters waved Mexican flags, chanted anti-Trump slogans and burned Trump hats and at least one US flag.

Speaking before a packed crowd in the northern California city of Redding on Friday, Trump described the previous night's rally as "a love fest inside. No problems whatsoever." But then his supporters "walked out and they got accosted by a bunch of thugs," he said. The protesters, many angry over Trump's rhetoric against illegal immigration, have gathered at Trump rallies for months. Trump, now the Republican Party's likely presidential nominee

for the Nov. 8 election, canceled a rally in Chicago in March after clashes broke out between his supporters and protesters.

The San Jose Police Department reported 300 to 400 protesters had gathered outside the Trump rally on Thursday, where police formed lines to protect attendees exiting the convention center. A number of the skirmishes occurred beyond police lines on nearby streets and at a parking garage, a Reuters photographer said. One sergeant suffered minor injuries after a protester struck him with a metal object. Police reported four arrests.

Over 250 officers staffed the "all-hands on deck event," said San Jose Police Chief Eddie Garcia. "In hindsight, we'd say that wasn't enough," said Garcia. For future events of that scope, "we would need more officers with an absolute, number one goal of keeping both parties separate as much as we can." San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, a Democrat, told the Associated Press that Trump needs to take responsibility for his supporters' conduct at the rallies. —Reuters

CLINTON GOES NUCLEAR IN BID TO UNPICK 'TEFLON DONALD'

WASHINGTON: Hillary Clinton last week revealed a formula she hopes will help beat presidential rival Donald Trump in November: A not-so-subtle suggestion he is unhinged. A string of 2016 presidential hopefuls have tried to land a punch on "The Donald" with little effect. Trump has brushed off earnest-sounding accusations that he is not presidential, largely because many Americans seem to be clamoring for an unconventional leader. Democratic strategists privately admit that casting Trump as a "loose cannon" similarly misfired - that tack, they say, only played to the Republican's tough man brand.

So in San Diego on Thursday Clinton tried a new formula. Trump, she argued, is not just unpredictable and unpredictable, he's too unhinged to be in power, or as she put it - "temperamentally unfit" to be commander-in-chief. "This is not someone who should ever have the nuclear codes - because it's not hard to imagine Donald Trump leading us into a war just because somebody got under his very thin skin." She even suggested psychiatrists explain his "affection for tyrants." You could call this Clinton's "Daisy strategy".

Echoes of '64

In 1964, incumbent president Lyndon B Johnson faced a challenge from a tough-talking Republican nominee. Barry Goldwater was a US Senator and friend to Democrat John F Kennedy, but he was also from the right fringe of the political mainstream. Goldwater was endorsed by the white supremacist Ku Klux Klan, campaigned on a platform of withdrawing from the United Nations, and advocated the use of tactical nuclear weapons against north Vietnam. His nuclear position prompted Johnson's campaign to build and unleash "Daisy".

A minute long, and only broadcast by Johnson's campaign once, the attack ad would become one of the most famous in US political lore. It starts with an angelic young girl counting as she picks petals of a flower. Then, suddenly, an ominous sounding voice from mission control begins a countdown to zero - which brings a boom, blinding light and a mush-

room cloud that would be unmistakable to voters so soon after the Cuban missile crisis.

"These are the stakes" says Johnson, playing narrator. "To make a world in which all of God's children can live, or to go into the dark. We must either love each other. Or we must die." A caption fills the screen:

Trump's response so far has been to suggest Clinton should go to jail over an email scandal and asserting he has a "good temperament." "I don't have thin skin," Trump told CNN. "I have very strong and thick skin."

Some believe that won't wash. "He has obviously shown himself to be a non-traditional candidate, but



CULVER CITY, California: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton attends a Women for Hillary organizing event on Friday at West Los Angeles College. —AFP

"Vote for President Johnson on Nov 3. The stakes are too high for you to stay home." The message was unmistakable: Vote for crazy Barry Goldwater and the little girl gets it. Johnson was criticized for the ad, but he nevertheless won by a landslide.

This line of attack, particularly when linked to security, is one that Trump may find difficult to parry.

this is an area where ad hominem attacks aren't going to work," said Geoffrey Skelley of the University of Virginia Center for Politics. Trump's personal attacks on Clinton "may work with his base, but they will hurt him in the long run," Skelley said. "He can't just resort to that. You need to put on a real presidential posture." —AFP



LOS ANGELES: A Los Angeles police bomb squad member investigates a car matching the license plate of UCLA gunman Mainak Sarkar's car on Friday. —AP

INVESTIGATORS FIND UCLA GUNMAN'S CAR

LOS ANGELES: A car found near Los Angeles on Friday belonged to a former graduate student who shot dead his estranged wife at her Minnesota home before driving halfway across the country and killing a professor and himself at the University of California, Los Angeles, a police spokeswoman said. Mainak Sarkar's 2003 gray Nissan Sentra was found in Culver City, a suburb just outside Los Angeles, and a bomb squad has been sent to examine the vehicle, said Los Angeles police spokeswoman Lilianna Preciado. The car was found blocks from an apartment where Sarkar once lived.

Police do not know yet how Sarkar traveled to UCLA after he left his car in Culver City, about 10 km away from UCLA, said Los Angeles police spokesman Drake Madison. Investigators have been looking for the car since Wednesday, when Sarkar shot to death 39-year-old engineering professor William Klug at UCLA. The shooting drew a massive response of heavily armed police and sparked a two-hour lockdown of UCLA's sprawling urban campus. Students said they hid in classrooms behind doors, some of which did not lock.

Sarkar had intended to also kill a second professor at UCLA, police said. The native of India was convinced that Klug had stolen software he had developed, according to police, who called Sarkar's claim unfounded. Earlier, Sarkar had killed his estranged wife Ashley Hasti, at her home in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, police said. Hasti's sister, Alex Hasti, described her in a statement on Facebook as a 31-year-old medical school student with a love of acting and stand-up comedy.

So far no motive has emerged to explain why he killed Hasti in the home they had shared in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, some 3,200 km from Los Angeles. Hasti was found dead early on Thursday morning of multiple gunshot wounds, the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office said in a statement on Friday. "Because this was an unwitnessed death, a more accurate date and time of death cannot be determined," the statement said.

Sarkar is believed to have forced his way into Hasti's home through a window, which was found broken, Brooklyn Park police said in a statement. Police only decided to check on Hasti after finding a note at the Los Angeles crime scene written by Sarkar, 38, asking authorities to check on his cat at his home in St Paul. The bizarre hint led to the discovery of a "kill list" that included Klug, Hasti and the second professor, Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck told reporters on Thursday.

Alex Hasti on her Facebook post offered no indication of what might have provoked Sarkar. "My sister, Ashley Hasti, was the smartest, coolest, and funniest person I knew. She could do anything she dreamed of," the sister said. "Unfortunately, she won't get to see that last dream come true as her life was cut short much too soon by her estranged husband ... I'm still in a state of shock right now."

Sarkar was armed with twin 9mm semiautomatic handguns and multiple extra clips of ammunition, authorities said. The two guns were legally bought in Minnesota, according to Meredith Davis, a spokeswoman for the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. She declined to say who bought the weapons. Wednesday's attack was the latest in a long string of deadly shootings at US schools, including an October attack at an Oregon community college that killed nine and a 2007 massacre at Virginia Tech, in which a gunman killed 32 people, was the deadliest mass shooting in US history. —Reuters

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