

## Bus driver attacked, two passengers dead

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — A transient was booked on suspicion of murder Tuesday for allegedly slashing the throat of a Greyhound bus driver with a pair of scissors, causing a crash that killed two passengers.

The bus, heading from Los Angeles to San Francisco, flipped on its side Monday evening and slid into a field off Interstate 5 near Fresno. It was carrying 50 passengers.

The suspect, Arturo Martinez, 27, was held on two counts of murder and one count of attempted murder. Authorities said they did not know of any motive.

"He has told us several stories about why he did what he did," sheriff's Lt. Margaret Mims said. She said authorities were checking to see whether drugs, alcohol or mental problems played a role.

According to witnesses, the man rose from his seat shortly before 9 p.m., walked briskly up to the driver and attacked

him with the scissors. The driver survived.

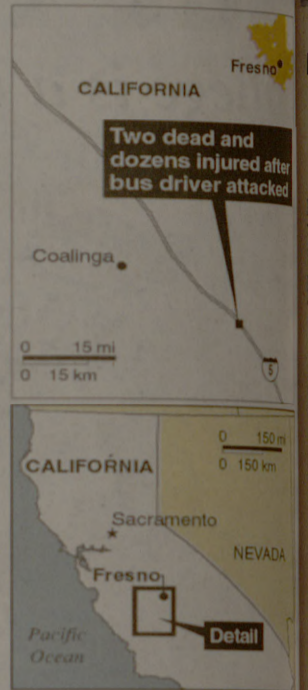
"It happened very quickly. He immediately stabbed the driver, too quickly for the passengers to take action on their own," Mims said. She said the driver "struggled, tried to defend himself and lost control of the bus."

Authorities caught Martinez as he tried to run away.

Greyhound Lines spokeswoman Lynn Brown said 26 passengers and the driver were taken to hospitals. Three people, including the driver, remained hospitalized Tuesday at a Fresno hospital, where they were listed in fair condition.

Alfredo Saravia, a passenger from suburban Los Angeles, said he was awoken by the attack.

Greyhound, the nation's largest bus service, has hired a private company to screen some passengers with electric wands but has inspectors at only a portion of its terminals.



SOURCES: Associated Press, ESR, California Highway Patrol

## Fifteen die during militant attacks in Kashmir election

PAHALGAM, India (AP) — Suspected Islamic militants unleashed a series of attacks Tuesday, killing at least 15 people, during polling for the third round of state elections in troubled Jammu-Kashmir state.

Attackers opened fire with guns and threw grenades at a bus near the Pakistan border, killing nine people, while thousands of Indian soldiers patrolled the Himalayan region's militant heartland to secure polling stations.

Six paramilitary troopers escorting poll officials were killed when an explosion destroyed the vehicle carrying Border Security Force troopers in Panzgam, 35 miles south of Srinagar, the summer capital of the state. Four other

troopers were injured.

While the first two rounds of voting for the seat state assembly were relatively peaceful, there were 23 major incidents Tuesday, including grenade explosions, gunfire attack and bomb blasts, said Pramod Jain, chief elections officer in Srinagar.

The federal Election Commission said that 4 percent of the registered voters cast their ballots, despite the violence and a separatist call to boycott the polls.

"The poll turnout and voter enthusiasm would have been better had the violence not erupted," Jain said.

The turnout was the lowest of the three voting phases so far.

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