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'ISIS suicide bomber' kills 10 in Turkey

At least eight of them German tourists

BBC ONLINE

A suspected member of the Islamic State (IS) group yesterday killed 10 people, at least eight of them German tourists, in a suicide bomb attack in the Turkish city of Istanbul. Officials say the Syrian national carried out the attack in the Sultanahmet district, near the famous Blue Mosque. Fifteen people were wounded, many of them also German.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey was the "top target for all terrorist groups in the region".

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu telephoned German Chancellor Angela Merkel to offer his condolences, the Anadolu news agency said.

Davutoglu later said, "We have determined that the perpetrator of the attack is a foreigner who is a member of Daesh [IS]."

He vowed to find and punish those linked to the bomber and pledged to continue the fight against IS militants.

The Turkish government now firmly believes this was an attack by the so-called Islamic State -- a reflection of Turkish foreign policy, with Turkey an increasingly active part of the US coalition against IS.

One source said Turkey had taken the lead recently at a meeting of anti-IS armed groups on the Syrian border. IS has been losing territory in Iraq and in Syria. The Syrian town of Manbij may be next to fall - there are reports of IS commanders pulling out.

As IS comes under pressure, it has warned of more attacks against its enemies - not only in Turkey, but in Europe and the US.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel confirmed the deaths of at least eight German nationals.

"I mourn for our compatriots and express my sympathy for the relatives. They now have to live with the terrible pain of knowing that a loved one will not return from a looked-forward-to stay in Istanbul," Merkel said.

She added: "International terror changes the places of its attacks but its goal is always the same: our free life in free

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Mayhem at B'baria

Madrasa students go berserk after death of a fellow in clash over trivial matter

STAR REPORT

Enraged madrasa students went berserk in Brahmanbaria town yesterday over the death of a fellow student.

Armed with bamboo sticks and iron rods, they vandalised Brahmanbaria Railway Station, removed fishplates of railway tracks, ransacked an Awami League office and set fire to a police van, said witnesses.

The violence caused disruptions to railway links between the capital and Sylhet and Chittagong for several hours.

The agitators also carried out vandalism at Sur Samrat Ustad Alauddin Sangitagon

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Madrasa students take to a street in Brahmanbaria yesterday morning after the news of a fellow student's death spread. Bottom left, some agitators trying to remove the fish-plate of a rail line. Right, a vandalised room at Brahmanbaria Railway Station.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

UP polls also to be partisan

600 unions go to elections in March

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 600 union parishads will go to polls at the end of March in the first phase and the polls schedule is likely to be announced next month, Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz said yesterday.

"We are working to change the electoral rules for holding the polls on party lines," he told reporters at his office at the EC secretariat.

The draft of the amended rules will be sent to the law ministry within a few days for vetting, he added.

There are over 4,500 union parishads in the country. The tenures of

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Woman's death leads to 'no selfie zones' in Mumbai

BBC ONLINE

Police in India's Mumbai city have identified 15 places where taking selfies "can be dangerous".

The places include the iconic sea-facing Marine Drive promenade and the popular Girgaum Chowpatty beach, both major tourist attractions.

The decision was taken after a 18-year-old girl drowned in the sea while taking a selfie last week. Last year, authorities imposed a "no selfie zone" at a Hindu festival due to fears they could cause stampedes.

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SAYEDEE VERDICT Govt seeks SC review

Appeals for death penalty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed a review petition with the Supreme Court seeking death penalty for Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee for the war crimes he committed during the Liberation War.

The Office of the Attorney General submitted the petition to the section concerned of the SC seeking review of its judgement that commuted Sayedee's death penalty to imprisonment till death.

This is for the first time the government filed a review petition against the SC verdict in a war crimes case.

In the 653-page review petition, five grounds have been included so that the apex court could consider the prayer, Deputy Attorney General Ekramul Haque Tutul told The Daily Star.

Sayedee's lawyer SM Shahjahan has

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Highway speed limit 50 in foggy weather

Govt decides; decisions like this 'rarely implemented', leaving roads unsafe

PANKAG KARMAKAR

To prevent road crashes, the government has lowered the speed limit to 50kmph on highways during foggy weather, despite the fact that similar decisions on road safety remain unimplemented for years.

The National Road Safety Council (NRSC), headed by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, took the decision in its 24th meeting at the ministry yesterday.

The meeting, however, did not elaborate how it would be executed. As usual, the council only decided that all concerned -- police, transport owners and workers, mobile courts and the ministry -- will jointly implement the new decision.

Apparently, there was no coordination among them when it came to the execution of similar moves in the recent past, leading to frequent road accidents. Most of the decisions were only on paper.

The previous move came in August last year. In its 23rd meeting, the NRSC decided that speed limiters would be installed in all modes of transports on highways to cap their speeds to 80kmph.

After yesterday's meeting, some members of the council, the apex policy-making body to ensure road safety, told The Daily Star that speed limiters could not be installed in vehicles as they could not figure out how it could be implemented and by whom.

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7 MUNICIPALITIES AL wins in 4, BNP 3 in re-polls

STAR REPORT

Awami League-nominated mayor candidates won in four of the seven municipalities that went to re-elections yesterday.

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SIBL Social Islami Bank Limited

PRAYER TIMING

JANUARY 13

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-00

JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-40 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



সাবাস ব্র্যাক শিক্ষার্থী!

২০১৫ সালের প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা সমাপনী পরীক্ষায় অসাধারণ কৃতিত্বের জন্য ব্র্যাক বিদ্যালয়ের ১২০,০১৮ জন শিক্ষার্থী এবং ৪,৭৭১ জন শিক্ষককে অভিনন্দন।

এই পরীক্ষায় তোমরা উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছে ৯৯.৯৭ শতাংশ এবং GPA-5 পেয়েছ ৬.৩৯ শতাংশ। A+, A এবং A- গ্রেডে সম্মিলিতভাবে তোমাদের সাফল্য ৮০.৩৫ শতাংশ। তোমরা অধিকাংশই এসেছ হাওর, বসতি এবং আদিবাসী এলাকা থেকে। তোমাদের কেউ আবার প্রতিবন্ধী।

দেশের প্রত্যন্ত অঞ্চলে ব্র্যাকের ৩৬৫টি সহযোগী সংস্থা পরিচালিত স্কুলের ৭৬,৫৪৬ জন শিক্ষার্থী (পাসের হার ৯৫.৯৫) এবং ৩,১৬২ জন শিক্ষককেও তাদের সাফল্য ও কৃতিত্বের জন্য অভিনন্দন।

এ ছাড়াও ২০১৫ সালের জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষায় অসাধারণ কৃতিত্বের জন্য ব্র্যাক পরিচালিত ৭টি মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ের ৩৫১ জন শিক্ষার্থী এবং ৪৭ জন শিক্ষককে অভিনন্দন। এই পরীক্ষায় তোমরা উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছে ৯৯.৪৩ শতাংশ এবং GPA-5 পেয়েছ ৩৪.৪৭ শতাংশ। A+, A এবং A- গ্রেডে সম্মিলিতভাবে তোমাদের সাফল্য ৮২ শতাংশ।

সকল বাধাবিহীন পেরিয়ে তোমাদের এই সাফল্য অর্জনে সার্বিক সহযোগিতার জন্য সরকার ও সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে জানাই আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ।

ব্র্যাকপরিবার তোমাদের জন্য গর্বিত

