



Blast at Lahore park kills 65

300 hurt; many children, women among victims; Taliban faction claims responsibility, says target was Christians celebrating Easter Sunday

AGENCIES

A suicide bomber killed at least 65 people, mostly women and children, at a park in Lahore yesterday in an attack claimed by a Pakistani Taliban faction which said it had targeted Christians.

More than 300 other people were wounded, officials said.

The explosion occurred in the parking area of Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park close to children's swings. The park is a popular site for members of Lahore's Christian community, many of whom had gone there to celebrate the Easter weekend holiday.

Pakistan's president has condemned the

blast and the regional government has announced three days of mourning.

The army was called in to control crowds outside the park. Some distraught, sobbing relatives clashed with police and rescue officials.

Witnesses said they saw body parts strewn across the parking lot once the dust had settled after the blast.

"When the blast occurred, the flames were so high they reached above the trees and I saw bodies flying in the air," said Hasan Imran, 30, a resident who had gone to Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park for a walk.

Officials said 65 people were killed and

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India batsman Virat Kohli waves the wand and conjures another boundary on way to a 51-ball 82 that helped eliminate Australia with five balls to spare in Mohali yesterday and took India to the World Twenty20 semifinals.



Kohli magic seals semi spot

AFP, Mohali

India qualified for the World Twenty20 semifinals and knocked out Australia after Virat Kohli smashed an unbeaten 82 in their do-or-die showdown in Mohali on Sunday.

Kohli's powerful 51-ball knock propelled India to a six-wicket victory, as they successfully chased down Australia's 160-6 to keep their dreams alive of becoming the first nation to win two World T20 titles.

India, who won the

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Jamaat calls hartal today

Sees 'conspiracy against Islam's status as state religion'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday called for a dawn-to-dusk "peaceful" hartal for today to protest "the conspiracy against Islam's status as the state religion in the constitution".

Jamaat acting secretary general Shafiqur Rahman announced the shutdown through a press statement. The hartal coincides

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Jamaat ready to take new name

If banned, it plans to do away with words like 'Jamaat', 'Islam'

RASHIDUL HASAN and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Jamaat-e-Islami has almost finalised its move to reappear under a new name without words like "Islam or Muslim" if the party is banned for 1971 war crimes.

Talking to The Daily Star, a number of central leaders said they are looking for a modern name which will attract youths. "There will be no words like Islam or Muslim in the new name," said one of them.

The party will also discard the word Jamaat, they said.

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Two ministers fined for contempt

SC refuses their apology; 2 told to pay Tk 50,000 each; debate over their staying in cabinet

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Court yesterday convicted Food Minister Qamrul Islam and Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq and fined them Tk 50,000 each for committing contempt of court by making contemptuous and derogatory comments about Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha.

The apex court ordered the ministers to

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Qamrul Islam



Mozammel Huq

'We now have a base for T20s'

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite ending their ICC World Twenty20 campaign on a rather sour note in Kolkata -- the Tigers were bundled out for 70 by New Zealand, their lowest ever T20I score -- Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza believes that the team had made immense progress in T20 cricket in the last three months.

They reached the final of the Asia Cup and they almost beat India on the biggest stage; these are experiences, according to Mashrafe, that have instilled a new sense of belief in the Bangladeshi team.

"I still feel disappointed that we failed to win the close

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HOPELINE 10602

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সেই একই ধারাবাহিকতায়, একদল অভিজ্ঞ চিকিৎসক, দক্ষ সেবিকা ও অত্যাধুনিক যন্ত্রপাতির সমন্বয়ে আপনার সাথের নাগালে আন্তর্জাতিক মানের চিকিৎসা সেবা দিতে আজ থেকে

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পথচলা শুরু করলো

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