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# Malaysian cop among 4 charged

STAR REPORT

A Malaysian court has charged four people, including a Malaysian police official, over the abduction and torture of a Bangladeshi journalist last month.

The four were charged on November 22 at the Kuala Selangor magistrates' court, Free Malaysia Today (FMT) reported yesterday, quoting Hussein Omar Khan, chief of police of the Malaysian state of Selangor.

The Bangladeshi journalist, asking not to be named for fear of repercussions, told The Daily Star on Thursday that he was detained by three plainclothes officers from his house in Putrajaya around midnight on November 7. He was then handed over to "Indian and Bangladeshi" men in Selangor, and was released three days later.

He said he was targeted for his investigative work in exposing a foreign workers' syndicate operated by his countrymen in Malaysia.

FMT quoted the Selangor police chief as saying yesterday, "The police have made a total of eight arrests in this case, and out of these, four have been charged."

The charges were framed under Section 384 of the Malaysian Penal Code for extortion, which carries a penalty of up to 10 years' jail or a fine or whipping, or a combination, upon conviction.

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People take photos of the Cox's Bazar Express before it starts its maiden journey from the new station in the beach town with over 1,000 travellers. The train left for Dhaka at 12:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVO

# Excitement as train service from Cox's Bazar starts

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Cox's Bazar Express started its maiden journey to the capital from Cox's Bazar Railway Station yesterday.

With 1,020 passengers, the train, comprising 20 carriages, left Cox's Bazar at 12:30pm, station master Golam Rabbani told The Daily Star.

The train was supposed to take eight hours and 10 minutes to reach its destination, said Bangladesh Railway sources.

It reached Kamalapur Railway Station around 10:00pm, said a traveller of the train.

Passengers expressed their overwhelming joy after getting the opportunity to take the first ride on the train.

Sajib Ali, a staffer of Max Construction Ltd, a firm involved in the construction of the Cox's Bazar Iconic Rail Station, said, "I can't express my feelings in words as I was involved in the rail station construction and now become one of the first passengers of the train. It

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# CLIMATE CHANGE Put victims in charge of fighting impact Writes PM in Newsweek; receives Asia Climate Mobility Champion Leader Award

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the global leaders convening in Dubai for the COP28 climate summit to put the climate change victims in charge of fighting its impact.

"Climate change is a global disaster inflicted by the rich upon the poor -- and increasingly upon themselves. Global leaders convening for the COP28 climate summit in Dubai need to understand that their top down approach can never work," Hasina wrote in an article that she co-authored with CEO of the Global Center on Adaptation Patrick Verkooijen.

The article was published in the American magazine Newsweek on Thursday. Global leaders are convening in Dubai for the COP28 climate summit to find ways to fight climate change impact.

"The climate breakdown will not wait while leaders equivocate... Only a tiny fraction of climate funding reaches the people battling the worst effects of climate change -- they are without the resources needed to protect themselves and their livelihoods, leaving them more vulnerable," reads the article.

"We need to find ways to quickly and efficiently

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# UN chief, COP28 president clash over fossil fuels' future

King Charles III pleads for climate progress; COP28  
adviser from Marshall Islands quits in protest

REUTERS, Dubai

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged world leaders at the COP28 climate summit to plan for a future without fossil fuels, saying there was no other way to curb global warming.

Speaking a day after COP28 president Sultan Ahmed al-Jaber proposed embracing the continued use of fossil fuels, Guterres said: "We cannot save a burning planet with a fire hose of fossil fuels."

"The 1.5 degree limit is only possible if we ultimately stop burning all fossil fuels. Not reduce. Not abate," he said, referring to nascent technologies to capture and store carbon emissions.


The competing visions summed up the most divisive issue facing world leaders at this year's UN climate summit in the oil-producing United Arab Emirates.

King Charles III of Britain pleaded with world leaders to make progress in the global climate agenda. "Scientists have been warning for so long, we are seeing alarming tipping points being reached," he said.

The comments from Charles, whose role as Britain's head of state is largely ceremonial, appeared to be at odds with his government.

British Prime Minister Rishi

Sunak, who was expected at COP28 to announce 1.6 billion pounds (\$2.02 billion) in climate finance, has rolled back several domestic measures that had been set by previous governments to help the country meet its 2050 net-zero targets.



**The UN published  
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summit.**

Later yesterday, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi appeared to admonish wealthy countries for their role in releasing the most climate-warming emissions since the Industrial Revolution.

A former Marshall Islands president, whose country faces

inundation from climate-driven sea level rise, resigned from the main COP28 advisory board yesterday in objection to the UAE's support of continued use of fossil fuels.

Hilda Heine said in her resignation letter that she was "deeply disappointed" that the UAE had reportedly used its COP28 role to broker oil and gas deals. The UAE has strongly denied the accusations.

Away from the main stage, delegations and technical committees were set to work yesterday on the mammoth task of assessing their progress in meeting global climate targets, specifically the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to within 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), above pre-industrial temperatures.

Scientists say that a global temperature rise beyond this threshold will unleash catastrophic and irreversible impacts worldwide.

The United Nations yesterday published its first draft for what could serve as a template for a final agreement from the COP28 summit, which ends December 12.

Also on the table for discussion is whether to phase out fossil fuel subsidies, which totaled some \$7 trillion last year, and whether to include provisions for carbon capture and removal technology.

# 'Calm yet fierce determination' Glowing tributes for Prof Saleemul Huq during COP28 opening session

AZMIN AZRAN

The opening session of COP28 on Thursday started with an outpouring of remembrance and respect for Saleemul Huq and Pete Betts, two climate activists who passed away in October.

Saleemul Huq was one of the leading climate scientists in the world, and he was the Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCAD) as well as a professor at Independent University, Bangladesh.

His work in establishing the concept of "loss and damage" as a central idea in the realm of climate justice made him a key figure in climate activism. He passed away on October 28 from cardiac arrest.

Pete Betts was an official from the United Kingdom, and he served as the European Union's chief negotiator at the COP21 in France, where the Paris Agreement was adopted.

Sameh Shoukry, president of COP27 and the Foreign Minister of Egypt, began proceedings by saying, "Please join me in reflecting on the life and work of two esteemed colleagues of our process who we have lost recently. Pete Betts from the United Kingdom and Saleemul Huq from Bangladesh."

"Saleemul Huq was an eminent climate scientist who was recognised by the scientific journal Nature as one of the top 10 scientists in the world. He dedicated his professional career to giving voice to those most

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# 109 reported killed as Israeli strikes resume in Gaza Dozens wounded; Qatar says negotiations ongoing to extend truce

REUTERS, Gaza

Israel's warplanes pounded Gaza yesterday after talks to extend a week-old truce with Hamas broke down, sending wounded and dead Palestinians into hospitals and others onto the streets to seek safety.

Within hours of the truce expiring, Gaza health officials reported that 109 people had been killed and dozens wounded in air strikes that hit at least eight homes.

Eastern areas of Khan Younis in southern Gaza came under intensive bombardment, with columns of smoke rising into the sky, Reuters journalists in the city said. Residents took to the road with belongings heaped up in carts, fleeing for shelter further west.

In the north of the enclave, previously the main war zone, huge plumes of smoke rose above the ruins, seen from across the fence in Israel. The rattle of gunfire and thud of explosions rang out above the sound of barking dogs.

Rocket sirens also blared across

**Humanitarian agencies  
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displaced people.**

southern Israel as Hamas fighters fired from the coastal enclave into towns.

Israel has imposed a total siege, and residents and humanitarian agencies say aid that arrived during the truce was trivial compared to the vast needs of so many displaced people.

Qatar, which has played a central role in mediation efforts, said negotiations were still ongoing with Israelis and Palestinians to restore the truce, but that Israel's renewed bombardment of Gaza had complicated its efforts.

Medics and witnesses said the bombing was most intense in Khan Younis and Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, where hundreds of thousands of Gazans have been sheltering from fighting further north. Houses in central and northern areas were also hit.

Further south in Rafah, residents carried several small children, streaked with blood and covered in dust, out of a house that had been struck. Mohammed

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Palestinians carry wounded children following an Israeli strike on a house, after a temporary truce between Hamas and Israel expired, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS