



Suicide bomber kills 12 outside Islamabad court

27 hurt; Pakistani Taliban claims responsibility



AFP, Islamabad

A suicide bombing outside district court buildings in the Pakistani capital Islamabad killed at least 12 people and wounded 27 yesterday, the interior minister said. The first such attack to hit the city in years sent people fleeing in panic in an area which also houses several government offices. "A suicide attack was carried out," Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi told journalists. "So far 12

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With soil and forest fuel easily available from the Haor areas, the number of brick kilns is rapidly increasing on the outskirts of Sylhet city, severely affecting local biodiversity, farmland, and the environment. The photo was taken from the Salutikor Bazar area on Monday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Use SMG burst-fire to deal with armed criminals

CMP chief tells cops

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

After repeated shootings in the port city, Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner Habib Aziz has directed police officers to keep SMGs in "burst-fire mode" and use them to neutralise any armed terrorists encountered. In a verbal order issued to all CMP personnel yesterday, the commissioner instructed patrol units and operation units. At least five officers from CMP's four zones confirmed to The Daily Star that the wireless order came in several phases between 12:30pm and 1:00pm today, saying that the CMP commissioner has ordered that there should be no shotguns and no Chinese rifles. Now, SMGs will be kept in burst-fire mode, they cited the directive. 'Use firearms in self-defence' Patrol teams were instructed to carry, in addition to SMGs, a pellet-

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Bangladesh 13th in Long-Term Climate Risk Index

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has been ranked 13th in the Long-Term Climate Risk Index (CRI), reflecting its continued vulnerability to climate-related hazards such as floods, heatwaves, cyclones and storms. The CRI was prepared by the global disaster watchdog Germanwatch by analysing data on casualties and property damage caused by extreme weather events in 20 countries, including Bangladesh, over the last 30 years. The index documents over 9,700 extreme weather events from 1995 to 2024, which resulted in more than 830,000 deaths and caused over \$4.5 trillion in direct damages, adjusted for inflation. Germanwatch praised Bangladesh for bringing down the number of deaths by effective risk management in CRI 2026, which was released at COP30 in Belém. Owing to effective risk prevention and adaptation, cyclone-related mortality in Bangladesh has fallen more than 100-fold in the last 40 years, from half a million deaths in 1970 to 4,234 in 2007, the report said. Bangladesh's neighbours, India and Myanmar, are both ranked within the top 10 in the index. Dominica, Myanmar and Honduras are listed as the three most affected countries over the 30-year period. The other countries in the top 10 are: Libya (4th), Haiti (5th), Grenada (6th), the Philippines (7th), Nicaragua (8th), The Bahamas (10th) and China (11th). None of the eleven is among the world's wealthy industrialised nations. However, industrialised nations such as France (12th), Italy (16th) and the US (18th) are among the top 30. The CRI findings underscore that countries in the Global South are especially vulnerable to the climate crisis and need greater support from wealthier nations. Still, even industrialised countries are increasingly affected. "The results of the CRI 2026 clearly demonstrate

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COP30 focuses on countries' need for climate resilience

REUTERS, Belém

With typhoons tearing across Southeast Asia this week while areas of Jamaica and Brazil are still clearing debris from damaging storms, delegates at Brazil's COP30 summit began grappling with how best to help the vulnerable withstand worsening weather and other climate extremes. The topic of "adaptation" has grown more important as countries fail to rein in climate-warming emissions enough to prevent extreme warming linked to increasingly frequent weather disasters across the planet. A UN report last month said developing countries alone would need up to \$310 billion every year by 2035 to prepare. Where that money will come from is unclear. Ten of the world's development banks, under pressure to free more cash for climate action, said on Monday they would continue to support the need. "Lives, well being and jobs cannot be sustained where homes, schools, farms and businesses are under threat from flooding, drought, or other climate extremes," the banks said in a statement. Last year, they channelled more than \$26 billion to low- and middle-income economies for adaptation.



Separately, the director of a multi-partner UN fund told Reuters it would soon announce a new impact bond aimed at raising \$200 million by the end of 2026. "The whole bond idea started exactly one year ago at the previous COP in Baku," said Markus Repnik, who leads the Systematic Observations Financing Facility backed by the World Meteorological Organization, UN Development Programme and UN Environment Fund. "We were getting the sense that things are going to change significantly from an international perspective." The fund, which also works to plug gaps in weather data for developing countries, hopes for country donations this week during COP30. On Monday, Germany and Spain pledged \$100 million to a different effort, the multilateral Climate Investment Funds (CIF), which is financing projects to boost climate resilience in developing countries. The organisation's chief praised Brazil for featuring the issue as a COP30 focus, after years of seeing the issue slide down UN climate summit agendas. "We're really thrilled that, for the first time, adaptation is Day 1 and Day 2 of the COP," CIF Chief Executive Tariye Gbadegesin told Reuters.



'No sensible person can believe this'

Touhid rejects Indian media claims of LeT-Bangladesh link

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain yesterday said there is no reason to believe the Indian media's claim that Pakistan-based terrorists are plotting to attack India "using Bangladesh as a launchpad". "The [Indian] media will try to put the blame on us for any incidents. There is no reason to believe it. No sensible person can believe this," he told reporters at the foreign ministry. Various Indian media outlets, including the Times of India, referring to a video, reported that Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Saifullah Saif has claimed that

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Typhoon reveals ancient shipwreck in Vietnam

AFP, Hoi An

Severe coastal erosion caused by Typhoon Kalmaegi exposed a centuries-old shipwreck in Vietnam, providing a narrow window to salvage what experts say could be a historically significant find. Initially discovered in 2023 off the coast of Hoi An, the at least 17.4-metre (57-foot) vessel – whose heavy wood-ribbed hull survived hundreds of years of rough seas almost perfectly intact – was resubmerged before authorities could reclaim it. Experts have not yet dated the wreck, but preliminary findings suggest it was built between the 14th and 16th centuries – when Unesco-listed Hoi An was at the centre of a thriving regional trade in silk, ceramics and spices. "We are currently preparing to apply for an emergency excavation (permit)," Pham Phu Ngoc, director of the Hoi An Center for the Preservation of World Cultural Heritage, told AFP on Monday after the wreck resurfaced following the passage of Typhoon Kalmaegi last week. "The discovery of this ancient ship is clear evidence of Hoi An's significant historical role in regional trade," he said, adding more of the ship had been exposed this time "which could provide us with more information".



ASK probe finds evidence of police torture in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

The Ain o Salish Kendra has found preliminary evidence of human rights violations in an incident of alleged torture in police custody in Netrakona. In a report published yesterday, ASK said it conducted an investigation on November 5 and 6 and found evidence that an accused, Apel Mahmud, 35, was tied up and tortured while in police remand. It also claimed that the victim's wife, Afsana Mimi, was summoned at night to the police station at Borogara under Sadar upazila, where she was subjected to intimidation and harassment. On the evening of October 14, police arrested Apel, and the following day sought a seven-day remand; the court granted one-day remand. ASK urged authorities to take disciplinary action against those responsible, file a case under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, ensure medical

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Palestinians take shelter in their tents, during a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, in Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BOOKER PRIZE Szalay's 'Flesh' wins 2025 fiction award

REUTERS, London

David Szalay won the 2025 Booker Prize for his novel 'Flesh' on Monday, becoming the first Hungarian-British author to win one of top awards in the English-speaking world. Written in spare prose – characterised by brevity and a lack of unnecessary detail – the book follows a man caught in a series of events beyond his control over decades. It charts his rise from a housing estate in Hungary to the mansions of London's super-rich. "A meditation on class, power, intimacy, migration and masculinity, Flesh is a compelling portrait of one man, and the formative experiences that can reverberate across a lifetime," organisers of the award ceremony in London said in a statement. In addition to the 50,000-pound (\$67,000) prize for the winner, as well as a 2,500-pound awards to each of the shortlisted authors and translators, the writers also gain a boost in popularity and benefit from increased book sales. "Even though my father is Hungarian, I never felt entirely at home in Hungary. I suppose, I'm always a bit of an outsider there and living away from the UK and

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