Palestinian suicide bomber kills 4 in Tel Aviv cafe

A Palestinian suicide bomber killed four people and wounded dozens more in an attack on a crowded cafe near the US embassy in Tel Aviv early yesterday, just hours after Mahmud Abbas was Palestinian prime minister.

"The attack killed four people, including the terrorist," Israeli police chief Shlomo Aharonochki told journalists, adding that 55 people had been wounded in the blast.

A man calling himself Abu Barek told AFP: "This attack was carried

the north of the West Bank) to avenge Mazen Erapeh, an Al Agsa member recently killed in Nablus (by the Israeli army), and was jointly planned by the Al Aqsa and Al Qassam Brigades."

Police commander Yossi Setbon earlier told Israeli public radio: "A suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance to the cafe 'Mike's Place' and claimed dozens of victims.

He said a security guard had managed to stop the bomber from entering the cafe, adding that the bomber used several kilograms of explosives studded with nails.

The seafront cafe was packed with customers at the time of the attack, witnesses said. The blast started a fire in the building.

Police cordoned off the whole district around the US embassy and carried out searches for explo-

"The absolute priority of the Palestinian cabinet must to stop terrorism and put an end to this kind of attack," an Israeli official who requested anonymity told

The bombing came just hours after the investiture by the Palestinian parliament in the West SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Some light from DESA 14 transformers to be set up this month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) is setting up 14 high-powered transformers in its nine substations to ease power crisis in the city by this month.

These substations would add another 150 megawatt (MW) electricity to DESA's supply capacity of about 1200MW, said DESA Chairman Brigadier General AMA Rab yesterday at a press conference at his office.

The extra amount of electricity would reduce loadshedding in the city by 60 per cent, he said.

He said installation of two transformers in 132/33kV substations of Bashundhara and

Sayedabad grids, two 50/75MVA transformers in Maghbazar and nine 20/28MVA transformers in Uttara, Green Road, Lalmatia, Madartek and Joarsahara substations would be finished by this

"These transformers would add 240MW power to DESA's grid and about 150MW could be supplied to the city residents," Rab said.

He said that the current demand of the city is 1300MW. "Though we can get the required amount of power from the Power Development Board (PDB), we can supply only 1150 to 1200MW power due to poor infrastructure,' he said, adding that

Dr. Saifuddin Chowdhury of the

airport health department and Dr. Shahid Ullah of CMCH are leading

two groups of the medical team

which will take turn in examining

passengers. A room at the airport

has been reserved to run further

Any passenger diagnosed with

the disease would be sent to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at

Kumira and guarantined for treat-

Doctors desert

hospital for

SARS scare

Initiative has also been taken for

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

checks on suspected SARS

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Discussants at a dialogue on budgetary discipline and fiscal programme in Dhaka yesterday, organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue, The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo.

Robber raid leaves 11 hurt in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed robbers attacked several houses including that of local robber resistance committee president at Satkania upazila here in the early hours of yesterday.

Eleven people were hit by bullets in the process. Five were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) with critical injuries.

The robbers also looted gold ornaments and valuables worth around Tk. 1.5 lakh.

Witnesses said, a group of some 20 dacoits came upon the house of local robber resistance committee President Mahmudul Haq Sikder at Keuchia under Satkania upazila at around 1:00am. As Mahmud was not there, they beat up his brother Forkan, ransacked the house and

The miscreants then robbed three other neighbouring houses Moulana Mahfuzur I Obayedur Rahman and Abdus

When local people came forward, they opened fire indiscriminately leaving eleven persons



PHOTO: STAR

Vocalists sing choric songs at the 14th musical conference organised by the Bangladesh Rabindra Shilpi Sangstha at the Shishu Academy yesterday.

SARS screening at Ctg airport, Khulna ports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A five-member medical team was posted at the Shah Amanat International Airport here yesterday to screen incoming passengers from overseas for possible SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) infection.

Airport sources said the medical eam comprising physicians and officials from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and the airport health department checked incoming passengers of three

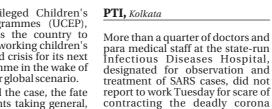
UCEP fears fund crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Underprivileged Children's Education Programmes (UCEP), operating across the country to promote urban working children's status, fears fund crisis for its next six-year programme in the wake of the post-Iraq war global scenario.

If that should the case, the fate of 24,000 students taking general, vocational and para-trade education in 39 UCEP schools in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna districts will become uncertain.

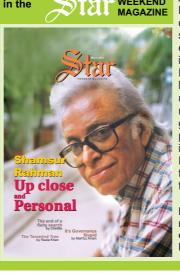
UCEP officials said yesterday they feared shortage of funds in the global and national context. They added that the government recently instructed nongovernment organi



Panic spread among the staff and visitors Monday evening after serological reports from Pune-based National Institute of Virology confirmed Radheshyam Gupta, a resident of Tangra area, as the city's second SARS victim on

virus after a patient was declared

SARS positive Monday.



SHAZNEEN CASE Rage of 'rapist'

Hearing adjourned till May 7

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Hearing of the Shazneen case has been adjourned till May 7.

Kazi Rahamat Ullah, Judge of the Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, yesterday adjourned the hearing following a time petition by the prosecution lawyers.

Earlier, 12 prosecution witnesses, including the victim's father Latifur Rahman, were cross-

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15 the youngest daughter of Latiful Rahman, Chairman of Transcom was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23,

Dialogue at Khulna today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of their National Policy Review Forum 2003, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the Prothom Alo and The Daily Star will hold a regional advisory meet-ing in Khulna Saturday.

The meeting on telecommunication, information technology and education will be held at Western Inn, 61, Khan-e-Sabur Road at 9 am.

Victim's family threatened to

be driven away from village

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The alleged rapist of a young housewife of Jhina village in Bagha upazila remains scot-free while the poor victim's family was threatened to be evicted from the village

The victim and her husband came to Rajshahi Metropolitan Press Club yesterday and alleged that police, influenced by ruling party men, remains inactive.

if the rape case is not withdrawn.

One Nurul Islam Nuru allegedly aped a 27-year-old housewife on March 3. In the absence of the victim's husband Emdadul Haq, a day labourer. Nuru entering into her makeshift house by force, gagged her with a cloth and raped her in front of her five years old son.

Nuru was caught red handed at the scene, but his uncle Monirul

The second and final Test between Bangladesh and visiting South Africa begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The match will start at 10 in the morning with BTV and STAR Sports providing live coverage.

South Africa have already taken

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Final Test

from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Nuru's wristwatch and sandal from OC Fazlul Haq allegedly pressurised her to settle the matter in

Islam, a local BNP leader, managed

victim went to the Bagha Police

Station, they refused to record the

complaint in spite of recovering

the victim's torn clothing and the

The next morning when the

to snatch him away.

exchange of money.

"The OC asked me to settle the issue in exchange of Tk 10,000 as if I

SEE PAGE 11 COL

NOTICE

Our website address has been changed. Please visit us at our new address www.thedailystar.net

Sun Rises | Sun Sets 6-28 pm May 2 5-26 am

Prayer Timings		
May 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15

6-32 8-00 8-30 Source: Islamic Foundation

