

# Palestinian suicide bomber kills 4 in Tel Aviv cafe

**AFP, Tel Aviv**  
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 endorsed as the first-ever 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 Berek told AFP: "This attack was carried

out by a martyr from Tulkarem (in the north of the West Bank) to avenge Mazen Erpeh, an Al Qsa member recently killed in Nablus (by the Israeli army), and was jointly planned by the Al Qsa 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 explosives.

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

The bombing came just hours after the investiture by the Palestinian parliament in the West

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# 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 month.

"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

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Discussions 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 looted valuables.

The miscreants then robbed three other neighbouring houses of Moulana Mahfuzur Rahman, Obayedur Rahman and Abdus Sabur.

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



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 team comprising physicians and officials from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and the airport health department checked incoming passengers of three international flights on the first day yesterday.

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 checks on suspected SARS patients.

Any passenger diagnosed with the disease would be sent to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Kumira and quarantined for treatment.

Initiative has also been taken for

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# 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 be 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 non-government organi

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# Doctors desert hospital for SARS scare

**PTI, Kolkata**  
More than a quarter of doctors and para medical staff at the state-run Infectious Diseases Hospital, designated for observation and treatment of SARS cases, did not report to work Tuesday for scare of contracting the deadly corona virus after a patient was declared SARS positive Monday.

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 his return from Bangkok.

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# Shazneen Case

## 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-examined.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998.

## 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 meeting in Khulna Saturday.

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

# Rage of 'rapist'

## Victim's family threatened to be driven away from village

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**  
Islam, a local BNP leader, managed to snatch him away.

The next morning when the victim went to the Bagha Police Station, they refused to record the complaint in spite of recovering the victim's torn clothing and the Nuru's wristwatch and sandal from her house.

OC Fazlul Haq allegedly pressurised her to settle the matter in exchange of money.

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

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

## Final Test from today

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
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

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
May 1		6-28 pm
May 2	5-26 am	

  

Prayer Timings		
May 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-32	6-35
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

SATURDAY in the **Star** WEEKEND MAGAZINE

**Shamsur Rahman**  
Up close and Personal

Due to the May 1 holiday the next issue of SWM will come out on Saturday, May 3 instead of Friday.