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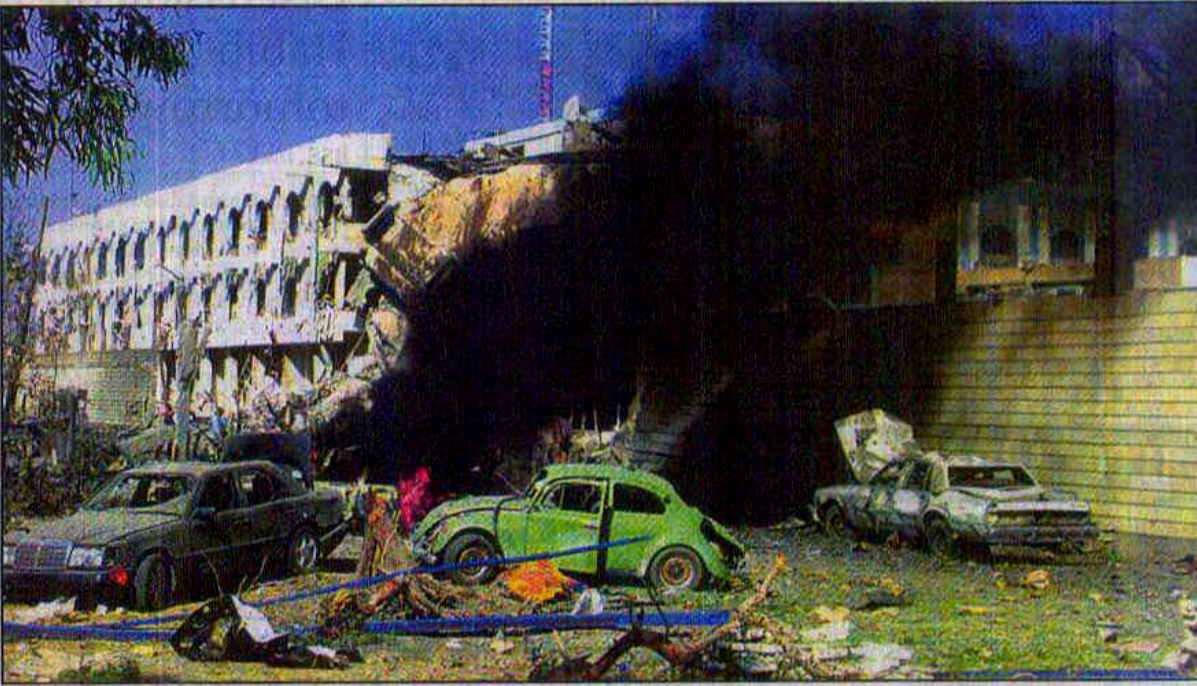
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## Annan's envoy, 19 others die in UN's Baghdad HQ blast

100 wounded; body parts scattered all over

**AGENCIES, Baghdad**  
A truck bomb explosion ripped through a hotel housing the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad yesterday, leaving at least 20 people dead, wrecking the building and rocking the surrounding neighbourhood.  
Among those killed was Sergio Vieira de Mello, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's new special representative to US-administered, postwar Iraq. The 55-year-old veteran Brazilian diplomat who was only days away from the end of his four-month mission, was in his office when the explosion ripped through the building about 4:30pm local time and was trapped in the rubble.  
Up to 100 people were wounded, and body parts were scattered around, a witness said. The witness added that he had seen bodies being dragged out of the rubble, and American soldiers sent to the scene



A car burst yesterday outside the United Nations headquarters at the Canal Hotel in eastern Baghdad after a deadly explosion rocked the building, leaving at least 20 people dead. UN special representative for Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello, left, was killed in the blast.

## Foreign friends back Dhaka's fight against Delhi's plan

India says Bangladesh shouldn't 'jump to conclusion' on river diversion

**REAZ AHMAD**  
Bangladesh, disturbed by India's plan to divert water from transboundary rivers, has found friends among the peoples in South Asian countries, including India, supporting Dhaka's stand on the issue.  
Within a week of Dhaka's official protest against New Delhi's \$200 billion river inter-linking plan, non-government development activists from across South Asia have rallied behind Bangladesh's position and warned that India's unilateral river inter-linking plan could create political instability in the region.  
Our correspondent in New Delhi Pallab Bhattacharya reports that India yesterday said Bangladesh's criticism of the proposal for inter-linking of the country's major rivers only complicated matters.  
Sources in the Indian external affairs ministry said the countries should not jump to a conclusion and must first understand all the aspects of the issue.  
Bangladesh should address these "complex issues in a mature manner", they said.  
They said India showed a "great deal of generosity" to Bangladesh by signing the Ganges water treaty in 1996.  
Meantime, participants from India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh at a just concluded Saarc Peoples' Forum (SPF) endorsed a memorandum saying,

## Suicide bomber kills 20 on Jerusalem bus

Jihad group claims responsibility; Israel snaps talks

**AP/AFP, Jerusalem**  
A suicide bomber blew himself up yesterday on a packed bus on a main thoroughfare in Jerusalem, killing at least 20 people and wounding 80, authorities said.  
The Islamic Jihad group called journalists in the West Bank and claimed responsibility for the bus attack, saying it was in revenge for the killing of Jihad area leader Mohammed Sid last week.  
The blast on the extra long bus, which had two passenger sections that were full, went off shortly after 9 p.m. Another bus nearby also was hit by the explosion.  
The bus had started out at the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest shrine, in the walled Old City, and was headed to an ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhood, radio reports said, making it likely that many of the passengers were ultra-Orthodox.  
The bus was badly damaged, with its windows blown out, and rescuers had to use blow torches to pry wounded from the wreckage.  
"What is clear is that it was a very big bomb," Jerusalem fire chief Amnon Amirsaid.  
Israel meanwhile froze all moves to transfer security responsibility for two West Bank towns to the Palestinians yesterday following the attack, said a Palestinian official.  
"Israel has cancelled the talks and frozen all moves to withdraw from Qalqilya and Jericho," Elias Zannanieri, spokesman for Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan, told AFP.  
Shocked survivors, including several crying children with blood-smeared faces, were led away from the scene. A paramedic cradled a little girl in his arms, and two others lay away an older woman.  
Paramedics treated wounded on the sidewalk, and body parts were strewn about.  
Police confirmed an army radio report that at least 20 people were killed, including children. Israeli officials don't include the bomber in

## Saddam's vice president Ramadan detained



**REUTERS, Baghdad**  
Saddam Hussein's vice president, Taha Yassin Ramadan, has been captured in Mosul, the Iraqi city where the fugitive dictator's sons were cornered and killed last month, US and Kurdish officials said yesterday.  
The seizure by Kurdish forces of such a high-profile member of Saddam's inner circle will fuel speculation that US forces are still hot on the trail of the ousted

## Joypurhat incident Bounty for arms recovery, JIC to quiz arrested militants

**ANWAR ALI, Joypurhat**  
Police yesterday declared a bounty of Tk 10,000 on each of the three looted firearms, as they failed to extract substantive information from the militants arrested after the August 14 pre-dawn firefight in Joypurhat.  
Authorities ordered more interrogation of the three arrested leaders of the Jama'atul Mujahidin, an outlawed Islamist outfit, by the joint interrogation cell (JIC) in Dhaka.  
The three out of 38 suspects arrested for links with the militant organisation will be sent to Dhaka in two days for intensive interrogation, said senior police officials.  
The Jama'atul Mujahidin believed to have engaged in the firefight with police is operating in all but seven districts for what they claim -- jihad.  
Police also stepped up vigilance on the Ahle Hadith madrassahs, blamed for links with the Islamist militants who looted three shotguns, 60 bullets and a wireless set in the gunbattle with police.  
Several teams of plainclothes police raided houses and madrassahs in Khetlal, Kalai, Pachhibi and Sadar upazilas Monday night but could not arrest any suspect.  
Police listed 10 Ahle Hadith madrassahs in Joypurhat and

## RMG in for export boost as 10 states to join EU

**NAZMUL AHSSAN**  
The export of readymade garment (RMG) is set to get a fresh boost when 10 East European countries become members of the European Union (EU) next year.  
The 10 would-be member countries are Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.  
"The 10 countries are scheduled to be enrolled as EU members on May 1, 2004," said a high official at the European Commission (EC) delegation of Dhaka.  
On their accession, Bangladeshi goods will get duty-free access to those markets under the Everything But Arms (EBA), an EU initiative which exempts tax on everything but arms imported from all the 49 least developed countries (LDCs).  
Bangladesh, an LDC, will enjoy all the trade privileges offered by the EU as the 10 new members will have to follow the EU rules on their accession, the official added.  
Bangladesh has been enjoying duty-free access of its goods to all the present 15-member countries since November 2001.  
Manufacturers hope export of readymade garment to those coun-

**Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd.**  
SHARE DEPARTMENT, HEAD OFFICE  
40, DILKUSHA COMMERCIAL AREA, DHAKA.

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By Order  
**Md. Shouquat Ali**  
Secretary

Date: 18/08/2003

## Campaign ends in frenzy

**Netrakona by-polls tomorrow**  
**MORSHED ALI KHAN and JAHANGIR ALAM from Netrakona**  
As midnight approached last night, marking a 48-hour ban on all campaigns including meetings and processions for the Netrakona-3 by-elections tomorrow, candidates and their supporters were preparing to go door-to-door to woo voters of the 19 unions of the constituency.  
According to sources in the Awami League and the four-party alliance, nearly 100 lawmakers from both sides are now in Kendua and Atpara, the two constituent thanas of the parliamentary seat, to embark on a door-to-door campaign from last midnight onwards.  
Local people said an unofficial show-down has started between the two main parties whose lawmakers are scheduled to visit every household of certain unions in a bid to persuade voters.  
Throughout yesterday, a heavy presence of security personnel was conspicuous in Atpara and Kendua.

## Tigers eye to take it to 5th day

**Karachi Test starts today**  
**HASAN MASOOD, from Karachi**  
Bangladesh will be keen to show the newfound confidence on the field when they take on Pakistan in the first Test at the Karachi National Stadium today.  
The match will start at 11:00am Bangladesh time with Ten Sports providing live coverage of the five-day contest.  
The Test will mark the debut of Rajin Saleh, who was the 12th man in Bangladesh's inaugural Test against India. The young batsman

**Dream. Dare. Do.**  
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