

Anti-Israeli attack kills 12 at Kenyan resort

AFP, Nairobi

At least 12 people were killed yesterday in a suicide bomb attack on a hotel crowded with Israeli tourists in the Kenyan resort of Mombasa as an Israeli jetliner narrowly escaped a simultaneous missile attack.

An all-road vehicle carrying three people burst through the barrier around the Paradise Mombasa hotel on the Indian Ocean coast and rammed through the front entrance of the building, exploding in the lobby, witnesses said.

Kenyan police said nine Africans and three Israelis, two of them children, were killed in the attack that took place on the eve of Hanukkah, a major Jewish holiday. The three attackers died instantly.

At almost the same time, a charter plane from Israel's Arkia airlines with 261 passengers on board came under

attack from two missiles as it took off from Mombasa. They narrowly missed their target.

A previously unknown group calling itself the Army of Palestine claimed responsibility in Beirut for the attacks. But suspicion is focused on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, which is blamed for a similar car-bomb attack on the US embassy in Nairobi in 1998.

Kenyan police said they had arrested two people in Mombasa in connection with the attacks following a tip-off and that they were being questioned.

The impact of the explosion, which took place at around 8.25am (0525 GMT) in the town of Kikambala just north of Mombasa city limits, was so intense that the roof of the hotel collapsed and the vehicle carrying the bomb was completely destroyed.

Some 140 Israeli tourists had just stepped off the

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Hmm... looks lively



English umpire David Shepherd inspects the wicket at the MA Aziz stadium yesterday ahead of the first one-dayer between the West Indies and Bangladesh.

PHOTO: STAR

Rain looms large

First one-dayer today

HASAN MASOOD, Chittagong

Rain is threatening to spoil the first one-day between Bangladesh and West Indies at the MA Aziz Stadium here today although the depression over the Bay of Bengal has been gradually diminishing.

It had been drizzling last night and the Friday's weather forecast too was not encouraging for the cricket lovers in the port city.

Weather permitting, the first of the three-match one-day series is scheduled to start at 9 am. Satellite channel ESPN-Star Sports and state-run Bangladesh Television will provide live coverage of the 50-over contest while Bangladesh Betar will

air ball-by-ball commentary from the new-look second Test venue of the country.

The organisers Chattagram Jela Krira Sangstha (CJKS) are expecting a full house crowd at the 25,000 capacity stadium despite the fact there would be no local boy representing Bangladesh for the first time.

Bangladesh can expect a tough time in their 59th one-day international against a tail-up West Indies who have just conquered India on Indian soil in the one-day series.

The home side on the other hand will try hard to give a pause to their embarrassing losing streak of 23

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Khaleda visits historical sites in Madina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visited some important Islamic heritage sites in Madina on the second day Wednesday of her stay in the holy city.

She visited Masjid-e-Kuba, 5 km off the city, the first mosque in Madina built by Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) after he had migrated to Madina from Makka in the historic event of Hegira.

The prime minister then went to Kibla Taine Mosque where the Prophet during his prayers received message from Allah about changing the direction of Kibla.

She offered prayers in the holy mosques in due solemnity.

Khaleda Zia also visited the mazar of Hazrat Amir Hamza (R) and offered fateha at the tomb of the great Islamic warrior.

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Journalist held for link with foreign newsmen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female journalist of Dhaka-based weekly Shaptahik 2000 was picked up from her office in Chittagong yesterday for her alleged involvement with the two foreign journalists now under arrest.

Sumi Khan was picked up in the afternoon and detained at Kotwali thana in Chittagong.

When contacted in Chittagong over telephone, her family members said, a policeman from Kotwali thana phoned her at her residence to know her office address. They told her that they wanted to meet her at

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Blissfully unawares

One in three DU teachers believes HIV spreads on toilet sharing!

SHAMEEM MAHMUD

A study shows that 29 per cent of Dhaka University (DU) teachers believe HIV infection spreads through sharing of toilets.

The find came as a jarring contrast to a campaign by the government and about 200 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to raise the level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS.

Also, half of the respondents have a wrong notion that AIDS is transmitted through kissing, said the study carried out last year by the Department of Population Science, DU, among its teachers.

The study revealed that about 17

per cent of the DU teachers still do not know that AIDS spreads through sexual intercourse.

The purpose of the study was to assess the level of knowledge and understanding among the teachers about AIDS and HIV infection, routes of transmission and means of prevention.

And interviewed were 84 teachers of 39 departments under six faculties of the university that has about 1,200 teachers.

Professors constituted the largest (30 per cent) of the respondents followed by lecturers and assistants

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Three suspects held in baby Maria killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested three people for possible link with the murder of two and a half years old Maria in the city's Sutrapur area Wednesday night.

The arrestees are Amin, 20, Chanchal, 20, and Iqbal, 35, all residents of Sutrapur.

Police said they might be involved in the shootout that led to the death of the girl child.

Meanwhile, residents of Sutrapur brought out a procession

from Tipu Sultan Road yesterday carrying the body of Maria and demanded trial of the killers. The procession paraded some city roads.

Maria was killed in crossfire between members of a crime gang at Tipu Sultan Road in Sutrapur Wednesday afternoon. She was in her father's arms as they came out of their residence to buy iftar items at about 5:00pm on Wednesday. At the time, two warring gangs of criminals

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Sehri, Iftar timing

Ramadan	Nov	Sehri	Iftar
23	29		5-14
24	30	4-59	5-14
25	Dec 1	5-00	5-14

Sun Rises Sun Sets

Nov 29		5-10 pm
Nov 30	6-24 am	

Prayer Timings

Nov 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-49	4-59
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-14	5-24
Esha	7-30	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation