

# Suicide attack kills 10 near Sharon's house

AFP, Jerusalem

At least ten people were killed yesterday in a suicide bomb attack on board a bus close to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's official residence in Jerusalem, military radio said.

The blast shortly before 9:00 am (0700 GMT) came as hundreds of Palestinian prisoners were about to be freed in a delicate deal between Israel and the Lebanese

guerrilla movement Hezbollah.

But an Israeli official said the prisoner swap would go ahead as planned.

Around 40 other people were also injured in the attack, a spokesman for the Magen David Adom rescue service told public radio here.

The scene of the blast, close to the junction between Aza Street and Balfour Street in central

Jerusalem, was sealed off to reporters but an AFP correspondent said the front part of the number 19 bus had been completely blown out.

David Baker, an official in Sharon's office, said that the attack was proof of the Palestinian Authority's failure to crack down on hardliners.

"Israel has no chance but to wage an uncompromising war against terror," Baker told report-

ers at the scene.

"This is another example of Palestinians targeting Israelis in the hearts of their cities. The PA is doing absolutely nothing to fight terrorism."

Sharon was not in his house at the time of the blast but was staying on his ranch in the southern Negev desert, Israeli media reports said.

It was the first suicide attack in

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The road in front of Mohakhali Bus Terminal gets snarled up with rush-hour traffic as long-haul buses for Eid passengers are parked on the roadside because of congestion inside the terminal.

## Khaleda invited to D8 Summit in Tehran

UNB, Dhaka

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami has formally invited Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to attend the D8 Summit to be held in Tehran February 18-19.

Khatami's special envoy Dr S Mohammad Hossein Adeli, who is also the deputy minister of foreign affairs of Iran, handed over two letters of the Iranian president to Khaleda at her office yesterday afternoon, one inviting to the summit.

Leaders of Pakistan, Turkey, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nigeria, Egypt, Malaysia and Iran will attend the summit.

During his meeting with Khaleda, the Iranian deputy for-

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## PVT LAND TELEPHONY

# Capital kept off-limits for WorlTel suit

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

The telecoms watchdog is keeping Dhaka city off-limits to landline telephony of private operators due to a legal battle with the UK-based WorldTel that seeks a monopoly in the capital.

WorldTel obtained licence in July 2001 to run a 300,000 fixed phone-line network in the capital on a build-operate-own basis. It has served a legal notice on the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications asking it to

explain why it (WorldTel) should not be the only licensee to operate solely in the capital, as the agreement with the ministry stipulates.

Its lawyers say it was licensed to run fixed phone network in the capital in a monopolistic environment but the BTRC is planning to allow more operators.

WorldTel could not start operation, as its move to reach an inter-connection agreement with the state monopoly in fixed phone, Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB), fell

through.

"We want an amicable solution to the issue without further delay," a WorldTel solicitor told The Daily Star last night. WorldTel's licence is still legally valid and the government should respect it, said the lawyer seeking anonymity.

WorldTel obtained licence at the fag end of the Awami League government and planned to invest \$300 million in the project. But the incumbent BNP-led government

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## Prime accused of SL woman murder held in Motijheel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested Mofizul, prime accused of rape and murder of a Sri Lankan woman on Tuesday night.

A team of Shyampur police arrested Mofizul in front of Bangladesh Bank in Motijheel when he was returning to Shyampur at around 2:30pm, police said.

The investigation and duty officer of Shyampur Police Station is questioning Mofizul, who was accused in the FIR (first information record).

"Since the prime accused is held,

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## GAZIPUR CHICKEN DEATHS

# Farmers blame it on bad vaccines

RAFIQ HASAN Back From Gazipur

Around 20,000 chickens, mainly layers, died in more than two dozen poultry farms in Gazipur since January 20 after they were vaccinated.

According to government officials and farm owners, the deaths were not related to bird flu.

The poultry farm owners said the chickens died immediately after they were inoculated with medicine supplied by the district

livestock office. The aggrieved farmers later demonstrated in the district town demanding punishment to the livestock officials and seeking compensation for their losses.

The farm owners also submitted a memorandum to the government seeking immediate action.

Mohammad Humayun Kabir Khan, owner of Al Amin Poultry Farm at Deshipara, lodged a general diary with Joydevepur Police Station on January 24, implicating the deaths to defective vaccines

supplied by the livestock office.

Majedul Islam Rashed, owner of Modern Poultry Farm, said he lost 1,500 chicken in five days after vaccination. Many birds are still ill, he said.

District livestock officer Munshi Mohammad Inamul Hoque admitted that the deaths occurred following vaccination but it is yet to be confirmed whether the vaccines were defective.

The district livestock office

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## Financial Express office robbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers ransacked The Financial Express and Themograph offices and looted allegedly Tk 2.3 lakh at Toyenbee Circular Road in Motijheel early yesterday.

More than four robbers entered the second floor of seven-storey Shipping Corporation building that housed the offices at around 3:00am when the guard on the ground floor was sleeping.

They knocked binder Azizur Rahman of the daily down and left three others tied up in the bathroom after injuring them, said Omar Faruque Jalal, circulation in-charge of The Financial Express.

The robbers looted Tk 80,000 from the accounts and mid-month review sections and ransacked the editor's room and took away valuable documents.

They later burgled the office of Themograph, a print matter

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Staffers put in order the office of The Financial Express in Motijheel after robbers ransacked file cabinets and looted Tk 2.3 lakh in an overnight break-in on Thursday.

## 30 injured in police-trader clash at Paltan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 cops, including two sergeants, and 20 businessmen were injured in a clash over a trifling matter at Polwel Market near Jonaki Cinema Hall in Paltan Wednesday.

Police picked up over 100 businesspersons allegedly for manhandling two police sergeants in front of the market but released them in the night following a compromise between the two sides.

The businessmen claimed that a police sergeant engaged in protocol duties for the president asked for bribe from a driver of a covered van parked on the street diagonally. Following the driver's refusal, the sergeant along with others beat him and other busi-

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## ABDUL KADER MURDER

# Seven get death sentence

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

A tribunal in Dhaka yesterday sentenced seven people to death and four, including a former Jatiya Party (JP) lawmaker, to life imprisonment over the killing of a leading entrepreneur in 2001.

In a verdict, Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of Dhaka Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 described the killing of 45-year-old Abdul Kader in office in Motijheel on October 17, 2001 as the result of a plot at the upper echelons of society.

"This tribunal is shocked at the death that wiped out a person's bright future," the judge said,

asking the government by implication to put brakes on law and order downside.

The entrepreneur who came from Dogachhi village in Srinagar, Munshiganj, was killed in midday armed attacks in the capital's commercial heart, sending shock waves through the business community.

The principal accused, 'Mobile' Kader, his brother Masud Rana, Jahangir Hossain, Mohammad Shafiq, Bazlur Rahman, Jan-e-Alam and Abdur Rashid got death sentences, while former JP MP I q b a l

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## Blasts, stampede at fair leave 20 hurt in N'ganj

UNB, N'ganj

At least 20 people were injured in bomb explosions and stampede at a fair at Golakandail in Rupganj upazila Wednesday night.

Witnesses said unidentified miscreants exploded bombs at

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Prayer Timings		
January 30		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-45	6-20
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-50	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation