

Israel kills 7 Hamas men after Gaza crossing attack

AP, Gaza City

Israel killed seven Hamas militants in a series of airstrikes after the group detonated two jeeps packed with hundreds of kilograms of explosives at an Israeli crossing on the Gaza border.

Two of the militants were killed early Sunday.

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak visited the area of Saturday's twin suicide attacks, which wounded 13 soldiers, and warned Hamas would "bear the consequences."

However, an immediate Israeli offensive appears unlikely. Israelis are currently marking the Jewish Passover holiday, and in May will celebrate their country's 60th birthday.

The Islamic militant Hamas said

Saturday's attack on the Kerem Shalom crossing was part of a campaign to break the nearly yearlong blockade of the Gaza. Israel and Egypt virtually sealed Gaza after Hamas seized control of the territory by force.

In Damascus, former President Jimmy Carter met with senior Hamas leaders on Friday and Saturday, defying US and Israeli warnings that doing so would grant the group legitimacy. Hamas officials said Gaza's closure and a possible Israel-Hamas prisoner swap were discussed. They said the group did not respond to Carter's request that it halt rocket fire on Israeli border towns or that it agree to talk to Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Eli Yishak about a prisoner exchange.

Following the crossing attack,

Israel targeted Hamas militants in a series of missile strikes, killing seven. Of those, five were killed Saturday and two early Sunday. Four Hamas gunmen were wounded in Sunday's strikes in northern Gaza and east of Gaza City, medics said.

A senior Hamas official, Sami Abu Zuhri, warned the crossings would be targeted again. Saturday's attacks "are the beginning of the explosions that Hamas has warned of," he said. "If the parties don't intervene quickly to save Gaza and break the siege, what is coming will be greater."

On Saturday morning, Hamas militants drove an armoured personnel carrier and two jeeps made to look like Israeli army vehicles toward the Kerem Shalom crossing under the cover of morning fog as

Hamas pounded the border area with heavy mortar fire, said Maj. Gen. Yoav Galant, the top army commander in the area.

The armoured personnel carrier broke through the perimeter fence, enabling the two jeeps to enter the crossing. One jeep was detonated near an army watchtower and the second near a patrol. Thirteen soldiers were wounded in the second blast, including eight who were hospitalised. Four Hamas attackers, were killed, the army said.

Galant said Hamas apparently tried to cause a large number of casualties and to kidnap soldiers.

"This is an attack the likes of which we have not seen since disengagement," Galant said, referring to Israel's pullout from Gaza in September 2005.

Kalam was ready to appoint Sonia as PM in 2004

PTI, New Delhi

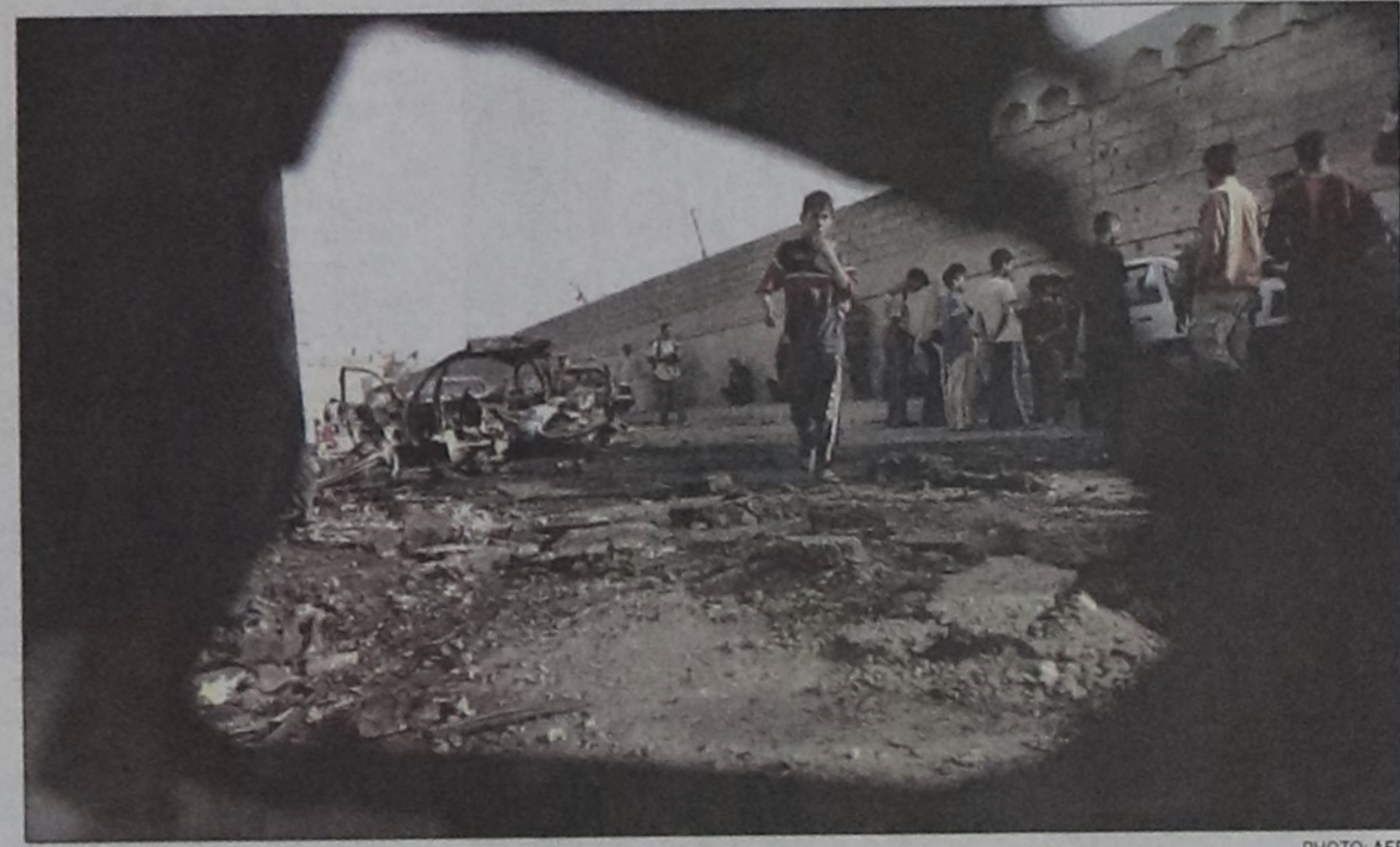
Ending speculation that has persisted for four years as to whether President A P J Abdul Kalam was unwilling to appoint Sonia Gandhi as Prime Minister, it is now being disclosed that he had a letter of appointment ready for her.

Giving first insights to what transpired at Rashtrapati Bhavan during that period, P M Nair, Secretary to Kalam, says the President was advised to sign the letter, shake hands with Gandhi and congratulate her. Kalam was also told to ask Gandhi when she would like to be sworn in.

Four days after the general election threw up a mixed result with no single party having a majority, the President asked "What do we do".



Maria Ferrino of Brasília, Brazil, holds up a photo of Pope Benedict XVI while waiting for his arrival at a rally on Saturday at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York.



Iraqi children play yesterday between wrecked cars in Baghdad's Sadr City struck by US missiles during fierce fighting with al-Mahdi army militia overnight. Loudspeakers at mosques in Baghdad's Shia bastion Sadr City blared out a call to arms soon after radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr warned of a new uprising of his militiamen.

Arab states should boost support for Iraq: Rice

AP, Shannon

Iraq's Arab neighbours have few remaining excuses for withholding diplomatic and economic support for the US-backed government in Baghdad, now that daily life in Iraq is less deadly and the government has demonstrated resolve against militias and outliers, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Saturday.

"At some point the Arab states need to take yes for an answer," Rice

said en route to diplomatic meetings on Iraq's future. The role of Iran in Iraq and the wider Mideast is a subplot for the sessions in Bahrain and Kuwait, but Rice has ruled out holding a formal meeting with her Iranian counterpart.

The United States has tried for years to rally Arab support for a post-Saddam Iraq, both for the boost that regional acceptance would give the fledgling democracy and as a bulwark against spreading Iranian influence in Iraq and else-

where.

Arab diplomats say they want to foster long-term stability in Iraq five years after a US-led invasion many of them opposed, but see little sign that the Shia-led Iraq government will fully include Sunni Muslims in political power and oil wealth. Arab states also privately note that with less than 10 months left in office, the Bush administration has declining leverage both over Arab states and the Baghdad government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Hillary, Obama press for advantage ahead of pivotal primary

AP, West Chester

Barack Obama cast his Democratic presidential rival Saturday as a game-player who uses "slash and burn" tactics and will say whatever people want to hear, a sharp jab at her character in the final chapter of the pivotal Pennsylvania primary campaign.

Hillary Rodham Clinton implored voters to look beyond "whoop dee do" speechmaking and take a hard look at who's got the know-how to deal with the nation's burdens.

"I want everyone thinking," she declared, as if to suggest those backing Obama are not. Her implication was clear: She's substance, he's flash. Altogether, the campaign for

Tuesday's contest was dissolving into the sort of acrimony that makes party leaders long for the finish line, before the nominee is damaged in the fall. Obama's criticisms were direct, while Clinton's were oblique but unmistakable. At various times in the protracted contest, it's been the other way around.

He pressed the case against her at stop after stop, blunt words set against the bucolic backdrop of his train ride through the Pennsylvania countryside. For her part, Hillary Clinton struck back at a new Obama ad that criticises her health care plan, telling a rally in York: "Instead of attacking the problem, he chooses to attack my solution."

No letup on N Korean denuclearisation

THE KOREA HERALD/ ANN, Camp David

The leaders of South Korea and the United States pledged a full verification of North Korea's nuclear programmes, dismissing claims that Washington is scaling back its demand for Pyongyang's declaration of an atomic arsenal and alleged proliferation activities.

Presidents Lee Myung-bak and George W. Bush said after a two-day meeting in the presidential retreat of Camp David that they still expect the North to fully declare its nuclear weapons programmes.

"Thanks to the six-party framework, North Korea has begun disabling the plutonium production facilities at Yongbyon," Bush said during their joint news conference. "Now North Korea must fulfil its other obligations: Provide a full declaration of its nuclear programmes and proliferation activities in a verifiable way."

Bush said he will not accept any deal that doesn't advance the interests of the region.

Bush also urged patience say-

ing. "We're going to make a judgment as to whether North Korea has met its obligations to account for its nuclear programme and activities as well as meet its obligations to disable its reactor." Lee stressed that there will be no letup for Pyongyang to fulfill its obligations at the six-party talks to declare its nuclear programmes.

"I believe if North Korea's declaration is not satisfactory or if the verification is not satisfactory, we could probably have a temporary achievement, but in the long term that will cause a lot more serious problems," Lee said.

"The United States is not dealing with North Korea alone," he said. "There are other parties to these six-party talks and they must all agree to this declaration."

Nuclear talks have been stalled as the communist North failed to meet a deadline for declaring its nuclear programmes at the end of last December, amid disputes over its suspected uranium enrichment programme and role in providing nuclear technology to Syria.

Dog crosses desert, mountains and somehow gets back home

AP, ELY, Nevada

A dog that ran off during a road-trip rest stop apparently made her way nearly 80 miles across Nevada's high desert and two mountain ranges to return home a week later.

Moon, a Siberian husky, was reunited April 14 with owner Doug Dashiell, who had last seen her April 6 near Railroad Valley, about 77 miles from his home in Ely.

Moon, who is nearly 2 years old, was no worse for the wear, with the exception of stinking like a skunk that apparently sprayed her somewhere along the journey.

"I've had trouble with her running away before. She's always come home," Dashiell said. But he didn't expect her to show up after a week had passed.

Scores of Zimbabwe opposition supporters detained in Zimbabwe

AFP, Harare

Zimbabwe police are detaining at least 75 opposition supporters for offences linked to a strike last week to force the release of results from last month's presidential poll, their lawyer said Sunday.

"There are at least 75 detained as we speak," Alec Muchadehama, the lawyer for the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), told AFP.

"They were arrested since Tuesday. Some were literally abducted from their homes. Police were literally hunting down anyone who has connections with the MDC..." he said.

The police were not available for comments on Sunday.

They, however, said on Friday that they had arrested 78 MDC youths.

Muchadehama said at a point there were at least 120 MDC supporters and family members detained in connection with the strike but some were released after paying fines.

"The ones who remain in custody are being charged with attempted murder, disorderly conduct and malicious damage to property. It is an assortment of charges literally being thrown at them," he said.



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Md. Rasul Amin
General Manager

Southeast University BBA Admission Test Result

The following students appearing in the BBA Admission Test on 17 April 2008, have qualified for admission in the Summer-2008 Semester. Roll numbers given below are in order of merit:

845, 821, 639, 549, 823, 757, 510, 720, 633, 765, 814, 509, 818, 764, 802, 538, 561, 836, 518, 544, 829, 524, 573, 660, 666, 721, 750, 778, 521, 716, 806, 833, 536, 597, 728, 754, 528, 646, 768, 838, 545, 582, 725, 748, 834, 841, 502, 678, 723, 747, 527, 576, 645, 710, 711, 730, 734, 746, 753, 827, 504, 520, 535, 588, 689, 792, 825, 843, 501, 570, 571, 696, 698, 724, 752, 777, 781, 785, 805, 503, 630, 634, 643, 668, 705, 776, 815, 541, 542, 556, 638, 654, 672, 677, 700, 735, 742, 763, 800, 839, 844, 505, 532, 622, 625, 714, 717, 759, 789, 790, 804, 529, 530, 543, 593, 613, 620, 642, 647, 755, 784, 850, 507, 587, 591, 606, 621, 627, 699, 727, 729, 743, 762, 771, 772, 512, 531, 564, 594, 680, 681, 813, 832, 852, 629, 653, 662, 674, 830, 514, 547, 598, 631, 673, 682, 701, 715, 737, 751, 767, 840, 517, 525, 565, 567, 575, 580, 586, 640, 661, 671, 693, 760, 782, 853, 522, 533, 539, 552, 563, 602, 605, 612, 619, 626, 650, 708, 733, 779, 817, 824, 568, 572, 669, 684, 697, 702, 706, 713, 736, 769, 783, 812, 822, 523, 534, 551, 581, 589, 592, 607, 649, 655, 722, 758, 770, 799, 808, 848, 610, 611, 615, 651, 766, 795, 826, 648, 679, 688, 519, 550, 560, 636, 657, 691, 761, 780, 807, 847, 851, 537, 559, 618, 675, 712, 749, 775, 828, 849, 506, 513, 624, 685, 687, 726, 732, 756, 820, 835, 569, 603, 663, 676, 695, 719, 773, 842, 604, 608, 637, 683, 694, 744, 787, 791, 819. Selected students are requested to complete their admission formalities by 30 April, 2008.

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