

# Bombs kill five Israelis, injure seven students

By Associated Press  
INTERNATIONAL

JERUSALEM — In back-to-back attacks early today, a Palestinian man opened fire on a crowded Tel Aviv nightclub, a suicide bomber blew himself up on an Israeli bus and gunmen ambushed Israeli motorists in the West Bank. In all, five Israelis and two Palestinian assailants were killed.

Also today, a bomb went off in the yard of an Arab high school, lightly injuring seven students and a teacher. Israeli media said a previously unknown group, apparently consisting of Jewish extremists, claimed responsibility.

And in the Gaza Strip, 15 Palestinians were wounded, three of them seriously, when an explosion — apparently caused by a bomb that went off prematurely — rocked a building under construction in a residential area of Gaza City.

The cycle of attacks and reprisals was one of the bloodiest in 17 months of fighting. Palestinian militants vowed to avenge recent Israeli military strikes, including shelling that killed five Palestinian youngsters Monday. Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder of the Islamic militant Hamas group, said attacks would continue "until the full liberation of Palestine."

Ahmed Abdel Rahman, an aide to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, said the Israeli strikes were a "very serious escalation" and called for U.N. intervention.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, meanwhile, told reporters the Palestinians would have to be hit hard to understand that Israel will not succumb to violence.

ZOW, Afghanistan — Flood waters from a clogged river gradually were submerging this northern Afghan village after a powerful earthquake sheered off a steep cliff, burying at least 100 people.

Water was rising fast behind the rubble dam in the valley, and villagers hacked at half-submerged houses with farm tools today, trying to salvage their belongings and timber beams.

About 300 homes either have been submerged or have collapsed because their bases eroded, village elder Abdul Qodoos said. Unless the dam was breached and the water allowed to flow, all 1,000 or so buildings in the village could be underwater in about two days, he said.

The huge chunk of cliff collapsed during Sunday's earthquake, burying at least 100 mud-brick houses, a mosque and a cafe under tons of rock.

## NATIONAL

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A fresh pair of spacewalkers floated outside today and attached a second powerful 25-foot solar wing to the Hubble Space Telescope.

It was the second of five excursions planned this week by space shuttle Columbia's telescope-repair team.

"Beautiful day for a spacewalk," astronaut James Newman observed as he went out. "Incredible," said Michael Massimino, a first-time spacewalker.

The men quickly stepped through their chores 360 miles up, removing and stowing the old solar wing, and unpacking and lifting the new one into position. It mimicked Monday's work by two other astronauts, who installed the first new solar wing on Hubble.

Massimino tightly gripped the new 640-pound wing and held it steady as he rode the shuttle robot arm to the attach point on the telescope. "Lean back

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a little bit," Newman told him. "Take a deep breath and relax. You did a great job."

Less than an hour later, Massimino unfolded the hinged wing like the cover of a storybook, opening it at a cautious rate of one degree a second. "Ready? Here it comes," he said.

With that completed, the spacewalkers turned to their next big task: replacing an unreliable steering mechanism.

NEW YORK — In his first public comments on ABC's effort to replace his program with David Letterman, "Nightline" host Ted Koppel said he hopes to stay with the network but criticized an ABC executive for questioning the show's relevance.

"Nightline" ... ought to have a place in television's expanding universe, and I am confident that it will. I continue to hope that will be at ABC, but that decision is beyond our control," Koppel wrote in a New York Times Op-Ed piece published today.

ABC and its corporate parent, the Walt Disney Co., have had discussions with Letterman, CBS' popular late-night host, about switching networks and taking Koppel's 11:35 p.m. time slot. Badly hurt by the almost complete failure of its prime-time entertainment schedule this year, ABC is looking to make money any way it can, and some think an entertainment show appealing to young people would help.

In his Times piece, Koppel called it "perfectly understandable that Disney would jump at the opportunity to increase earnings by replacing 'Nightline' with the more profitable David Letterman show.

"For many years now I, along with my employers, have benefited hugely from 'Nightline's commercial success," he wrote. "I understand the nature of the bargain that I made."

But, he added, "I have to confess to a slightly perverse satisfaction at the outpouring of warmth and generous support that my 'Nightline' colleagues and I have received" since word of the possible switch became public.

LaFAYETTE, Ga. — A tiny lake where a skull and a torso were discovered last month is the newest focus in the search for corpses at a crematory whose operator allegedly discarded hundreds of bodies.

Authorities began draining the three-acre lake Monday, with pipes drawing enough water out to drop its level by 6 inches. Officials estimate the lake outside Tri-State Crematory is 8 feet deep at its deepest point.

Authorities said they will probably spend more than a week dredging the dry lake bed for human remains.

So far, 339 rotting corpses have been discovered dumped in pits, left in sheds and stacked in vaults at the facility.

Crematory operator Ray Brent Marsh is in jail on 118 charges of theft by deception for allegedly taking payment to cremate the dead and instead passing off cement powder and dirt as ashes.

Investigators have said Marsh told them the incinerator was broken.

But on Monday, authorities disclosed for the first time that the incinerator is working properly. State emergency agency spokeswoman Lisa Ray said the machine's manufacturer successfully tested it last week.

In another disclosure, prosecutor

Buzz Franklin said investigators had discovered photos of decomposed bodies on Marsh's office computer. Franklin did not say why Marsh was storing the photos and declined to elaborate.

## WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — Arming pilots will not be one of the steps taken by the Transportation Department to upgrade airline security, Secretary Norman Y. Mineta said.

"I don't feel we should have lethal weapons in the cockpit," Mineta said Monday after announcing the new Transportation Security Administration would begin recruiting, hiring and training more than 30,000 employees to screen passengers and luggage at airports.

Mineta, who had generally been cool to the idea of arming pilots, did not rule out allowing non-lethal weapons, such as stun guns. That decision is up to the new undersecretary for transportation security, John Magaw, who gave no indication Monday when he would rule.

Besides Mineta, the nation's homeland security director, Tom Ridge, said he opposed arming pilots.

"I don't think we want to equip our pilots with firearms," Ridge told USA Today. "That doesn't make a lot of sense to me." Ridge's opposition to arming pilots was confirmed by his office Monday.

Mineta noted that cockpit doors have been strengthened since Sept. 11 so hijackers cannot break through. As a result, pilots do not need guns, he said.

"To me, cockpit security is very important," Mineta said. "The cockpit has to be secured."

Many pilots disagree. They say pilots need guns to stop hijackers from breaking into the cockpit and commandeering an airplane, as was done on Sept. 11.

WASHINGTON — A phenomenon that may be nuclear fusion was created in a laboratory bottle by researchers who zapped tiny dissolved bubbles with sound waves, which triggered a flash of light and a brief surge of super-high temperatures.

Using a device described as the size of three stacked coffee cups, researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute say the phenomenon was like nuclear fusion in a bottle. Some scientists disputed the claim.

The study appears this week in the journal Science and was released for publication by the journal on Monday.

Researchers at Oak Ridge said the experiment, which they called "bubble

fusion," created two signs of nuclear fusion: a burst of subatomic particles called neutrons and the production of tritium, an isotope of hydrogen.

In an unusual additional review, however, two other Oak Ridge researchers said the experiment's results were not accurate. This additional re-

port was posted on the Internet by Science, along with a response by the original authors.

Harnessing nuclear fusion, the power that lights the sun, has long been a goal of researchers who view it as the ultimate energy source. Most researchers have concentrated on huge ma-

chines that mimic the sun by compressing hydrogen plasma and heating it to millions of degrees to force atoms to fuse. This reaction gives off heat and an isotope of helium, along with some subatomic particles.

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will pay tribute to students of the National Honor Society - Goodland High School chapter on Thursday, March 7, 2002. Read all about it in Thursday's Goodland Daily News.