

Top Stories

Suicide bomber strikes Israeli coastal town

Police have confirmed that a suicide bomber is responsible for a blast that has killed 5 people and left at least 20 injured. The attack happened at an open market place in the small Israeli coastal town of Hadera.

Rosa Parks dies at 92

Rosa Parks, the African American woman who served as a catalyst to the American Civil Rights Movement by refusing to yield her bus seat to a white man, died of natural causes on Monday night at her home in Detroit, Michigan. She was 92.

Featured story

Anniversary of Tak Bai incident marked with lawsuits

Marking the anniversary of an incident at Tak Bai police station which led to 78 people suffocating while being detained by the Thai army, relatives of the deceased plan to file a lawsuit with the Pattani provincial court seeking 80 million baht in compensation.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad referred to Israel as a, "disgraceful blot" that should be "wiped off the map" during a speech at the "World without Zionism" conference. He further warned that "Anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury," an indirect threat to Pakistan, Bahrain, and Qatar. His

Wikipedia Current Events

comments came just before three people were killed and several others wounded after a bomb exploded in a southern Tel Aviv building. Israeli police officials estimate the blast was caused by an explosive device and was criminally motivated.

- At least 5 people are killed and dozens injured in a market place bombing of a market place at the historical Israeli town of Hadera. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for the attack.

- Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to be relocated from the south island of Okinawa to the main island, affecting thousands of U.S. Marines. Protests from residents, environmental groups, and local businessmen and politicians on both sides are likely to ensue. The move is partially due to the rape of a local Okinawa girl, a helicopter crash into a university campus in Ginowan last year, and racial tensions between locals and soldiers.

- The British Community Reference Laboratory for Avian influenza in Weybridge has confirmed that swans found near Orahovica, Croatia, were infected by the H5N1 type of the virus.

- The "Al-Tawhid trial" in Düsseldorf, Germany results in sentences between five and eight years against the defendants, four Palestinian men charged with plotting attacks on Jewish installations in Germany on the orders of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The British Government, after several days of debating, confirms its plans to ban smoking in public places in England with the exemption of pubs and clubs not serving food.

- A Wal-Mart internal memorandum determines that benefits costs are unsustainable, driven by an aging work force. A recommendation is to shift to more part time associates to lower health care enrollment.

Suicide bomber strikes Israeli coastal town

Israeli Police confirmed that a suicide bomber is responsible for a blast that killed 5 people and left many in serious condition. The Wednesday afternoon attack occurred in an open market place in the small Israeli coastal town of Hadera, a location which has been a frequent target of attacks in a 5-year-old Palestinian uprising.

The market place was busy with shoppers in the lead up to a Jewish Holiday, with many stocking up for the weekend.

CNN reporters on the scene say 20 have been injured, 6 are critical, 7 are serious, and the death toll is expected to rise. Television pictures are showing a scene of absolute devastation and confusion.

Islamic Jihad of Gaza has claimed responsibility; in response to an Israeli killing of Islamic Jihad commander Luay Saadi in the

West Bank on Monday, which prompted armed groups to swear revenge. In an interview to Ynet news, Abu-Muaman the Organization's leader stated "This attack is merely a preliminary response by the Palestinian rebellious groups, and harder retaliation is on its way,"

Saeb Erekat, a Palestinian negotiator, denounced the attack and said that he hoped the peace between the two sides would not be damaged.

Dr Ra'anan Gissin spokesperson for the Israeli PM, speaking on CNN is refuting claims that this is a revenge attack, claiming "that this is just another terrorist attack in the Palestinians' plan to rid the Middle East of Israeli".

The recently elected Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinedschad called for Israel to be "eradicated from the map" and condoned the recent wave of Palestinian attacks in his speech today during a conference in Teheran titled "The World without Zionism".

France protests treatment of government minister by US authorities; US government admits mistake

The French government has protested officially to the US government for some border control that it deemed "a little excessive" with respect to a French minister travelling to the US on October 13 on a diplomatic passport and with a diplomatic visa.

French spokesman, Jean-Baptiste Mattei said; "We protested to the U.S. authorities and have received clarifications via the State Department, which recognized that a professional fault had been made by the officer. He has been

reprimanded and will go through a retraining program." The spokesman declined to give details of the incident, but said the action of the officer had been "completely out of place with respect to a government minister."

The official, Azouz Begag, was born in Lyon, France of Algerian lineage. A researcher in socioeconomics at CNRS, and a writer, he is now delegate minister in charge of the promotion of equality. His functions include most notably the fight against racism.

Neither governments provided specific details about the incident, at first. However, further details have emerged. According to Le Monde, Mr Begag was told by an officer that his diplomatic visa was not valid for giving conferences, then was taken to an interrogation room. Mr Begag was due to be met at the airport by American officials and French consular officers, but due to miscommunication they could not find him in the airport when he arrived.

It is not the first time that Mr Begag has had to confront suspicions of his identity. He mentioned an event in a French bank where, when entering with a woolen cap, he was taken for a thief and the police was called in. He also mentions the difficulties which, he says, people of Arabic origin have when entering the United States since the September 11, 2001 bombings. He has a personal experience of such difficulties in 2003, when, as a writer, he had problems entering the US.

Today in History

1795 - The United States and Spain signed the Treaty of Friendship, Limits, and Navigation, which established the boundaries between Spanish colonies and the U.S.

1904 - The first section of the New York City Subway opened, running between City Hall and the Bronx.

1958 - General Ayub Khan deposed Iskander Mirza in a bloodless coup d'état to become the second President of Pakistan, less than 3 weeks after Mirza had appointed him the enforcer of martial law.

1961 - NASA launched the first Saturn I rocket (pictured).
1998 - Gerhard Schröder became the Chancellor of Germany
October 27 is Independence Day in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (1979) and Turkmenistan (1991)

Quote of the Day

"I know that it will hurt, I know that it will break your heart, the way things are, and the way they've been. Don't spread the discontent, don't spread the lies, don't make the same mistakes with your own life." ~ Natalie Merchant

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+1-866-653-4265
(toll-free in the U.S.)
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543 Howard Street, 5th Floor

San Francisco, California, 94105, USA

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