

At least 40 Iraqis killed in double car bomb attack in Baghdad

At least 40 people were killed when two car bombs exploded within hours of each other in Baghdad yesterday. In the first attack, outside an Iraqi army recruitment centre, 35 people were killed. According to reports, a car exploded after it was driven into a crowd of 100 people queuing to volunteer in the centre. It was packed with artillery shells and the blast was heard across the

city. Later a second car bomb exploded in the city killing six people, according to Radio Baghdad.

The first blast has left 138 people injured, many seriously, and the death toll is expected to rise. "All the victims who came here are poor people trying to earn a living. They wanted to volunteer to support their families," says Yas Khudair, a member of the Iraqi security forces, talk-

ing to the BBC. "There were no Americans nearby when the explosion took place," he adds.

The army recruitment centre forms part of the city's heavily-fortified Muthenna airport, which also houses a military base for US troops. The same centre was hit by a car bomb five months ago which killed 47 people. It appears that insurgents are attacking more military bases

linked to the new Iraqi security forces in the build up to the transfer of power on 30 June. On 1 June bomb kills 11 Iraqis and on 8 June another car bomb in the city of Mosul killed nine Iraqis and injured 25.

UK Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the latest atrocity would not affect the handover of power. "We and the Iraqi people will not be deterred," he says to the BBC.

CRIME

Dutroux found guilty

Marc Dutroux has been found guilty of leading a child molestation A jury in Belgium convicted Marc Dutroux for having raped and murdering children in a case which has horrified the public for years. Dutroux, a 47-year-old ex-convict, had been accused of abducting six girls, some of whom were later tortured and murdered in 1995-96. He admitted to having kidnapped and sexually abusing two girls, but denied killing two others. Co-defendants in the case include Dutroux's ex-wife and two others. Sentencing has not yet been carried out, but Dutroux faces life in prison and the others could receive 20 and 30 year prison terms.

AMERICA

Clinton regrets Lewinsky affair

Former US president Bill Clinton has admitted regret for his affair with Monica Lewinsky, which was "a terrible moral error" in his view. "I did something for the worst possible reason: just because I could," he said during an interview with CBS television. "I think that's just about the most morally indefensible reason anybody could have for doing anything." He also said that he had never considered resigning over the affair with the White House intern, which led to impeachment proceedings and almost cost him his presidency before he was found not guilty in 1999. "I didn't quit, I never thought of resigning and I stood up and beat it back." He characterised the impeachment process as an illegitimate abuse of power.

CHINA

Pandaporn

A four-year old panda has become pregnant after having been shown videos of other pandas mating. Hua Mei was born in the US but is now living in China, was shown the videos because her caretakers believed she lacked knowledge of mating due to having lived in captivity. Pandas are known for rarely mating in captivity. In the wild they are an endangered species. A recent survey said there were about 1,600 pandas living in the wild. There are 161 currently living in captivity.

TECHNOLOGY

Mobile phone worm detected

The first worm written to infect mobile phones has been detected, according to a security firm in Helsinki, Finland. The worm, which has been called Cabir, infects phones using Bluetooth technology made by Symbian running on Nokia's Series 60 smartphone platform. The worm does not damage equipment but experts are worried that subsequent mobile phone worms with harmful effects may be next. The Cabir worm arrives in phone message inboxes with the file name "caribe.sos" and then places "Caribe" on the phone's screen. The worm becomes active whenever the phone is switched on. F-Secure has put a security patch on its website to detect delete the worm.



Salvador Dalí, Girl at the Window, 1925 (detail), © Salvador Dalí, Gala-Salvador Dalí Foundation/VEGAP, Girona, 2004

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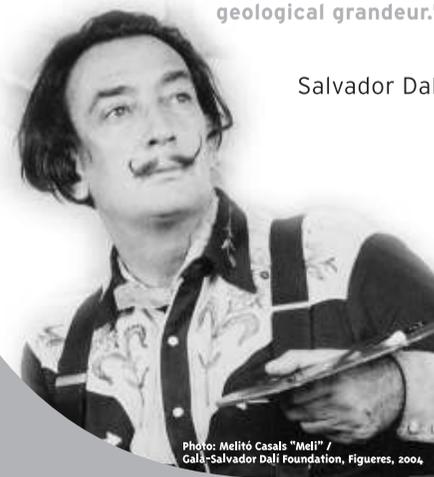


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