

**Arafat**

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al-Shamaliya. A soldier and two Hamas militants were killed, the army said.

One of the militants was identified as Taher Nasser, 28, a leader of the Hamas military wing in the Nablus area. Israel says he was wanted for direct responsibility in attacks on Israelis, including the Dec. 12 ambush of a bus that killed 10 Israelis.

Less than a mile from Arafat's compound, masked gunmen pulled three suspected Palestinian informers for Israel out of their cars in a downtown square and shot them with automatic rifles. One man later died. The gunmen said they were from Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a militia linked to Arafat's Fatah movement.

Israeli troops have left most Palestinian cities in the West Bank after an incursion lasting more

than three weeks. In their wake, however, Palestinian Authority government ministries are in shambles, Palestinians said.

Israeli troops ripped out computer hard drives, seized documents and trashed offices not related to Israel's search for militants, Palestinians said.

Israelis took the medical records of thousands of patients from the Health Ministry, the student database from a computer at the Education Ministry and the car registration list from the Transportation Ministry, Palestinians said.

The troops also blew up a safe in the Education Ministry and took \$8,000 from it, said Salah Soubani, director of information at the Education Ministry.

"Our ministries were nearly completely destroyed," said Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo. "This was not done as a mistake in one or two places. This was done in every single ministry."

Raanan Gissin, a spokesperson for Israeli

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said the Education Ministry "is not necessarily where the terrorists will be found, but it was a major source of incitement."

"We had to gather this material for the purpose of exposing the extent and the virulent nature of the incitement," which encouraged suicide bombers, Gissin said.

The American envoy, State Department official William Burns, met Arafat for about two hours at the Palestinian leader's compound, where about 300 aides, security guards and foreign volunteers have been confined to several rooms by Israeli troops since March 29.

As Burns met Arafat, an Israeli bulldozer destroyed several cars parked outside and began building a rampart, said Netta Golan, an Israeli-Canadian activist in the compound. Burns came out to see what was going on before resuming the meeting, she said.

**Economic**

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Indicators of positive effects include the number of students who graduate from the engineering and veterinary schools and receive high quality jobs or rank high graduate test scores.

The study ranks Georgia Tech first in economic impact but did not provide numerical ranks for 11 other universities on the list, including Texas A&M. The study aimed to rank the top universities so other institutions could compare their impact and enhance their efforts, Perry said.

A&M ranks in the top 15 universities nationwide for research with a budget exceeding \$1 billion and the total impact of Texas A&M's research and service in the Bryan-College Station area exceeding \$2 billion for the first time.

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