



Kim Kardashian slams people criticising her for working with Donald Trump

14

CELEBS

WORLD 5 Egyptians vote in second day of referendum to extend Sisi rule

His Majesty orders reinstatement of citizenship

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday issued an order, reinstating the citizenship of 551 convicts, whose nationality had been revoked as per court rulings.

The royal order is in line with the provisions of Article 24 bis of Law 58/2006 with respect to the Protection of the Community against Terrorist Acts stipulating that rulings related to citizenship withdrawal will not be effective unless they are approved by HM the King.

HM King Hamad had already given directives to the competent authorities to evaluate the situation of convicts whose citizenship are revoked before the final implementation of the court judgement.

The study and evaluation of the situation of convicts should be based on criteria pertaining to the seriousness, impact and consequences of the crimes, as well as on the danger the convict may pose on national security.

HM King Hamad requested the Interior Minister to study the citizenship revocation rulings, and to prepare a list of reinstatement beneficiaries.

\$3bn support to Sudan

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have granted Sudan \$3 billion in support, Saudi Press Agency said yesterday.

See page 5



02 'Cancer cure research progressing at fast pace'

03 623 rice bags confiscated after trademark violations

04 Schoolboy, 10, found not guilty of attacking injuring classmate



6 084010 110021 >



Crime scene officials inspect the site of a bomb blast inside a church in Negombo.

● The first blasts took place at three churches celebrating Easter Mass on Sunday morning.

● Access to major social media platforms and messaging services were suspended temporarily by the Sri Lankan government.

Colombo

Seven suspects were arrested in connection with the Easter Sunday bomb attacks on eight churches and hotels in Sri Lanka that left more than 200 dead and hundreds more injured, the country's defence minister said 10 years after the end of a civil war in which

215

were killed and 450 people were injured in the blasts, which rocked the nation.

bomb blasts in the South Asian nation were common.

The string of assaults rocked the capital of Colombo and Batticaloa in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province.

Anil Jayasinghe, director general of hospitals at the Ministry of Health, said there were foreigners among the dead, while nearly 500 wounded people had been taken to various hospitals for treatment.

A police official said that 35 foreigners were among the dead and hospital sources said British, Dutch and American citizens had been killed, with Britons and Japanese also injured.

A Portuguese man, two Chinese citizens and an Indian citizen were among the dead, news agencies in their countries reported.

Three police were killed during the raids on a house in Colombo on Sunday afternoon after the government announced it would impose a country-wide curfew and suspended social media.

By the early evening the death toll had reached 215, with 450 people injured.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe called a National Security Council meeting at his home. An island-wide curfew was announced.

"I strongly condemn the cow-

ardly attacks on our people today. I call upon all Sri Lankans during this tragic time to remain united and strong," the prime minister said in a Twitter post.

"Please avoid propagating unverified reports and specula-



A relative of a victim of the explosion reacts at the police mortuary in Colombo.

Easter Sunday horror

Sri Lanka in a state of shock after hundreds killed in bomb attacks

tion. The government is taking immediate steps to contain this situation."

As of Sunday evening local time, no group had claimed responsibility for the attacks, which targeted a country that fought a decades-long war with Tamil separatists until 2009, but where there has been a lull in violence for at least a decade.

Access to major social media platforms and messaging services were suspended temporarily by the Sri Lankan government.

Police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekera said the seventh blast hit a hotel in the southern Colombo suburb of Dehiwala, killing two people.

Brahma Chellaney, a professor

of strategic studies at the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi, told the New York Times that radical groups had been quietly growing in influence for years in Sri Lanka, as well as in the nearby Indian state of Tamil Nadu and the island nation of the Maldives.

Chellaney said it was unexpected that the attackers had the confidence to raid hotels in Sri Lanka, saying that such establishments had tried to provide tight security during the island's civil war and ever since.

The first blasts took place at three churches celebrating Easter Mass on Sunday morning: St Anthony's Shrine in Colombo, St Sebastian's Church in Negombo, 20 miles north of the capital, and Zion Church in the eastern city of Batticaloa.

In one case a suicide bomber waited patiently in a queue for the Easter Sunday breakfast buffet at Sri Lanka's Cinnamon Grand hotel before setting off explosives strapped to his back.

Carrying a plate, the man, who had registered at the hotel the night before as Mohamed Aziz Mohamed, was just about to be served when he set off his devastating strike in the packed restaurant, a manager at the Sri Lankan hotel said.

See pages 6-7

SECURITY ALERT

Daesh claim failed terrorist attack on Saudi interior ministry building

Riyadh

Four heavily armed attackers were killed in a failed terrorist attack claimed by Daesh on an Interior Ministry building in Zulfi, north of Riyadh on Sunday.

The attack happened at 9:49 a.m. on Sunday morning at Zulfi's General Directorate of Investigations Center, 260 kilometers northwest of Riyadh, Al Arabiya TV reported.

Initial reports said that four masked and heavily armed attackers, one aged about 40 and three others aged between 18 to 20 years old, were killed by security forces as they tried to



Security personnel at the site of attack.

crash their car through the main entrance of the compound.

Three of the attackers died during the exchange of fire with

the security forces. The fourth man managed to escape and hid in a neighbourhood nearby until he was killed by pursuing security officers.

The attackers were carrying pistols, machine guns and Molotov cocktails, officials said.

The gunmen were all reported to be Saudi nationals, although the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted officials as saying their identities were still being determined.

Daesh said in a statement by its propaganda arm Amaq that the attack on the base had been carried out by a group of its militants.

A spokesperson from the Kingdom's Presidency of State Security said that three government security personnel suffered minor injuries during the exchange of fire with the assailants.

"The security authorities in the Presidency managed to thwart the terrorist act targeting the center of investigations ... and dealt with them as required by the situation," the spokesman was quoted by SPA as saying.

Special security personnel said they were still assessing the explosive materials that the terrorists had in their possession, the spokesperson said.