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## ISRAELIS HALT SUICIDE BOMBER

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Israel's heightened security measures paid off yesterday when police captured a would-be suicide bomber and prevented a catastrophe.

But suspicious soldiers manning military checkpoints fatally shot a mother of two - and Palestinians claim they delayed a woman in labor whose baby boy later died after she gave birth in a car.

As the death toll started mounting anew this week with the U.S.-mediated ceasefire all but over, Secretary of State Powell made a special plea for peace.

"This is a time for all sides to do everything they can to get the violence down," he said, with his visiting British counterpart at his side. But Powell's words appeared to fall on deaf ears.

In the northern town of **Afula**, three plainclothes Israeli detectives spotted a Palestinian carrying a bag and acting suspiciously, police spokesman Yaron Zamir said.

When they told him to stop, the man took off running. After a brief chase, they tackled the suspect as he tried - and failed - to detonate the **pipe bomb** in his bag.

"A great disaster was prevented," said Zamir, who did not identify the 30-year-old Palestinian prisoner.

"This is the first time that police forces managed to overpower a suicide bomber with an explosive and detonator in his hands," he noted.

In the West Bank, Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint near the town of Bardala stopped a Palestinian car carrying Firial Idries to a clinic down the road in Tubas.

The Palestinians claim Idries was in labor with her third child and say her husband pleaded with the soldiers for an hour to let them drive on. They said the soldiers would not budge and Idries gave birth to a boy in the car.

Dr. Abdel Hassan Daraghmeh, who runs the Tubas clinic, said the soldiers finally let them go after Idries gave birth. But the boy's airway was clogged and he died en route.

Israeli Army sources dispute that account. They say Idries' child was already dead when she arrived at the checkpoint and that they waved the car through.

Elsewhere in the West Bank, Rasmia Jabarin, 38, was shot dead after the driver of a van carrying her and several other Palestinian workers to their jobs evaded an Israeli checkpoint. The van headed down a dirt road and an Israeli Army jeep gave chase and signaled for it to stop, said Mayasar Batat, one of the passengers. When

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the driver did not stop, a soldier fired a single shot at the van that hit Jabarin in the head.

Batat said the driver did not even realize the van was being chased. "We have been going this way every day," he said.

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