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## U.S. diplomat, three others killed in Karachi blasts

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### Special Report: Karachi blasts



An American diplomat was killed in deadly bomb blasts in the Pakistani port city of Karachi on Thursday, which also killed three other persons, including a Pakistani paramilitary soldier. (Photo: Xinhua)

but a vehicle of paramilitary Rangers hit the car.

ISLAMABAD, March 2 (Xinhuanet) -- An American diplomat was killed in deadly bomb blasts in the Pakistani port city of Karachi on Thursday, which also killed three other persons, including a Pakistani paramilitary soldier.

U.S. President George W. Bush, currently in New Delhi, confirmed the death of the American citizen in the blast near the American consulate.

Bush said that an American Foreign Service officer was killed in the bombing.

"We have lost at least one U.S. citizen in the bombing, a Foreign Service officer, and I send our country's deepest condolences to that person's loved ones and family," he said.

TV Channels reported that the security officials had now confirmed that it was a suicide attack and that a suicide car bomber planned to ram into the wall of the U.S. consulate

Security sources said that the suicide bomber wanted to target the U.S. consulate building.

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The blast took place one day before Bush's visit to Pakistan.

Pakistani Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said that all arrangements for the Bush visit were complete and that the visit would go ahead in accordance with its schedule.

Sindh Governor Dr Ishrat ul Ebad described the blast as an attempt to create law and order problems ahead of Bush's visit.

Rauf Siddiqi, home minister of Sindh Province of which Karachi is the capital, confirmed three deaths in the blast but reports put the death toll at four.

Director General of Investigation Manzur Mughal told reporters that probe is underway to know whether the blast was a suicide attack.

Reports suggest that the blast occurred in the parking lot of the five-star Marriot Hotel, destroying some 25 cars in the park and nearby areas.

The venue of the blast is part of the high security zone because of several important government and private buildings in the area, including the American consulate, and governor and chief minister houses.

Eye witnesses said that the first blast happened in a car around 9:15 a.m. followed by another blast, but reports said it was a blast in a fuel tanker. Enditem

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