

Girls high school basketball: Chatham defeats Jefferson — In Sports, Page 67

The Star-Ledger

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Morris Edition

TODAY'S FORECAST: Cloudy and windy, with a rain or snow shower.

at 7 A.M. 34°

at 2 P.M. 42°

at 7 P.M. 37°

DETAILS, PAGE 49

Friday, March 12, 2004

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THE NEWSPAPER FOR NEW JERSEY

Terror and tears in Madrid

10 bombs kill scores of train commuters

Government suspects Basques or al Qaeda

3/11 becomes a day of infamy in Spain



PEDRO ARMESTRE/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
A woman leaves the Madrid hospital where her relative had been taken after the explosions.

To a rescuer, 'it looked like a platform of death'

BY MAR ROMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADRID, Spain — Anibal Altamirano said fellow commuters around him were too stunned to move when the first bomb blew apart a train during rush hour yesterday morning.

When a second blast hit the busy Atocha station a few minutes later, everyone fled in panic.

"People dropped everything — bags and shoes — and ran, many trampling on others," said Altamirano, a 26-year-old Ecuadorean who was at the station a few blocks south of Madrid's famed Prado National Museum.

"People didn't know which way to go," he said. "Some even went into the train tunnels without thinking other trains could be coming."

In all, 10 bombs exploded in quick succession across the Spanish capital's commuter rail network.

"People started to scream and run, some bumping into each other, and as we ran there was another explosion," said Juan Fernandez, 50, who was waiting for a train at the Atocha station.

"I saw people with blood pouring from them, people on the ground," she said.

Firefighter Juan Redondo, arriving at the El Pozo station just outside downtown Madrid, found a scene he described as "butchery on a brutal scale."

At least 70 bodies lay on the platform near where two bombs [See CARNAGE, Page 6]



PAUL WHITE/ASSOCIATED PRESS (above), JOSE HUESCA/EFEE AGENCY (right)
Firefighters attend to bodies of commuters next to one of the train cars ripped open by bombs in Madrid. Almost 200 people were known dead, and more than 1,400 were injured. At right, two wounded survivors await aid outside the Atocha train station, one of three stations that were targeted by backpack-toting bombers.

BY MAR ROMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADRID, Spain — A series of bombs hidden in backpacks exploded in quick succession yesterday morning, blowing apart four commuter trains, killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400. Spain at first blamed Basque separatists, but a shadowy group claimed responsibility in the name of al Qaeda for the worst terrorist attack in Spanish history.

Panicked rush-hour commuters trampled on each other, abandoning their bags and shoes, after two of the bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of Madrid. Train cars were turned into twisted wrecks and platforms were strewn with corpses. Cell phones rang unanswered on the bodies of the dead as frantic relatives tried to call them.

"March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy," Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said.

The bombing came three days ahead of Spain's general election. A major campaign issue leading up to Sunday's vote was how to deal with ETA, a militant group that is seeking greater autonomy for Basques.

Campaigning for the election was called off and three days of mourning were declared.

The attack, occurring exactly 2½ years after the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, was the worst in Europe since the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

The 10 backpack bombs exploded in a 15-minute span, starting about 7:39 a.m. local time, on trains along [See BOMBINGS, Page 7]

MORE ON THE ATTACK

THE TACTICS

The massacre bears the signature of a modern age of terrorism: The mass killing of civilians. Page 6

THE REACTION

President Bush and other world leaders quickly condemn the bombings. Page 7

THE MARKET

Stocks fall amid fears that Osama bin Laden's terrorist network may be behind the attacks. Business, Page 37



Feds move to outlaw drug

Firms are told to stop making the steroidlike supplements

BY SUSAN TODD
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Federal officials yesterday announced a long-coming crackdown on companies that make steroidlike dietary supplements with a promise that by year's end a new law will classify the products as illegal controlled substances.

The supplements, referred to universally as andro — short for androstenedione — became well-known in 1998 after then-St. Louis Cardinals baseball slugger Mark McGwire admitted to using them to build muscle strength.

Sales of the products heated up, and so did the controversy over their use.

Federal officials said they warned 23 dietary supplement companies, including two in New Jersey, to stop manufacturing and distributing the supplements or face the possibility of being fined or having their products seized.

"Steroid products are dangerous to our children, and they're giving sports a black eye," Tommy Thompson, the head of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said during the agency's news conference in Washington.

In January, public awareness of the controversy over the products rose after President Bush condemned the use of them in his State of the Union address.

"The cavalry is coming," Bush warned makers of the products.

The implication of his words became clear yesterday. But one supplement maker said the government's actions appeared to be a reaction to revelations about Balco, a California sports nutrition company that allegedly made [See ANDRO, Page 25]

IN OTHER NEWS

Charged as an Iraqi spy

Susan Lindauer, a former reporter and press secretary, was indicted for accepting \$10,000 to work for the Iraqi Intelligence Service. Page 3.

Plea deal for chaplain?

An e-mail accidentally sent to the media detailed a deal that would dismiss most of the charges against Capt. James Yee. Page 18.

Gay wedding setbacks

The California Supreme Court halted same-sex marriages as Massachusetts lawmakers began to amend their state constitution. Page 23.

State budget has parents share child care cost in poor districts

Agency proposal is designed to save Jersey \$17.1M

BY DUNSTAN McNICHOL
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Families in New Jersey's special-needs school districts would be asked to pick up some of the tab for extended preschool services, under a plan included in Gov. James E. McGreevey's proposed \$26.3 billion state budget.

The proposal, designed to save the state \$17.1 million, would institute new co-payments for the 30,000 3- and 4-year-olds signed up for day care services in conjunction with court-ordered preschool in the 30 needy districts.

The proposed fees range from 53 cents per week for the poorest families to as

much as \$2,480 per year for a family of three making \$73,180 annually.

"It is an impact," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of the Association for Children of New Jersey. "It may not sound like much to someone whose salary level is higher, but it is."

State officials say the new co-payments are needed to help stretch federal and state funds for child care subsidies in other school districts.

The co-payments would apply to "wrap-around" extended day care services offered to 3- and 4-year-olds who are enrolled in the free preschool programs in [See CHILD CARE, Page 26]

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Drugs in Morris a persistent plague

The suspected overdose death of a 16-year-old Morris Township girl has highlighted a problem in the county that officials say is not getting worse, but is not going away. Page 43

A sign economy is rebounding in N.J.

The number of mortgage delinquencies dip as only 4.5 percent of homeowners are classified as being late, compared with 4.91 percent a year earlier. Page 37



Johnny Depp in 'Secret Window'

In the movie based on a Stephen King story, the Oscar nominee plays a writer who's living alone and is confronted by a stranger who threatens to kill him because of plagiarism. Page 32

Spring Home and Garden

This special advertising section offers tips on home remodeling, including kitchen and bathroom makeovers, flooring options, lawn care and more.

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