

## Three Sri Lankans dead in hotel blasts in Bangladesh

The death toll from a suspected gas cylinder blast in a hotel in Dhaka has risen to three as a Sri Lankan national succumbed to severe burn injuries, officials said Saturday.

Hospital authorities said Samontha Lake, a Sri Lankan national, died overnight due to blasts in the hotel which also shook buildings early Monday leaving a hotel staff member dead and nearly 50 people injured.

Lake, a Sri Lankan systems engineer, arrived in Dhaka last week on a business trip and was staying at the hotel which was shattered by twin explosions.

Lake's body was kept in a mortuary until interior ministry officials decided to take his remains to Sri Lanka.

A police spokesman said a hotel boy with severe burn injuries died Friday in Dhaka Medical Hospital.

A housekeeping supervisor Ali Azam Chowdhury was killed immediately after the explosion that rocked the buildings causing panic among residents.

Experts suspect the blast occurred when an old cooking gas cylinder exploded in the Orchid Plaza hotel in the Nayapaltan shopping district.

Earlier reports blamed the blasts on homemade grenades used by suicide bombers backing Islamic militant groups.

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