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Bomb blasts kill 25 in Indonesia

More than 100 others injured at Bali restaurants.

By Ellen Nakashima and Alan Sipress
Washington Post

KUTA, Indonesia — Three bomb blasts ripped through restaurants on the resort island of Bali during the dinner rush Saturday night, killing at least 25 people and wounding more than 100 others, officials said.

Two of the nearly simultaneous attacks, which some investigators blamed on a group linked to al-Qaida, targeted a long row of popular seafood eateries

along the white sand beach of Jimbaran. A third explosion rocked the main tourist hub of Kuta, nearly 20 miles away, blowing out the second floor of a steakhouse and bar that are popular with foreigners, overturning furniture and spattering the floor with blood. The blast shattered the window of an adjacent clothing store in a crowded market of surfer shops, film processing outlets and boutiques peddling Polo and Versace fashion to a stream of foreign visitors.

"It was a chaotic situation, panic. People were running," said police Lt. Col. Rudolf, who arrived outside the Raja restaurant in the open-air Kuta Square shopping district shortly after the blast. Within moments, the dead were being hauled from the scene, he said, adding that he saw at least eight corpses.

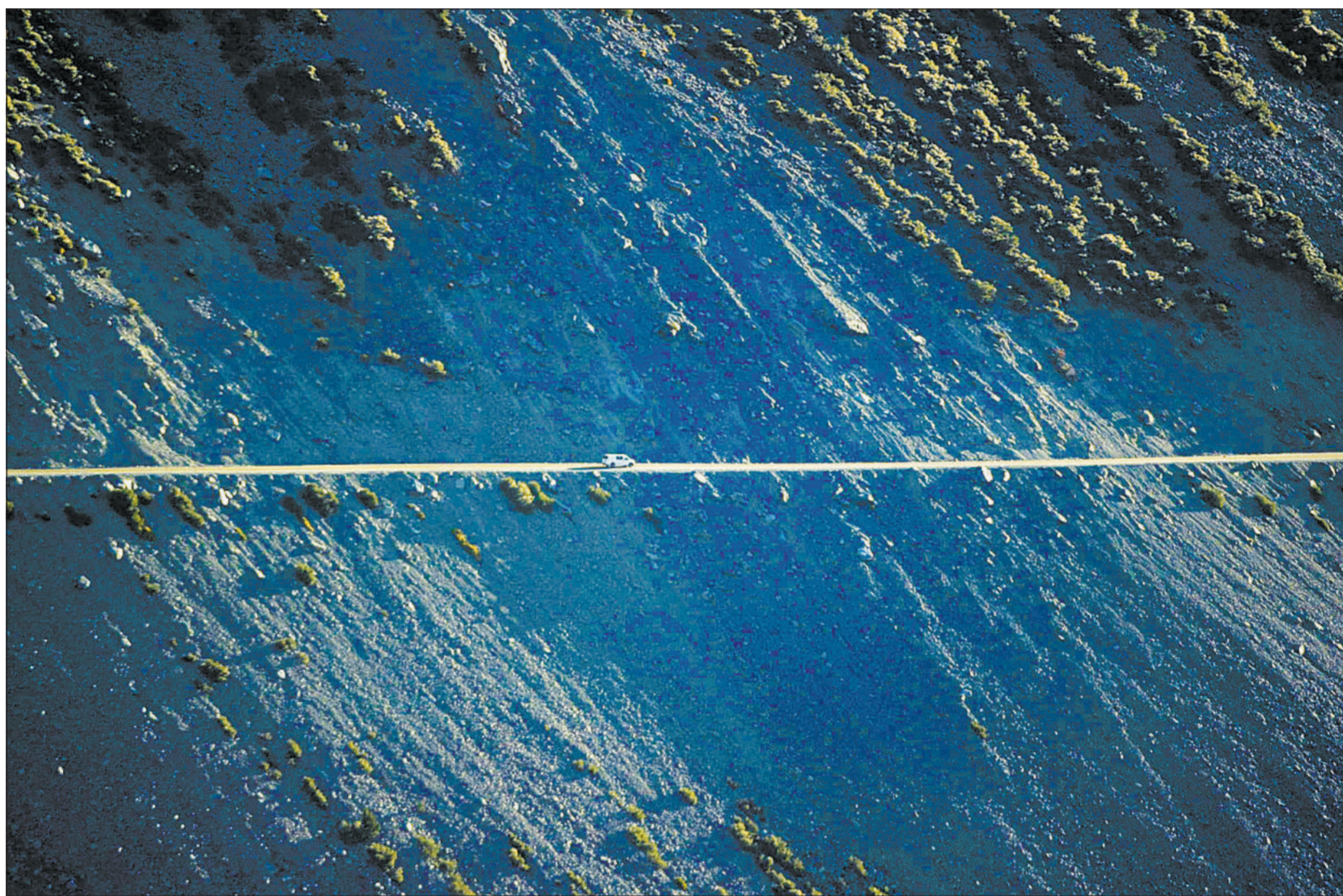
The blasts marked the return of extremist violence to Bali almost three years after explosions devastated a pair of Kuta nightclubs on another sultry Saturday night, killing 202 people, mostly foreign tourists. Those attacks, on Oct. 12,

See **BLASTS**, Page A21



Forensic police search debris Saturday at the scene of a bomb blast at a restaurant in Kuta, a popular beach resort in Bali, Indonesia. Blasts ripped through three crowded restaurants, killing at least 25 people. **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

A road less traveled



PHOTOS BY ERIC PAUL ZAMORA/THE FRESNO BEE

Massive slopes force motorists to follow a fine line as Tioga Road outside of Yosemite National Park descends to Lee Vining.

Autumn's majesty draws visitors along Tioga Road.

By Guy Keeler
The Fresno Bee

TIOGA ROAD — A cool breeze moves through forest, meadows and granite. Although its voice is still a whisper, the message is clear: Winter is coming. Gather memories while you can.

No wonder those who love Yosemite's spectacular high country grow wistful this time of year. In a few weeks, snow will close Tioga Road, shutting off a special region of the Sierra to all but the most hardy of winter adventurers. It's enough to make hearts restless — and eager to make one more trip across the mountains on what many consider California's most scenic trans-Sierra route.

Some Yosemite-lovers will tell you fall is the best time to travel Tioga Road. Summer crowds are thinning out and deciduous trees are staging a colorful show on the eastern slope of the Sierra. But whether you travel in spring, when meadows are lush with wildflowers, or venture out when aspens are turning gold in October, the road leaves unforgettable impressions.

"I've known so many people who identify with the road," says Gene Rose, a former Fresno Bee reporter and author of "Tioga Country," a history of the road that will be published by the Yosemite Association this fall. "For many of them, it is the highway to their spiritual home, a road of great beauty and diversity."

Despite veneration from veteran travelers, Tioga Road often is overlooked by park visitors drawn to the beauty

of Yosemite Valley and the spectacular views from Glacier Point. This year, about 3.4 million people will have visited the park, but only 270,000, or about 8%, will have traveled over Tioga Pass.

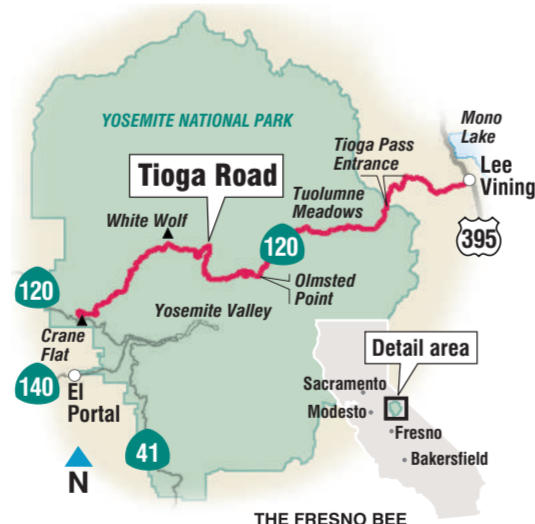
The 56-mile two-lane road is three hours from Fresno and can be traveled nonstop in about 90 minutes. It follows the route of Highway 120 from Crane Flat, near the western edge of Yosemite National Park, to Lee

Vining, 10 miles beyond the park's eastern entrance at Tioga Pass. It began as a wagon trail, built in the early 1880s to serve mining interests near Tioga Pass, and was improved and opened to automobiles in 1915. Eventually, it was transformed into a modern highway through a number of paving and realignment projects begun in the early 1930s and completed with the modernization of the stretch down Lee Vining Canyon from 1963 to 1967.

Tioga Pass, at 9,945 feet, is the highest trans-Sierra vehicle crossing in California.

"In my book, there's no more popular pass for those who enjoy scenery," Rose says. "No other passes are in the same league with Tioga. I had the good fortune of talking to Ansel Adams one time, and he told me the photographic and artistic opportunities along the Tioga Road corridor are unlimited."

Even winter snow, which forces the road to close for seven to eight months every year, contributes to the mystique. "When access is denied," says Rose, "it increases the interest and passion for the road."



THE FRESNO BEE



Lofty heights abound in Yosemite's high country, whether viewed from the roadside vista or at the base of a quaking aspen.

Follow us on Tioga Road

Whether you have yet to make your first trip over Tioga Pass or have made the crossing dozens of times, there are interesting things to see at every turn.

Turn inside for glimpses of what you might encounter on a journey over Yosemite's highway to the sky.

Main News, A16 and A17

Airline does brisk business in Visalia

Scenic has the numbers to surpass United Express.

By Tim Sheehan
The Fresno Bee

VISALIA — Only one month into its three-year commitment to passenger air service in Visalia, Scenic Airlines' flights to Las Vegas are proving to be a popular draw.

Although final figures for the first month have not yet been reported to Visalia airport officials, Scenic's flights are on a pace to eclipse the number of passengers carried over an entire year by its predecessor, SkyWest Airlines, serving Visalia as United Express.

"In less than three weeks Scenic already has 91% of the passengers United Express did over the previous year," said Visalia Municipal Airport Manager Mario Cifuentez. "They're pleased and we're pleased with how it's going."

On Sept. 1, Scenic began flying 10 round trips each week between Visalia and its home base at the North Las Vegas Airport. By Sept. 19, said Cifuentez, the airline, long known for its tourist sightseeing flights from Las Vegas to the Grand

See **SCENIC**, Back Page

Deaths of 11 haunt squad's last Marine

By Antonio Castaneda
Associated Press

HADITHA DAM, Iraq — Cpl. David Kreuter had a new baby boy he'd seen only in photos. Lance Cpl. Michael Cifuentes was counting the days to his wedding. Lance Cpl. Nicholas Bloem had just celebrated his 20th birthday.

Travis Williams remembers them all — all 11 men in his Marine squad — all now dead. Two months ago, they shared a cramped room stacked with bunk beds at this base in northwest Iraq, where the Euphrates River rushes by. Now the room has been stripped of several beds, brutal testament that Lance Cpl. Williams' closest friends are gone.

For the 12 young Marines who landed in Iraq early this year, the war was a series of hectic, constant raids into more than a dozen law-

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INSIDE

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Helping Hispanics

Real estate agency focuses on growing slice of home buyers. **Business, D1**



Fair preview

ZZ Top, Seal, LeAnn Rimes, Chevelle — yes, they're all coming to The Big Fresno Fair. Find out who else will perform, and get a handy map to show you what's where. **Spotlight, L1, L8**



Cooler; gusty winds

High: 85 Low: 52
AQI: Moderate, 55
Details: Local & State, B8