

# Human embryo cloning unleashes ethics storm

Washington, Nov. 26 (Reuters): Rival scientists called it lightweight work and religious groups challenged its moral implications, but a company's claim to have cloned a human embryo is a solid route to tailored medical treatment, experts said today.

Advanced Cell Technology (ACT), based in Worcester, created an international furor when it announced yesterday it had cloned a human embryo.

Although the company's chief executive officer, Michael West, stressed his researchers had no intention of creating cloned babies but rather wanted to use the embryos as a source of valuable stem cells, opponents of embryo research condemned the work in strong language.

"The use of embryos to clone is wrong," President George W. Bush told reporters. "We should not as a society grow life to de-

stroy it. And that's exactly what's taking place."

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer urged the US Congress to ban human cloning, saying the president viewed this as a wise action to take. The House of Representatives has already passed legislation banning the kind of procedure used by ACT but the Senate has not yet acted on the law.

"The President hopes that as a result of this first crossing of the

line and this first step into the morally consequential realm of creating a life to take a life in the name of science, that the Senate will act on the House legislation so that this procedure can be banned," he said.

Sen. Sam Brownback, a Kansas Republican who opposes embryonic stem cell research, said he would introduce a bill calling for a six-month moratorium on cloning to give time for further

debate and consideration.

The House of Representatives voted last July to ban human cloning for whatever reason, whether for research or to create humans, and the White House today urged the Senate to act on the legislation passed by the House.

But some senators have said they do not want to rush into anything on the contentious subject.

From Rome, the Vatican

charged that the company had tampered with human life.

"Notwithstanding the humanistic intents ... this calls for a calm but resolute appraisal which shows the moral gravity of this project and calls for unequivocal condemnation," the Vatican said in a statement from Rome.

"This corporation is creating human embryos for the sole purpose of killing them and harvesting their cells. Unless Congress

acts quickly, this corporation and others will be opening human embryo farms," the group National Right to Life said in a statement.

But other scientists said there was a valid reason to do the work. It holds the promise of someday allowing a doctor to take a piece of skin from a patient's arm and grow a perfectly matched piece of tissue, or even perhaps a new organ such as a heart for transplant.

# Banning biological weapons

By N. Gopal Raj

**A**S DELEGATES from over 160 nations gather in Geneva for the three-week-long Fifth Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC), beginning on November 19, the recent bioterrorist attacks using anthrax in the United States have lent fresh urgency to ensuring that all biological weapons are banned.

It was only three months ago that the United States blocked the acceptance of a Protocol which would have improved the effectiveness of the Convention. Although the two-and-a-half-decades-old Convention and its predecessor, the Geneva Protocol of 1925, banned biological weapons, they lacked the means to ensure compliance. The proposed Protocol was intended to give real teeth to the Convention and had taken some 10 years of difficult negotiations to reach. So its total rejection by the U.S. aroused considerable anger, including from its own close allies.

But, even after the terrorist and anthrax attacks, the U.S. administration remains adamantly opposed to treaties in general because they limit U.S. action, says Dr. Barbara Hatch Rosenberg, research professor of environmental science at the State University of New York at Purchase and Chair of the Federation of American Scientists Working Group on Biological Weapons.

The U.S. is said to have worked out some proposals of its own to put forward at the latest Review Conference. But instead of strengthening the BWC more than the Protocol would have done, analysts believe the U.S. has gone in the opposite direction and that its proposals are too limited in scope. Its close allies are hoping that these proposals are only a first step and more stringent measures will follow.

A key issue which delegates at the Review Conference will have to confront is whether the world can any longer afford to hasten slowly just to keep the U.S. on board. "Biological weapons present the greatest danger today of all three weapons of mass destruction as they are the easiest to acquire, have the weakest (non-proliferation) regime and yet have effects comparable to nuclear weapons," warns Dr.

Graham S. Pearson, a specialist on chemical and biological non-proliferation who retired as head of Britain's Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, the world's oldest chemical and biological defence establishment.

It has taken all too long to get to the present stage where a Protocol to increase compliance with the BWC is possible. The recent acceptance of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change and global warming has shown that other countries can get on with what they think needs to be done

Group to draft a legally binding instrument with appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, to strengthen the Convention. The draft Protocol was to be ready for consideration at the 2001 Review Conference.

It was only in March this year that the chairman of the Ad Hoc Group, Ambassador Mr. Tibor Toth of Hungary, was able to put forward a composite Protocol text, based on earlier drafts and intensive discussions with national delegations. The composite Protocol text was very largely

*The recent bioterrorist attacks using anthrax in the United States have lent fresh urgency to ensuring that all biological weapons are banned.*

even when the U.S. refuses to go along with a treaty protocol.

Building on the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which prohibited the use of chemical and biological weapons in war, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention banned its signatories from developing, producing or holding biological agents and weapons for hostile purposes. The Convention, which opened for signature in 1972 and came into force in 1975, was the first international treaty to totally ban an entire class of weapons. But like the Geneva Protocol, the Convention lacked an organisation to oversee its implementation or ways of monitoring compliance. Under the Convention, the only remedy available to address concerns about a member-state's compliance was to forward these to the U.N. Security Council, a step which has never been taken so far.

As the years passed, the effect of these shortcomings became increasingly evident. Review conferences in 1986 and 1991 agreed to seven binding confidence-building measures which have, however, turned out to be of limited value. The 1991 Fourth Review Conference also set up an expert group to identify and examine potential verification measures. After studying its report, a Special Conference in 1994 decided to establish an Ad Hoc

based on earlier drafts which all national delegations, including the U.S., had agreed to, points out Dr. Pearson. It was this composite Protocol text which the U.S. delegation criticised and rejected at the meeting of the Ad Hoc Group in July-August.

The draft Protocol suggested setting up bodies to oversee implementation and ensure compliance. Each country would have to annually submit declarations of its most important installations and activities with potential biological weapons use or face penalties. More important, the Protocol would have created a framework to investigate discrepancies in national declarations and concerns raised by any member-state.

In order to address the problem of proliferation and prevent bioterrorism, the draft Protocol asked countries to review and, if necessary, strengthen legislation, regulatory and administrative provisions to prevent the transfer of biological agents, toxins, equipment and technologies. All states would have to implement laws prohibiting individuals from conducting activity banned by the Convention in any area under their control as well and their citizens undertaking such activity anywhere else.

On July 25, the head of the U.S. delegation and Ambassador, Mr. Donald A.

Mahley, told the meeting of the Ad Hoc Group that his country felt "unable to support the current text (of the proposed Protocol), even with changes." At a State Department briefing the same day, journalists were told: "The protocol, which was proposed, adds nothing new to our verification capabilities. And it was a unanimous view in the United States Government that there were significant risks to U.S. national interests and that is why we could not support that protocol. Implementation of such a protocol would have caused problems... for our biological weapons defence programmes, would have risked intellectual property problems for our pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries and risked the loss of integrity and utility to our very rigorous multilateral export control regimes. And so we believe that not having a protocol is better than having this one."

"It is evident that the United States, in rejecting the Protocol, is making a huge mistake and, more to the point, one that is based on illogical assessments," says Dr. Pearson.

"The U.S. objections to the Protocol ultimately boil down to unwillingness to accept any restrictions whatsoever on U.S. activities, no matter what the compensatory gain," says the Federation of American Scientists. Its remarks came after the *New York Times* recently revealed the existence of secret U.S. biological weapons research which the Government insisted was only for "protective or defensive purposes." Such research would have to be declared if the Protocol came into force. Moreover, since the dividing line between this sort of "defensive" research and the "offensive" variety is dangerously thin, it would make the banning of all biological weapons difficult, if not impossible.

What the U.S. appears to want is a Biological Weapons Treaty where the intrusive checks are kept for states which are "proliferation candidates".

"Although the United States regrettably is failing to see the benefits of the Protocol for the United States or for global security, the other states should have the courage of their convictions and take the Chairman's composite Protocol text forward," suggests Dr. Pearson.

THE HINDU

16 NOV 2001

# WAR ON TERROR BUT BAGHDAD WON'T CRUMBLE AS EASILY AS KABUL

With Taliban falling, Bush is being urged to extend war to a serious bid to topple Saddam, RONALD BROWNSTEIN reports

## On to Iraq, say US hawks

**O**N TO Baghdad? With the Taliban crumbling, some US conservatives who initially accused President Bush of pursuing the war in Afghanistan too timidly are intensifying pressure on him to apply the military strategy used there against Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

In a flurry of newspaper articles and television appearances, prominent hawks such as former Defense Department official Richard Perle and columnist William Safire are pressing the administration to make "phase two" of the war against terror a full-fledged effort to topple Hussein.

"As the campaign in Afghanistan has progressed, a consensus has emerged that it is high time to remove Saddam Hussein from power," wrote Tom Donnelly, Deputy Executive Director of the Project for a New American Century, a conservative think tank.

National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice sent the hawks' pulses racing on Sunday with tough talk against Hussein on NBC's *Meet the Press*. Still, she stopped well short of committing Bush to a military campaign against the Iraqi dictator, who was forced from Kuwait — but not driven from power — in the Persian Gulf War launched a decade ago by Bush's father, then-President George Bush. "The world would clearly be better and the Iraqi people would be better off if Saddam Hussein were not in power," Rice said. But she also cautioned: "I think it's a little early to start talking about the next phases of this war."

Other administration aides say the emerging conservative clamour isn't likely to shift their near-term focus away from the continuing effort to apprehend Osama bin Laden and eradicate the last vestiges of Taliban power in Afghanistan.



"Their focus is on where's Waldo — destroying the Al Qaeda network in Afghanistan and disrupting it worldwide," said one national security official.

The White House has not ruled out the possibility of a strike against Iraq, and on Monday a high-ranking US official accused it of continuing to develop a germ weapons programme. But the official, Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security John R. Bolton, also accused four other nations of pursuing such programmes. For this and other reasons, administration officials have been careful to avoid sending the impression that they actively are planning any military action against Iraq.

Some experts argue that Iraq, with its modern army, could prove a much more formidable challenge than the rag-tag Taliban. And other analysts warn that an attack on Iraq would di-

vide the United States from Arab nations that, however tepidly, have endorsed the offensive in Afghanistan. "When you start talking about Iraq, you have to start worrying about how you build a real coalition, both politically and maybe militarily," said Robert Hunter, US ambassador to NATO under former President Clinton.

But the call for a second front in Iraq illustrates again the unusual political dynamic of the war against terrorism: almost all of the domestic pressure is in the direction of escalation, rather than restraint. During the first several weeks of the Afghanistan campaign, prominent Republicans including Senator John McCain of Arizona and columnists Safire and Charles Krauthammer complained that the Pentagon was not attacking the Taliban aggressively enough. By comparison,

**The call for a second front illustrates again the unusual dynamic of the war against terrorism: almost all of the domestic pressure is for escalation, rather than restraint**

virtually no well-known politicians or commentators made the kind of arguments against foreign military intervention that dominated the Democratic Party from Vietnam through the Persian Gulf War a decade ago.

Now that the Taliban largely has fallen, the hawks, virtually without missing a beat, argue that the combination of US air power and special forces working with the type of local forces they had dismissed as inadequate in Afghanistan could dislodge Hussein.

"As in Afghanistan, a campaign in Iraq will involve local opposition forces, the Kurds in the north and the Shia tribes in the south," Donnelly wrote in the latest issue of *Weekly Standard*, a conservative magazine that functions as a bulletin board for the new hawks. "But as in Afghanistan, the Iraq campaign must be premised upon the certainty of an American-led military victory and a commitment to remain engaged."

Early in the Afghanistan fighting, conservatives such as Perle and Bill Kristol, *Weekly Standard's* publisher, accused the administration of forcing the military to pull its punches while the State Department tried to assemble a coalition to rule Afghanistan after the Taliban fell.

Now the hawks fear that Bush might reject a mission against Hussein for fear of alienating Arab countries including Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Perle said on ABC's *This Week* last Sunday that such deference amounted to "insipid internationalism".

No leading Democrat has gone as far as the conservatives in urging a full-scale military assault on Iraq. But Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, Al Gore's running mate in 2000, is urging the administration to commit itself to removing Hussein from power. In an interview, Lieberman said he believes the United States should increase its support for Iraqi resistance groups, including military support, but not launch an outright attack — at least for now.

A military offensive against Iraq might spark much more domestic political criticism than the war in Afghanistan. Many Democratic analysts agree with Hunter, who says that while he endorses the goal of destroying Hussein's weapon-making capacity, an all-out attack would expose the United States to much greater military and diplomatic risks than the Afghanistan campaign. Administration national security aides note key differences from the situation in Afghanistan — among them that Hussein is more entrenched in power than the Taliban were, and is protected by an army that is vastly larger and more modern. Iraq is estimated to have 429,000 troops under arms — roughly seven to 10 times the size of the Taliban — and much more sophisticated weaponry.

But Perle insisted that despite their larger army, Iraqi commanders would face the same conundrum as the Taliban: Any time they massed to overpower local rebels, they would expose their forces to a devastating attack from US air power. "Iraq will be much, much easier than a lot of people think," Perle said.

— *LA Times-Washington Post*

INDIAN EXPRESS

2000

## BLAIR DID NOTHING TO HELP

Anglo-US concern with terrorism seen to be selfish

IT is possible to question what purpose has been served by Tony Blair's whistle-stop tour of the Middle East. The moment he left Israel and Palestine the worst form of violence erupted in the troubled land, Israel withdrew from the agreement to take their tanks and forces out of the Gaza Strip and West Bank towns they had occupied and Israeli Prime minister Ariel Sharon declined an invitation to meet President Bush in New York. In Syria he got nowhere, nor in Jordan nor in any of the other places he visited as the emissary of George Bush to whom he is to report on his return. The reason is not far to seek. According to the BBC, his whole mission was to tell the world that they should pipe down and wait until American objectives in Afghanistan have been met. The same message has reached India too. It is not exactly calculated to inspire confidence in the sincerity of America's global war on terrorism. The difference is this. While allowances are made for the naivete of the United States and the greater experience of Britain, the time may soon come when Americans will not know what to do with themselves. The war in Afghanistan is not going well, to indulge in the language of understatement — the expected desertions from Taliban ranks is not taking place and Islamic fundamentalism is gaining ground.

The single main reason for the sorry state of affairs is the American obsession with retaining Pervez Musharraf by their side as the only Muslim nation to support everything they do. However the cost has been heavy. Pakistan have caused the Americans to fight with one arm tied behind their backs over attacking front line Taliban troops because Musharraf objected out of fear that his Taliban friends will be weakened. Pakistan's Talibanised officers led the legendary Afghan commander, Abdul Haq to his death in Afghanistan. Colin Powell also swallowed a lot of nonsense from Islamabad about the need for the *moderate Taliban* to find a place in the new government in Afghanistan. This is on a par with the hypothesis that after the end of World War II, there should have been a place in the administration of Konrad Adenauer for moderate elements in the Nazi party of Adolf Hitler!

America should have remembered that Zionists infiltrated the British mandate in Palestine towards the end of the War and smuggled thousands of Jews in preparation for the declaration of the state of Israel. Neither Britain nor the Israelis have forgotten or forgiven. For Tony Blair to preach to them disregarding what they regard as their sovereign right of self-defence in the face of terrorist attacks including murder of one of their ministers, could not have been thought to be helpful. To return to Pakistan, valuable time has been lost in holding back the National Alliance. Only they are capable of taking on the Taliban on the ground in the winter that is approaching; they are now dangerously short of time. One of America's well-known newspapers reports that Pakistan is still supplying the Taliban with weapons; The Pakistanis also derailed the peace process with Nawaz Sharif; Vajpayee was talking to him while Musharraf was getting his men into Kargil by stealth and deceit. America will do much better if they remember two cardinal points. One, Pakistan is Kashmir-centric because to them, religion was the basis on which India was partitioned. Two, if contrary to the view of the United Nations, Kashmir is still an issue between India and Pakistan — in the name of democracy which neither Pakistan nor Pakistan-occupied Kashmir has known — and Kashmir were to be reconsidered, who is going to protect the 120 million Muslims in India. India has the second largest Muslim population in the world.

America has a long way to go to carry conviction that their crusade against terrorism is world-wide; Tony Blair did nothing to help.

THE STATESMAN

10/1

RD-13

# Nuclear terrorism threat real: IAEA 2/11

**VIENNA, NOV. 1.** The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said that the ruthlessness of the September 11 attacks on the U.S. showed that an act of nuclear terrorism was "far more likely" than previously thought.

"The willingness of terrorists to sacrifice their lives to achieve their evil aims creates a new dimension in the fight against terrorism," the IAEA Director-General, Mohammed Elbaradei, told journalists in Vienna on Wednesday.

Mr. Elbaradei, whose Vienna-based U.N. Agency sets world standards for nuclear security, said the concern was no longer limited to the possibility of Governments diverting nuclear materials into clandestine weapons programmes.

"Now we have been alerted to the potential of terrorists targeting nuclear facilities or using radioactive sources to incite panic, contaminate property and even cause injury or death among civilian populations."

Experts have gathered at the IAEA's headquarters to discuss security. They have added an extra session on Friday devoted solely to the issue of nuclear terrorism.

Mr. Elbaradei called on countries to take a careful inventory of the security risks at their nuclear power plants and other facilities and to ensure that they can prevent or withstand terrorist attacks.

Although there are no confirmed cases of terrorists using nuclear weapons, he said there was concern over reports that

some militant groups had attempted to acquire nuclear material. This included the Al-Qaeda of Osama bin Laden.

Since 1993, there have been 175 known cases of trafficking in nuclear material and 201 cases of trafficking in other radioactive sources, such as those used for medical or industrial purposes.

But only 18 of these have actually involved highly-enriched uranium or plutonium, the material needed to produce an atomic bomb.

The IAEA believes that the quantities involved are insufficient to construct a nuclear explosive device.

It estimates that there has been a six-fold increase in nuclear material in peaceful programmes worldwide since 1970.

There are 438 nuclear power

reactors around the world, 651 research reactors, of which 284 are in operation, and 250 fuel cycle plants, including uranium mills and plants that convert, enrich, store and re-process nuclear material.

While the level of security at nuclear facilities is considered to be very high, the IAEA believes the security of medical and industrial radiation sources is weak in some countries.

Mr. Elbaradei said the soundness of nuclear facilities had been demonstrated in U.S. experiments in which a military jet was slammed into a concrete and steel structure identical to that of a nuclear power plant. The structure held. Nevertheless, security at all nuclear plants must be kept tight. — Reuters

THE HINDU  
2 NOV 2001

# USA, India watch as Musharraf's insecurity shows

RAJU SANTHANAM

NEW DELHI, Nov. 4. - The possibility of Pakistan becoming a rogue nuclear state in the event of General Pervez Musharraf being overthrown is now being seriously discussed both in the USA and in India. "Preventive" steps are being taken by both countries, including precautions that need to be taken under such circumstances.

The USA, it appears, is also concerned about General Musharraf's personal safety. In this context his decision to send his wife away to USA less than a fortnight ago is being taken as a sign that the General himself is jumpy.

That India does not think General Musharraf would be encouraged to take the nuclear path was voiced by Mr George Fernandes the Defence Minister himself. But there are genuine fears of what might happen if is not on the scene.

In Pakistan the nuclear facilities are as of now under a proper command structure where there is facility of conferencing. "There is no button to be pressed." As long as the General is in command there is no danger.

Nevertheless, Pakistan's fully equipped nuclear sites would give India less than a two minute warning of an attack in case an aircraft with a nuclear-laden warhead was to be sent to this country.

The following are indicators that the Americans are worried:

- The questioning by the USA of three Pakistan scientists who were in touch with the Taliban.

- The disclosure in the American media of Israeli commandos being trained for a pre-emptive strike on nuclear sites to prevent terrorists having access to them.

- The worldwide alert at all nuclear installations issued by the international atomic body.

The preventive steps other countries

and India are taking are responses to general fears and overall assessment and not specific pinpointed intelligence.

The irony of it is the increasing Indian realisation that despite his hawkish postures, Musharraf is the best this country can hope for. That would mean he would not do anything rash, but at the same time his continuance may mean that he could send Pakistani jihadis trained in al Qaida camps to Kashmir.

While the USA is convinced that Gen Musharraf has become a moderate, recent reports that he is losing his grip over the ISI is worrying them as well. According to reports from Quetta, ISI operatives are still supplying arms in exchange for drugs, continuing the age-old ties that were at one time blessed by both Pakistan and

ordered his troops to fire at hardliner protesters in Pakistani streets and he has pushed back Afghani with terrorist links in Pakistan.

The dismantling of the ISI is what could start the clock ticking for him. His removal of two generals, Aziz Khan and Muzaffar Hussaini Osmani, erstwhile trusted colleagues, has led to anger and resentment in the army. Both are believed to be under house arrest.

Gen Aziz Khan was the ISI chief who helped him come to power. Muzaffar Hussaini Osmani was the one who allowed Gen Musharraf's plane to land in Karachi when Nawaz Sharif wanted to prevent this. The Nawaz Sharif coup showed how the Army was calling the shots even during civilian rule in Pakistan.

Gen Khan, who has close links with the Taliban, will be a pivotal factor in the event of a coup. In the initial stages, part of the reason for the costly delay in the US air strikes was the

insistence of the ISI that they could get Osama on a platter with the help of the Taliban.

Gen Khan set up several meetings with Taliban leaders and finally Gen Musharraf was told that it was not possible. Those critical weeks, experts believe, allowed Osama and Al-Qaida to reorganise and prepare for the strikes.

In fact in one meeting with the Islamic clerics and the Taliban in which Gen Khan was also present, it was reported that the meeting was actually to prepare for a "jihad" against the USA.

Gen Musharraf faces the grimest battle for his own survival: the highly Talibanised Army and a disgruntled ISI could cost him his job.

In that context, highly credible reports of Israeli commandos striking at Pak nuclear sites in the event of a coup, could be a reality. India would become the softest target if that were to happen.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

USA.

"If as a field ISI agent you have been doing this for years and earning millions of dollars it would be difficult to turn over a new leaf overnight," says an insider.

The loosening grip over the ISI is a major factor that has led to the speculation of a coup. Over 25 per cent of the Pakistan Army are Pashtoons posted in forward positions. Gen Musharraf for all his outbursts against India over Kashmir would never be trusted by the powerful Punjabi lobby particularly in a crunch situation.

Internally Gen Musharraf has taken certain actions that hit at the very heart of the ISI supported Taliban's jihadi movement. He has placed under house arrest Fazlurrahman, the president of the JUI (Jammat-ul-Ulema-I-Islam), he has

# Taliban split over surrender

General  
H-1 2/7/11

Quetta, November 19

FIVE DAYS after the fall of Kabul, the Taliban are divided over the surrender of Kandahar and Kunduz.

Though the Taliban supreme leader, Mullah Omar, was still in control of Kandahar, arguments were said to be raging in his entourage about whether the movement should make a power-sharing deal with other Pashtun leaders.

"Those close to the Arab volunteers want to go on with their jihad. Others are sick and tired and want to talk," Ahmed Karzai, a leading Pashtun supporter of the former Afghan

King Zahir Shah told *The Guardian*.

A spokesman for Abdul Khalik, one of the representatives of the former King, said the Taliban's commander in the city was for a deal, but younger lieutenants wanted to go on fighting. The Taliban's opponents had set a 24-hour deadline ending tonight for Mullah Omar's group to decide whether to strike a deal. If not, the battle for Kandahar would resume.

The Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaef, who travelled from Kandahar to Quetta on Saturday, said the Taliban were willing to talk to Pashtun notables who

had been in contact with them. "If they are not with the US and Northern Alliance then they can come to Kandahar and we are ready to negotiate with them. But if they want to attack the Taliban, the Taliban will fight back," the envoy said.

Chances of surrender at Kunduz were higher after the blistering bombardment during the weekend. A Taliban commander has said that his fighters are willing to surrender Kunduz, but only under UN supervision.

Commander Mulla Fazil told *The Dawn* that the offer was prompted by the constant US bombings which he said had killed some 800 people over the

weekend in Kunduz and 250 in nearby Khanabad district.

In a setback to the Islamic regime, Uzbek pro-Taliban guerrilla chief Djuma Namangani was killed in Kunduz on Monday. Namangani, 37, reported to be close to Osama bin Laden.

Fazil warned that the Taliban would under no circumstances surrender to the Alliance after hearing reports of a bloody settling of scores in Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif.

In addition to UN supervision of their surrender, the Taliban have set three other conditions for their surrender of Kunduz. They want safe passage to go home, and the right to hand over

their heavy weapons to neutral caretakers. They also want foreign fighters, including supporters of bin Laden, turned over to the UN and repatriated.

But Younis Qanooni, acting Interior Minister for the Northern Alliance, reported a division of opinion among the Taliban in Kunduz. "Some Taliban commanders have contacted us to surrender unconditionally," Qanooni said. "Others have asked for guarantees and assurances as to their safety before surrendering, while some have vowed to continue the fight."

If the Taliban were able to keep some power in a coalition arrangement in Kandahar, it

could claim a place in a national government.

The first step to a stable government could take place within a week with Northern Alliance leaders and representatives of Zahir Shah meeting in a neutral overseas venue, UN negotiator Francesc Vendrell said.

Reports said that Washington envisioned a symbolic role for Zahir Shah in a post-Taliban government. "I think the King plays an important role, a symbolic role," Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Fox Television on Sunday.

**The Guardian & Agencies**

**More reports on Page 10**

## THREE SCRIBES KILLED

FOUR PEOPLE, including three journalists, en route to Kabul were killed in an ambush on Monday near Jalalabad. Two of them were Reuters reporters.

The Reuters reporters, cameraman Harry Burton, an Australian, and Azizullah Haidari, an Afghan-born still photographer, were reported missing. They were travelling in a convoy through the province of Nangarhar when armed men stopped them near a bridge and shot them. **AFP**

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

20 NOV 2001

## G-20 adopts plan to freeze assets of terrorists, associates

WASHINGTON: Strengthening the global crackdown on funds for terrorism, top finance officials from industrialised and developing countries, including India have adopted an action plan calling on each G-20 member to freeze the assets of terrorists and their associates and close their access to the international financial system.

The action plan, adopted at the end of the two-day annual meeting of the group of 20 countries at Ottawa on Sunday, also asked

the members to cooperate with international bodies to implement standards to combat abuses of the financial system, including financing for terrorism and money-laundering, which finance minister Yashwant Sinha had suggested.

Addressing the meeting of G-20 finance ministers, Mr Sinha stressed the need for a "united, comprehensive and truly global action" to choke funds for terrorists, saying the plan should include prompt action.

"Every single member of the G-20, without exception, has signed on to that action plan," Canadian finance minister Paul Martin, who chaired the meeting, told a news conference. He said the members agreed to take action to block financing by groups such as Al-Qaeda led by Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S.

"The barbarous attacks on the U.S. were attacks on all of us intended to shake global

economic confidence and security. We will ensure that these efforts fail," said a communique issued at the end of the meeting.

"We are committed to combating terrorism by cutting off its financial sources. There should be no safe havens for the financing of terrorism. To this end, we have agreed on an action plan to deny terrorists and their associates access to our financial systems. We call on other countries to take similar steps," the communique said. (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

19 NOV 2001



# British, U.S. forces zeroing in on Osama

ISLAMABAD/LONDON: He is the target of the biggest manhunt in history. His enemies have pounded his camps to dust with Cruise missiles, pursued him with satellites and stealth bombers and put a multi-million-dollar price on his head.

But Osama bin Laden is still at large. He has defied all the state-of-the-art military hardware and surveillance technology that the U.S.-led coalition has thrown at him.

On Sunday a British newspaper reported that British and U.S. special forces have surrounded bin Laden in an area of 80 square kilometres in south-eastern Afghanistan.

The *Sunday Telegraph* said that according to defence sources the SAS and U.S. commandos have been dropped by helicopter across the southern approach to the area, near the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar, to prevent bin Laden from escaping into Pakistan.

"The plan has always been to deny bin Laden space," said British defence secretary Geoff Hoon. "The space he has to operate in is now very limited indeed,"

he added.

A British intelligence source told the paper that bin Laden was believed to be "static" somewhere to the south-east of Kandahar.

"For a variety of reasons we can be confident that he has not been able to move far," the source said.

U.S. defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld though has warned that bin Laden might have access to a helicopter that could try to take him to a possible rendezvous with a private jet in Pakistan.

On Saturday night the Taliban envoy to Pakistan refuted earlier claims that bin Laden had left the country with his wives and children.

"Osama is inside Afghanistan but I don't know whether he is in our territory or the area controlled by the Northern Alliance," Abdul Salam Zaeef said. However, on Sunday, Zaeef said Osama may have even left the country. He was quoted by a news agency as saying "I don't know where he is; whether he is in other areas of Afghanistan or has left Afghanistan. But I know this much that he is not in the area under our control." (Agencies)



Osama bin Laden

THE TIMES OF INDIA

19 NOV 2001

# US terror whip targets 50 nations

London, November 17

VICE-PRESIDENT DICK Cheney said that after the Afghanistan campaign is over, the US may direct a second wave of military action against states which harbour terrorists.

Cheney said up to 50 states could be targeted on the grounds that they had al-Qaida networks operating there. Somalia, which is a haven for al-Qaida supporters, would be high on any US list of targets, along with Iraq.

The ease with which Kabul fell has encouraged hawks within the US administration to extend military action, particularly against Iraq. The British view is that

direct military action against another state is unlikely and action is more likely against internal enemies.

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had asked the Pentagon to come up with post-Afghanistan options in which "they were to think the unthinkable". The resulting general command papers were dismissed by Rumsfeld for "not being radical enough".

Dominic Simpson, an analyst, said he thought the next phase of military campaign might involve Somalia. "The sense of violation would be less if the US was moving against a government that was functioning. It could be the

next base for bin Laden."

Action in Somalia would offer an opportunity to pay off old scores. Eighteen US soldiers were brutally killed there in 1993 and since then the US has been wary of committing ground troops anywhere.

Yemen is home to several militant groups linked to al-Qaida. The remit of the Government does not extend to tribal areas where such groups have their camps. The danger was reinforced last year when al-Qaida operatives successfully launched an attack on the *USS Cole* from a dinghy.

Rumsfeld has described as significant meetings in Prague

between Mohammed Atta, a suspected leader of the September 11 hijackers, and an Iraqi intelligence official. However, a firm connection between al-Qaida and Iraq has proved elusive.

However, Saddam Hussein is regarded as one of the most dangerous leaders with potential access to weapons of mass destruction and that is increasingly being regarded as sufficient justification for war. For many in the US administration, it is "unfinished business".

Meanwhile, Paul Wolfowitz, the US Deputy Defence Secretary said he saw a clear need to confront al-Qaida in Indonesia.

The Guardian

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

13 NOV 2001

# POTO: Venkaiah says terrorists have no rights

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 17

**D**EFENDING the Centre's stand on POTO, Union Rural Development Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu, on Friday said that civil liberties are for civilians and human rights for human beings. Naidu was addressing a public meeting organised by BJP to mark "National Unity Day Against Terrorism".

He wondered as to how a terrorist after killing thousands of innocents by triggering explosives could take refuge in human rights and civil liberties. He said that thousands of elders, women and children had been killed by terrorists in Kashmir and that the anti-terrorism law was meant to deal with them.

## BJP chief wants consensus

**BHUBANESWAR:** BJP chief Jana Krishnamurthy on Saturday appealed to the Congress to set aside political differences and back POTO in national interest.

"We have our political differences. But we should not compromise when it comes to security of the nation," BJP chief Jana Krishnamurthy said at a party workers' convention here. —ENS

Alluding to the threats posed by outfits owing their allegiance to Osama bin Laden, he said that in the wake of the September 11 attacks on the US, the threat of a terrorist attack from Laden's supporters in India necessitated the

promulgation of POTO.

Criticising the Congress and the Left parties for what he called their "double standards" on the issue of enacting stringent laws against terrorism, Naidu said that while the Congress governments in Maharashtra and Karnataka had already enacted the Control of Organised Crimes Act, the party had taken a "negative stand" on POTO.

He appealed to the Opposition "to place the interest of the nation before short-term political gains", when it came to dealing with terrorism that threatened the people's security.

"The Congress, which had enacted the Defence of India Act, MISA, Preventive Detention Act and Disturbed Area Act and also TADA, has no right to criticise POTO," he said.

## Jaya to bail out govt when Bill comes up in Parliament

**ANITA SALUJA**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

THE AIADMK would be supporting the Vajpayee Government on POTO in the Winter Session of Parliament and would be voting with it, thus bailing it out on the crucial voting where it was bound to face embarrassment given the stand of other Opposition parties including the Congress and the Left.

Reliable sources said AIADMK chief J. Jayalithaa has communicated the stand of the party to the Chief Whip of the Parliamentary party.

Accordingly, in both the Houses, the AIADMK which is so far an ally of the Congress, would vote in favour of the Vajpayee Government

on POTO.

Chief Minister O. Paneerselvam who attended the Inter-State Council meeting on Friday and would also be present at the Internal Security meet on Saturday would strongly defend the Vajpayee Government on POTO and oppose the Congress view-point on the issue.

Interestingly, it was on Friday, prior to the meeting of Internal Security conference convened by Prime Minister Vajpayee when Congress chief Sonia Gandhi also convened the crucial meeting of the Congress-ruled Chief Ministers in order to build a case against POTO.

However, the AIADMK is not with the Congress and neither are there any signs of convincing each other on the issue. Chief Minister O.

Paneerselvam ruled out any meeting with the Congress chief.

According to sources, neither the Congress nor the AIADMK made any effort to bridge the developing distance between the two in the recent past. While the Congress is annoyed over the stand of the AIADMK on POTO, the latter feels that the Congress is trying to come on its own in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, without caring for its sentiments.

AIADMK support is crucial for the Vajpayee Government as it stands to lose in the Rajya Sabha. If the Centre convenes a Joint Session of Parliament, the 17 AIADMK votes can bail out the Vajpayee Government in getting the crucial legislation on POTO passed.

INDIAN EXPRESS

18 NOV 2001

# War enters Ramadan phase

Allied forces secure Bagram airbase even as fierce fighting rages in Kandahar, Kunduz

AP 11/11

General

Kabul/Washington, Nov 16

EVEN AS voices of mullahs rang out across Afghanistan late last evening to announce the onset of Ramadan after the sighting of the first pale crescent, the blistering US bombing campaign showed no sign of receding.

The bombing on Kandahar has destroyed the Taliban's Foreign Ministry building, a mosque and killed 11 civilians, according to Afghan Islamic Press reports. Opposition warlord Ismail Khan vowed to march into Kandahar despite opposition from local tribes.

A veteran mujahideen commander, Khan this week retook Herat, his old power base that commands a major road through the Desert of Death to Kandahar. He is an old enemy of the Taliban, which drove him out of Herat in 1995 and jailed him in 1997.

The situation in the southern city remains unclear. Anti-Taliban forces said they had taken the airport, but Maulvi Najeebullah, a Taliban official who crossed briefly into Pakistan, said there was no fighting in the city.

But some reports said the city was surrounded by a loose coalition of Northern Alliance troops and local tribal leaders pushing for a negotiated surrender of the city. "Talks are on for the Taliban surrender. Those who refuse will be killed," the Alliance's General, Mohammad Daud said in Taloqan today.

At Kunduz, the Alliance laid siege to the city. The 6,000-odd fighters fighting with the Taliban there face the threat of being massacred at the hands of

## Taliban vow to leave Kandahar

SIGNALLING ITS most humiliating defeat, the Taliban movement decided on Friday to withdraw from Kandahar and to take to the mountains, late night AIP reports said.

Mullah Mohammad Omar decided to hand it to two former mujahideen commanders after days of talks with his military commanders. There was a strong possibility that the Taliban would leave the city within the next 24 hours, AIP said. The decision was taken to avoid more civilian casualties from US bombing.

*Reuters, Islamabad*  
Alliance troops. Commanders said their troops had been ordered to shoot every foreign fundamentalist and senior Afghans among the enemy ranks.

A Taliban emissary today raced to Islamabad to beg the UN to accept the surrender of 20,000 Taliban fighters trapped in the province. Mullah Omar has asked his followers to regroup and battle on but his troops in Kunduz are eager to give up.

An Alliance spokesman said his forces intended to execute any senior Taliban leader they captured, including Omar. "We will hang them in the stadium in Kabul where they have hanged our people."

US said military cargo planes flew into the Bagram airbase on Thursday. The base had been secured for both military operations and humanitarian aid.

Agencies  
More reports on Page 10



A US Air Force Special Operations soldier stands guard near a US Army Special Forces helicopter that landed in Khwaja Bahauddin on Friday morning.

AP PHOTO

## 'Osama successor killed in bombing'

Islamabad/Washington, Nov 16

A SENIOR adviser to Osama bin Laden is believed to have been killed by a US air strike in the past 48 hours, according to a US official. Mohammed Atef reportedly died during US bombing near Kabul, said the official, who described the evidence of this as "credible".

"This guy was Laden's military specialist since the early 1990s and is widely thought to be his successor in the event of his death," he said. An Egyptian, Atef is believed to have been involved in the planning and execution of the September 11 terrorist strikes in the US.

Atef has also been indicted

for involvement in the US Embassy bombings in Africa in 1998. Earlier this year, Atef's daughter married Laden's son. "This is a devastating blow to al-Qaida. Many other fighters of the outfit have also perished in the battle," the official said.

The focus of the US campaign in Afghanistan now has shifted more towards tracking down Laden and al-Qaida leaders, who are thought to be hiding in southern Afghanistan, where the Taliban still retains some control. The US State Department has been offering some \$5 million for information on Osama, Atef and other senior leaders of the terrorist network. Meanwhile, the Northern

Alliance claimed today that it has captured some senior leaders of al-Qaida in what could be a valuable intelligence coup, a US defence official said yesterday. "We have reason to believe that the Alliance has come into possession of some senior leaders," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

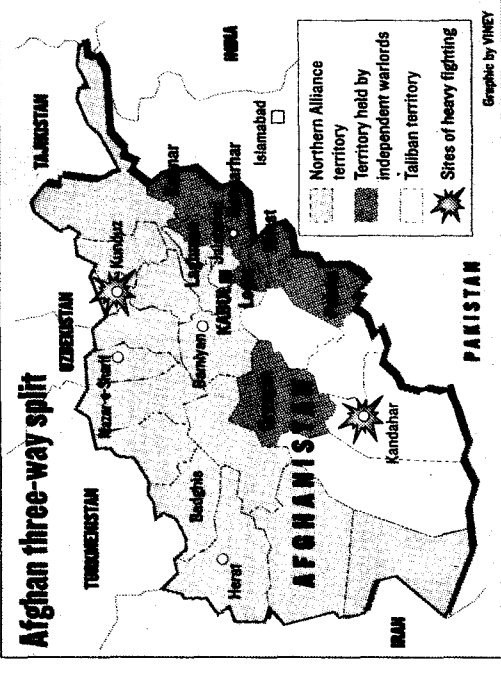
Though he made it clear that these were not the senior-most leaders of the terrorist network, he unidentified the captives as "some fairly senior players" in the organisation. "They are senior enough to provide some meaningful information." However, US officials had just learned of their capture and had not had access to them, the

official said. Though the circumstances surrounding the capture were not immediately known, the official said it was clearly not a case of defection.

The US is also keeping strict vigil along Afghanistan's border with Pakistan. There is information that senior Taliban leaders are headed towards the border. In fact, Iran Radio reported today that Osama had fled his hideout in Kandahar and has entered Pakistan.

With the Taliban in retreat and under attack even in its southern strongholds, US forces have intensified their efforts to capture and kill leaders of al-Qaida and the Taliban.

The Guardian & Agencies



Dalmiya rules out clash with ICC

# Mbeki hand seen in Denness ouster

49/207 & points

SF-1

29/11

## UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

LONDON, Nov. 23. — South Africa's decision to back India in the row over match referee Mr Mike Denness was taken by the country's President, Mr Thabo Mbeki. Mr Mbeki told his sports minister: "Never ever upset India", news reports said today.

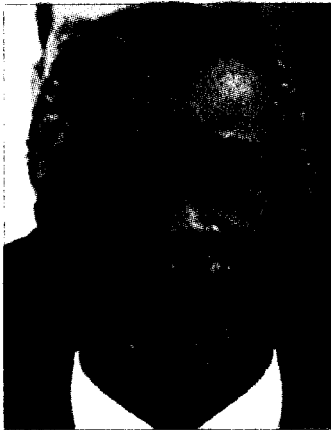
And Mr Mbeki was actually thinking of his country's economy when he issued the directive, the *Guardian* reported from Pretoria.

The President, during a mid-morning Cabinet meeting, reminded his sports minister, Mr Ngconde Balfour, that India was South Africa's major trading partner. "Beat them on the field but never, ever upset them off it, certainly not when it reaches the parliamentary level. Sport is one thing but the nation's economy is quite another", the *Guardian* quoted Mr Mbeki as having said.

The extraordinary presidential intervention came on a day of frenetic negotiations between Mr Jagmohan Dalmiya, his South African counterpart, Mr Gerald Majola, and the ICC chief, Mr Malcolm Speed. Mr Dalmiya agreed to continue the series as cancellation would have meant a loss of \$4 million in income, and legal action from TV companies.

Mr Mbeki knew the issue had

been debated in the Indian Parliament and demonstrations had taken place outside the South African embassies in Mumbai and Kolkata. Under his instructions,



Mr Thabo Mbeki

Mr Balfour contacted Mr Majola with a "sharp and painfully clear" message, the *Guardian* said.

Mr Majola telephoned Mr Speed in London. "We have no choice. It has been taken out of our hands. The Test must go ahead," he said.

He spoke

directly to Mr Denness. The referee said: "I am here to do a job and that is what I'll do."

**Pollock:** South African captain Shaun Pollock admitted today that his players were finding it difficult to motivate themselves for the match against India, adds PTI from Centurion Park. As such, it would be unfair if the match was ratified as an official one by the ICC at a later date, he said.

**An ego clash?** It seems to be an ego clash between the BCCI chief and the ICC head, SNS adds from Kolkata. Mr Dalmiya today discounted such theories and said the Indian Board had no intention of causing a split in the ICC. "The ICC is the parent body and we respect that."

■ See MBEKI: page 8

■ More reports on page 12

THE STATESMAN

29 NOV 2004

LINDSAY NEW REFEREE; MATCH UNOFFICIAL, SAYS ICC

# India, S. Africa dump Denness

CAPE TOWN, NOV. 22. South African cricket authorities on Thursday replaced match referee, Mr. Mike Denness, for the third test with India after the visitors threatened to abandon the tour.

However, the International Cricket Council (ICC), which appointed Mr. Denness, said the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) had acted without proper authority and the match would not be recognised as an official test.

The former South African test player and match referee, Mr. Dennis Lindsay, has accepted the UCBSA's offer to officiate in the match.

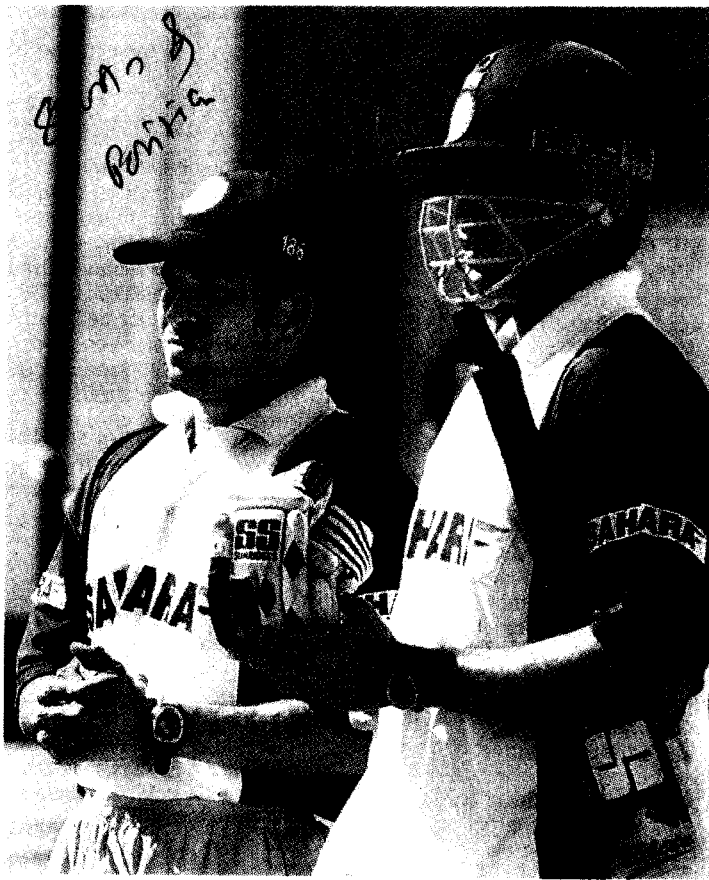
The UCBSA chief executive, Mr. Gerald Majola, said the Indian authorities had agreed that Mr. Lindsay was a suitable replacement.

The Indians were furious that Mr. Denness disciplined six of their players, including Sachin Tendulkar, for bringing the game into disrepute during the second test, and demanded he be replaced for the final test starting on Friday in Centurion.

"We were informed this morning by the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Mr. Jagmohan Dalmiya, that the Indian team will not take the field if Mike Denness is acting as match referee," Mr. Majola said in a statement.

The board could not afford to cancel the match and asked Mr. Denness to step aside in the interests of the game. Mr. Denness said he was a properly appointed ICC match referee and could not do so.

Mr. Majola then telephoned the ICC chief executive, Mr. Malcolm Speed, to inform him the board



The Indian skipper, Saurav Ganguly, waits for his turn with Sachin Tendulkar, during nets at the Super Sports Park in Centurion near Johannesburg, on Thursday. — Photo: N. Sridharan

had no alternative but to ask Mr. Denness to excuse himself. If he refused, the board would not allow him access to the match referee's position at the test match ground.

"We sincerely regret that the matter has come to this, however, we are pleased to announce that the third Castle Lager/MTN test

match will go ahead as planned," Mr. Majola said.

But the ICC said no cricket board had the authority to remove Mr. Denness. "The ICC cannot accede to demands for his removal. To remove him under this kind of pressure would be to disregard the rules agreed by all member countries and set an un-

acceptable future precedent," said Mr. Speed.

South African officials were not immediately available for comment on the ICC's ruling.

Mr. Denness found Sachin Tendulkar guilty of ball-tampering, captain Sourav Ganguly guilty of failing to control his players, and four others of "excessive appealing."

The South African Sports Minister, Mr. Ngconde Balfour, sent a letter tonight to the ICC stating that its action "does not serve the best interests of cricket."

## Ganguly 'taken aback'

A Johannesburg report said Ganguly was taken aback when he heard that the UCB had banned Mr. Denness. "Explain that to me again," he said. After hearing further details, he said, "I cannot comment on that."

Another report said Ganguly took a swipe at the Australian captain, Steve Waugh, who had backed the disciplinary steps against the Indian players.

Ganguly was quoted by the South African Press Association as saying "Steve Waugh must shut up. He should worry about Australian cricket."

Earlier, Mr. Dalmiya said in Kolkata that India had agreed to play the third match following the decision to replace Mr. Denness.

On whether he had informed the ICC of the decision, he said "there is no question of the BCCI going to the ICC since they have already given their judgment on our demand." If the ICC withdrew the two umpires from the match, two South African umpires would officiate, he said. — AP, PTI

More reports on Page 23

THE HINDU

23 NOV 2001

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2001

SPIN? SPIN?  
✓  
11-10 22/11  
**CRICKET CODE & JUSTICE**

A LITTLE BIT of prudence on the part of India's cricketers as well as by the match referee, Mr. Mike Denness, could have saved cricket from the latest controversy in South Africa. Going even by explanations in his support — removing dirt from the ball — India's latest cricketing icon, Sachin Tendulkar, has erred. Clearly, the question is not whether Sachin broke the laws of the game or not: the rules require players to remove dirt from the ball under the supervision of the umpire. The question is not even whether Mr. Denness went by the book when he imposed the penalties on six Indian players, including the captain, Sourav Ganguly: by all accounts he had acted within his jurisdiction. The issue is whether those on the field, and off it, played cricket. The outrage that is doing the rounds in the country over the penalties stems from the popular feeling that the nation's players were singled out for the severe punishments. That a more vociferous player from the opposing team was not reined in during the same Test match, only fuels grievances that the match referee had acted in a discriminatory manner.

The deeper hurt is the ruling that Sachin — acclaimed equally for his mastery with the willow and for his sense of fair play — had brought 'disrepute' to the game of cricket. Indeed, when Sachin 'removed the dirt from the ball' he did transgress the letter of the law. But, as the events that followed show clearly, that act did little to change the course of the second Test match against South Africa, which eventually trotted to a draw. Even going strictly by the rules, there is little evidence to show that suspicions were raised on the field either by the opponent team or by the umpires. If indeed there was an instance of ball tampering, the umpires were well within authority to have the ball

changed. Clearly, in the absence of these, the punishment handed down is disproportionate to the offence. The other issue of excessive appealing by the Indian players is a matter of interpretation. Clearly, on this charge, as in the more serious one of Sachin's tampering with the ball, no protests were lodged, either by the players or the umpires. These are points entirely in India's favour.

The disproportionately emotive statements doing the public rounds now — the shrill debates over whether cricket is still a white man's game, whether India should pull out of the series or whether Mr. Denness should be replaced — do not augur well for the spirit of cricket; nor for any sport. That the South African cricket authorities have sympathised with India is ample evidence that the spirit of sport is alive. The injustices perceived to have been done to the Indian team should be met squarely in the face and steps taken to gain an honourable acquittal. Clearly, there may seem to be advantages behind such public shows of protest, as was evident when the then Sri Lankan captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, rallied behind that nation's star spinner, Muttiah Muralitharan. It should however be realised that despite that show of strength, all traces of doubt were removed only when the International Cricket Council (ICC) cleared the latter's bowling action. The path ahead for India's cricketers is to complete the series with the confidence that the nation is fully behind them. Standing the ground in the face of unexpected difficulties is indeed one important attribute of sport. With India's cricket administrators, lies the more difficult task of convincing the ICC that its players were handed down a disproportionate punishment. Meanwhile, the game must go on and its rules followed, both in letter and in spirit. //

22 NOV 2001

MBEKI

(Continued from page 1)

All we want is a democratic organisation where the majority view will be respected. We don't want to leave the ICC, nor do we want any split."

With the ICC derecognising the India-South Africa match at Centurion Park, and the BCCI and the South African board insisting it is an "official Test match", it seems to be a pitched battle.

Virender Sehwag may have to sit out two matches instead of one following Mr Denness' ruling. Sehwag is not playing at Centurion Park—deemed to be a first-class five-day match by the ICC. If the ruling stands, he won't be able to play the first Test against England at Mohali.

On Sehwag's fate, Mr Dalmiya said: "There is still time for the Mohali Test. We will try and settle the issue with the ICC. If needed, a teleconference can be held to discuss the issue".

Mr Dalmiya seemed confident that the issue would be sorted out. He assured that this tussle in the ICC would not be reflected in England's tour of India.

The BCCI will challenge the ICC decision to call the final Test between India and South Africa at Centurion Park as an unofficial Test, Mr Niranjan Shah, BCCI secretary, said in Rajkot, adds PTI.

THE STATESMAN

29 NOV 2001



# NUCLEAR TERRORISM

## Brief Case Bombs Pose A New Threat

By GURMEET KANWAL

THE age of terror has spawned a new threat — the awesome power of the brief case nuke. A few years ago, General Alexander Lebed had gone public with the startling admission that a number of Russia's atomic demolition munitions (ADMs), popularly known as brief case bombs, were missing. Since then fears have been expressed that some of them may fall into the hands of terrorist organisations. After the 11 September attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, scenarios that were considered alarmist have now assumed nightmarish proportions.

Osama bin Laden has threatened retaliation by all means for US attacks against the Taliban. The ongoing wave of anthrax bio-terrorism has further reinforced the belief that nuclear terror is now a credible threat. Speculation that extremists in the Pakistan army may overthrow General Musharraf and that Pakistan's nuclear weapons may fall into jihadi hands has also heightened tensions. With the retreating Taliban finding it expedient to cross over the Durand Line into Pakistani territory, these apprehensions now seem even more real. Terrorists can acquire briefcase nukes either by purchasing them on the blackmarket, if General Lebed's disclosure is credible and such a market exists; by stealing them from a nuclear-armed nation's arsenal; or, by assembling them after acquiring the raw materials.

### SINISTER

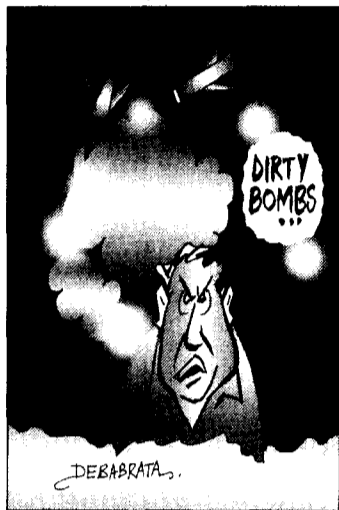
These mini-nukes could have low (single digit) or even sub-kiloton yields. Even if a terrorist group manages to buy or steal a brief case nuke, it would find it extremely difficult to unlock modern safety devices like Permissive Action Links and specially designed tamper-proof seals whose sole purpose is to prevent the accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons.

Activating the weapon would require special technical skills and intimate knowledge of sophisticated electronic codes. Only a few nuclear scientists with experience in the assembly of ADMs could be expected to have the skills necessary for the purpose. Overcoming the hurdles of breaking electronic locks would be infinitely more difficult and, besides state-of-the-art super computers and personnel trained to operate them, would require a highly advanced intelligence gathering system. Neither Osama bin Laden's AL Qaeda, nor any of the other large terrorist organisations supporting it, is likely to have acquired the ability to trigger a modern brief case nuke that it may have bought or stolen, specially if the Tritium triggers needed to ignite them have decayed.

However, it is possible that these terrorist organisations may have themselves developed and assembled a crude mini-nuke or may do so in the near future. Such an effort would need hundreds of million dollars to procure the ingredients, the ingenuity of volunteer or mercenary nuclear scientists and oodles of luck. Though the development of a practically usable nuclear warhead presents a complex challenge, it would be irresponsible to assume that it cannot be done. Ever since the break up

of the Soviet Union, there have been credible reports of many out of work nuclear scientists having gone missing. While some of them have doubtlessly been employed by North Korea and other states of concern, the erstwhile rogue nations, others may have had no compunction in loaning their skills to whoever asked if the right amount of money was on offer — preferably in US dollars.

Also, Pakistani nuclear scientists with a jihadi inclination



may have volunteered to work for Al Qaeda, as has been recently reported. The arrest of three Pakistani nuclear scientists and their subsequent handing over to US intelligence agencies for questioning has an ominous ring about it. Two of the three are senior scientists who had set up an NGO called Ummah Tameer-e-Nau (Reconstruction of the Muslim Ummah) in Afghanistan after retirement. This NGO, with its membership comprising mainly nuclear scientists and military officers, is known to have had close links with the Taliban and Al Qaeda.

Reports of joint US-Israeli plans to seize control of Pakistan's nuclear weapons if General Musharraf is overthrown in a coup by jihadi forces have made headlines the world over. Investigative journalist Seymour Hersh of Watergate fame wrote in New Yorker magazine last week that commandos of Israel's elite Unit 262 and US special forces have been rehearsing a contingency plan to ensure that Pakistan's nuclear warheads do not fall into the hands of Islamist fundamentalists within and outside the Pakistan army in case Musharraf is overthrown in a widely anticipated coup by hardliners.

### SAFEGUARDS

Such a development would pose a grave danger to international security. India would be particularly vulnerable to nuclear terrorism if the lunatic fringe of Pakistan's jihadi forces were to lay their hands on nuclear warheads. However, as defence minister George Fernandes has stated, nuclear weapons in Pakistan are firmly in the army's control. Pakistan has a National Command Authority chaired by the head of government. The NCA is responsible for policy formulation and exercises employment and development control over all nuclear forces and strategic organisations. The NCA comprises the Employment Control Committee and the Development Control Committee. A new Strategic Plans Division, headed by a Lieutenant General, has been established at the Joint Services Headquarters to provoke secretariat support for the NCA and its committees.

The ECC is the apex body for nuclear decision-making and is chaired by General Musharraf. The committee has the foreign

minister as its deputy chairman and includes the defence and interior ministers, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, the three chiefs of staff, director general strategic plans division and representatives from Pakistan's strategic organisations. The DCC supervises the actual development, not just of the nuclear and missile forces, but also of the auxiliary command, control, communications, and intelligence systems.

The actual custody of Pakistan's two dozen nuclear warheads would have been entrusted to specially selected elite units of the Pakistan army. Personnel connected with the safety and security of nuclear weapons are likely to have been thoroughly screened and would be constantly under watch. Military regimes have very strong survival instincts and the Musharraf regime would have ensured that jihadi hardliners are ruthlessly weeded out from the nuclear security detail. Also, it could be assumed that the fissionable nuclear core of each warhead, comprising highly enriched uranium, would be stored separately from the high explosive trigger assembly to guard against accidents and unauthorised use. These storage sites would be well dispersed so that at least some of the warheads survive a conventional air attack. They would also be well defended against possible commando raids.

### REAL DANGER

Hence, a joint US-Israeli commando operation to destroy or take out Pakistan's nuclear warheads in the event of a jihadi coup is a far-fetched idea that is unlikely to succeed. If the jihadis do take over Pakistan, they will probably have to fight the army guards to the bitter end before they can lay their hands on the nuclear warheads. However, it is quite possible that if a jihadi dominated regime overthrows Musharraf, the US may attack nuclear storage sites in Pakistan with cruise missiles and fighter-bombers to destroy the warheads.

The real danger from nuclear terrorism is that the terrorist organisations may assemble "dirty bombs" in which high explosives (RDX or TNT) are used to blow up and scatter uranium or other radioactive materials over a large area. Spent nuclear fuel rods that are stolen and radiation waste from cancer facilities in large hospitals and irradiation centres could be used. Though such dirty bombs will not cause horrendous casualties, if exploded in large Western cities, they will create a fear psychosis that will add to the paranoia that has already got a deep hold over ordinary people after the 11 September attacks.

Another likely consequence of the future possession of nuclear weapons by terrorist groups would be development by the US of low-yield mini-nukes that can be delivered with precision against deeply buried hard targets. Such targets could include the living shelters of terrorist leaders, including caves, and their storage facilities for weapons of mass destruction. The US may get around the basic premise of the Non-Proliferation Treaty that binds the five recognised nuclear weapons states not to attack non-nuclear states with nuclear weapons by claiming that the possession of nuclear warheads even by terrorist organisations being hosted by a state makes the state a nuclear-armed entity.

The author is a former Senior Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi.

THE STATESMAN

21 NOV 2001

# A nuke for a nuke, Osama warns U.S.

ISLAMABAD: Saudi renegade Osama bin Laden has claimed he has chemical and nuclear weapons and will use them against the U.S. "if America used chemical or nuclear weapons against us". He warned that all Americans were targets.

In an interview with the editor of the Pakistani Urdu daily *Ausaf* on Saturday, he also said that Gen Pervez Musharraf would be "punished" for siding with the U.S.-led coalition.

"We have the weapons as a deterrent," he said, but refused to give details of his claimed arsenal. When asked from where he had got the weapons, he said, "Go to the next question."

The White House declined to respond directly to Bin Laden's comments but said U.S. officials viewed such a threat "seriously". "We've said that we've suspected all along that his organisation has been trying to acquire chemical, biological or nuclear weapons," said White House

spokesman Ken Lisaitis. "We take these statements seriously and we will do everything we can to prevent their acquisition of these materials."

Bin Laden justified the September 11 attacks and said there was no proof of

his involvement. He said the U.S. was to blame for the attacks. "America and its allies are massacring us in Palestine, Chechnya, Kashmir and Iraq. The Muslims have the right to attack America in reprisal. The September 11 attacks were not targeted at women and children. The real targets were America's icons of military and economic power," he said.

"We ourselves are the target of killings, destruction and atrocities. We

are only defending ourselves. This is defensive *jihad*. We want to defend our people and our land. That is why I say that if we don't get security, the Americans too will not get security."

Bin Laden went on to say that all



**¶ We are only defending ourselves.. If we don't get security, the Americans too will not get security ¶**

Americans were to blame for the actions of their government. "The American people should remember that they pay taxes to their government, they elect their President, their government manufactures arms and gives them to Israel and Israel uses them to massacre Palestinians. The American Congress endorses all government measures and this proves that entire America is responsible for the atrocities perpetrated against Muslims, entire

America because they elected Congress.

"Right now, a great war of Islamic history is being fought in Afghanistan. All the big powers are united against Muslims. It is *sawab* (a religious deed) to participate in this war."

Stating that Gen Musharraf would be "punished" for joining the U.S.-led coalition, he said Pakistan "should not have surrendered to the unjustified demands of America. America does not have solid proof against us. It just has some surmises. It is unjust to start bombing on those surmises".

"We will not leave the Pakistani people and Pakistani territory at anybody's mercy. We will defend Pakistan, but we have been disappointed by Gen Pervez Musharraf. Bush has used the word crusade. This is a crusade declared by Bush. It is no wisdom to barter the blood of Afghan brethren to improve Pakistan's economy. He (Musharraf) will be punished by the Pakistani people and Allah." (AFP)

# War on Afghanistan a bigger terrorist act, says Chomsky

Terminis  
HD-10  
11/11

By Our Special Correspondent

CHENNAI, NOV. 10. Arguing that the war on Afghanistan constituted a greater terrorist act than the September 11 attacks on the United States, the renowned scholar, Prof. Noam Chomsky, today denounced state terrorism in all its forms.

The U.S., he said, did not seek the sanction of the United Nations Security Council for the war despite knowing that it could have obtained the sanction without any difficulty because it did not want to legitimise the need to approach the Council. The U.S. wanted to reserve its right to act unilaterally.

Delivering a lecture on 'September 11 and its aftermath: where is the world heading?', Prof. Chomsky pointed to the double standards adopted by the U.S. While it wanted the extradition of Osama bin Laden in connection with the attacks, it was unwilling to grant Haiti's request for the extradition of a criminal wanted in connection with atrocities committed in the Nineties.

Criticising U.S. attempts at hegemony in the world, he said the moves for extending the defence system and for total domination would only increase with the attempts toward globalisation. The forms which globalisation took were intended to benefit the West and the corporates and not the people.

Public opinion against global-



Mr. Noam Chomsky delivering a lecture on "September 11 and its aftermath" in Chennai on Saturday. — Photo: K. Gajendran.

isation had increased in the Nineties in countries such as India. Globalisation had only widened inequalities. There was now a broad alliance of labour unions, social democrats and others against the specific forms of globalisation. There was also greater awareness of human rights and civil liberties from the Sixties onwards.

The September 11 attacks were a historic turning point, not because of their scale but for the choice of target. The national territory of the U.S. itself became the target of attack.

Mr. N. Ram, editor of *Frontline*,

which sponsored the lecture, introduced Prof. Chomsky and recalled his contribution to various fields, including linguistics.

Earlier, Prof. Chomsky, speaking at the Asian College of Journalism, made out a case for people's participation in the political process and described all States as terrorist States.

Barring the weak ones, which were incapable of aggression, all States were "terrorist", he said during an "open and free discussion" at the ACJ.

The political class wanted to reduce the domain of democratic choices. Major decisions were not

taken in the public arena.

While the "politics of oil" might be in the background of the war on Afghanistan, this was not a triggering factor. The Gulf, and not Central Asia, was the most important in terms of oil resources, he pointed out.

Insisting that the U.S. was not a democracy, he said the political system in that country was meant to protect the opulent classes against the majority of the people. The "permanent interests" of the country was defined as the interests of the property holders. Pointing to the alienation from the political process in the case of a vast majority of people, he said they sections were indoctrinated with a consumerist culture of sports, music and purchasing. The propaganda tools reached their highest forms in the more democratic societies, he said.

Asked if he thought that the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of a unipolar world had increased American hegemony, he said the collapse of the Soviet Union was in effect a removal of a barrier to the emergence of socialism. However, the existence of two super powers left some manoeuvring room for the rest of the world and the non-aligned movement, as the victims of one super power, were supported by the other.

Mr. Sashikumar of the Media Development Foundation introduced Prof. Chomsky.

CHENNAI

11/11

# U.K. freezes more terrorist assets

By Hasan Suroor

9/11  
11/9/18  
**LONDON, NOV. 8.** Persisting with its crackdown on terrorist organisations, the British Government today issued another order freezing the assets of 46 organisations and 16 individuals suspected of links with terrorism. This is the fourth list since the September 11 outrage which galvanised Western countries into attacking the financial sources of terrorist bodies.

The Treasury said the people and bodies on the list were believed to have committed, or posed a risk of committing, or of providing material support for, acts of terrorism. These are based in West Asia, America, Africa, Sweden, Canada, Holland, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Liechtenstein. The previous two lists affected organisations whom India had accused of sponsoring terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Gordon Brown, also an-

nounced that a further £7 million of suspected terrorist assets were frozen in the U.K. in the last week, bringing the total amount of assets frozen in the U.K. to £70 million in 38 accounts. He said: "The ready supply of finance is the life blood of modern terrorism. The £7 million of terrorist assets frozen last week is evidence that the work we are urgently pursuing to stop the financing of terrorism is hitting terrorists where it hurts. If any of those named today hold assets in the U.K. they will be frozen immediately. This list is a result of further intelligence sharing and coordination between the U.K., U.S. and other international allies."

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, continued his diplomatic efforts to garner support for the international coalition against terrorism. He had a meeting with the visiting King Abdullah of Jordan soon after he returned from his visit to Wash-

ington where he and the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, expressed confidence about winning the "war" against terrorism. King Abdullah, addressing British MPs, condemned the September 11 attacks and said as a "civilised" nation Jordan stood "shoulder-to-shoulder" with the coalition.

## Japan to send warships

**TOKYO, NOV. 8.** Japan's Cabinet today voted to send three warships to provide non-combat support in the U.S.-led war on terrorism, despite opposition to any Japanese attempt to expand its military role.

The two destroyers and a supply vessel will leave the southern port of Sasebo tomorrow and head for the Indian ocean to gather intelligence for the U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan. — AP

THE HINDU

9 NOV 2001

H10-9  
9/11

# Differences in ASEAN on approach to terrorism

By Amit Baruah

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (BRUNEI), NOV. 8.** Terrorism may not have dominated the agenda of Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders and their colleagues from China, Japan and South Korea, but it brought to the fore differences of approach within ASEAN on this contentious issue.

The agreement on negotiating a free trade area between ASEAN and China within 10 years, which was formally agreed on Tuesday, lent some cheer to a region bogged down by poor economic results and worries about the continued impact of a slowing global economy.

From the Indian point of view, the ASEAN decision to hold a summit meeting with New Delhi after discussing the pros and cons of the issue for about one year, was welcome.

However, as ASEAN and China pat themselves for embarking on a new path of free trade discussions, South-East Asian nations are divided on the issue of terrorism and how to deal with it.

While the ASEAN declaration on counter-terrorism is dated November 5, it was issued late on November 4 night — when ASEAN Heads of Government met over a “working dinner” — minus the leaders of Japan, China and South Korea.

Malaysia, which along with Indonesia has been critical of the American military operations, apparently did not favour an

ASEAN+3 statement against terrorism; wanting that it should be ASEAN alone which should issue the declaration.

While the main statement did not contain any reference to Afghanistan or civilian killings, the Sultan of Brunei, Haji Hassanah Bolkuah, did make a reference in his own statement as Chairman of the ASEAN working summit.

“In reiterating their condemnation of the terrorist attacks, leaders expressed their concern for the welfare of innocent people as a result of the military action on Afghanistan and considered extending humanitarian assistance,” the Chairman’s carefully-worded press statement said.

Though the countries which expressed concern were not named, Indonesia and Malaysia are definitely likely candidates.

The Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, traditional American allies in this part of the world, are strong supporters of the U.S. military strikes in Afghanistan.

It is not unlikely that the reference to concern about civilian deaths in the Chairman’s statement was a compromise reached by ASEAN officials and leaders to meet the requirements of Indonesia and Malaysia.

## Goh’s view

When asked why Singapore and other countries declined to support Malaysia’s call for a halt to U.S. bombing in Afghanistan and its call to define terrorism at a

U.N. meet, the Singapore Prime Minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, said: “There was no direct support or lack of support for each other’s position. Malaysia and Indonesia stated their own positions.”

Mr. Goh told the Singapore press: “Likewise at the senior officials’ meeting, Singapore officials stated their own position. Our position is that we are against terrorism. We are supporting the U.S.,...Afghanistan has sheltered the terrorists and we recognise the right of the U.S. to defend itself.”

The Singapore Prime Minister said it was not a question of Singapore disagreeing with Malaysia and Indonesia.

“They have their own positions which we understand and respect. Likewise, we have our own position which I hope they understand and respect.”

It would appear that ASEAN leaders have “managed” their differences publicly on the all-crucial issue of the military response to the September 11 terrorist attacks in Afghanistan.

As Indonesia and Malaysia look to their domestic “Muslim” constituencies and the bombs continue to fall in Afghanistan, the pressures on their leadership is bound to grow.

It remains to be seen how the Malaysian and Indonesian leaders respond to the U.S. anti-terror campaign in Afghanistan.

9 NOV 2001

'WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO OVERLOAD AGENDA'

# Coalition partners cannot indulge in terrorism: PM

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, NOV. 8. The Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has said that while India did not desire to "overload" the agenda of the international coalition against terrorism, at the same time it needed to ensure "that we do not tamely accept terrorist acts against us from across the borders".

In nearly identical and strong opening remarks to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the International Relations Committee of the House of Representatives, Mr. Vajpayee talked about the continuing cross-border terrorism and increased infiltrations from across the border and the Line of Control.

The Prime Minister said that while fighting terrorism in Afghanistan, the coalition members cannot be permitted to indulge in terrorist adventures elsewhere, for that would be a defeat of the common objectives.

"You understand, as elected representatives of the people, that public opinion seeks action from its elected representatives when such incidents occur... We have no desire to overload the agenda of the international coalition against terrorism. But at the same time, we need to ensure that we do not tamely accept terrorist acts against us from across the borders," he said.

Stressing that India would remain strongly with the American

people in the endeavour against terrorism, Mr. Vajpayee noted that terrorist units develop financial and logistical links across countries and continents in spite of espousing different causes and ideologies. "Killing of innocent civilians and destruction of property can only be called terrorism, whatever the justification provided," he said.

"Every such manifestation has to be dealt with equally firmly. Unless and until we develop this integrated and inclusive approach to this scourge, no democratic, pluralist society can remain unthreatened by terrorism. We will remain strongly with

the American people in this endeavour," he said.

Calling for an early and urgent return to normalcy in Afghanistan, so that its people can have a broad-based government, the Prime Minister pointed out that he had recently written to the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, suggesting the early formation of a group of countries which should engage in a focussed manner the issues of political reconciliation and economic reconstruction of Afghanistan.

"We hope Pakistan can play a constructive role in this. If indeed it has made the correct strategic choice to change, it would be a

major advance towards peace in the region," Mr. Vajpayee told the Senate Committee.

The Prime Minister reminded the Members of the House International Relations Committee that as victim of terrorism over the last two decades, India was conscious of the fact that unless this "menace is tackled in a global and comprehensive manner, it (terrorism) will repeatedly raise its ugly head in various regions in the world".

In an indirect but pointed reference to Pakistan, Mr. Vajpayee said the battle against terrorism cannot end in Afghanistan, rather that it had to address similar manifestations elsewhere.

Later, addressing a luncheon meeting of the India Caucus, the Prime Minister conveyed the concern and solidarity of the people of India at the events of September 11 and the terror caused by anthrax. The response of India "was not motivated by tactical or foreign policy considerations".

"It was spontaneous. It emanated from our fellow feeling for you and from the pain of our own experience from terrorism," Mr. Vajpayee said going on to thank the Caucus for reaching out to reassure the Indian American community that "terrorists will not succeed in destroying America's rich tradition of pluralism, tolerance and accommodation".

In an address that touched on several themes and the breadth of bilateral relations, he said the vision of the Caucus had helped open new avenues of Indo-U.S. cooperation, besides reinforcing mutual trust and confidence between the two countries.

"Your sustained efforts have helped remove a major impediment to the enhancement of economic, defence and technology cooperation. Your support will be vital in realising the enormous potential for mutually beneficial cooperation that exists in these areas," the Prime Minister said.

## India 'natural ally': U.S.

By P. S. Suryanarayana

WASHINGTON, NOV. 8. The United States today characterised India as a "natural ally". It was significant, not merely symbolic, that a senior U.S. Government official echoed the sentimental phrase that was first coined by India itself. Speaking on the eve of the summit between the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, the official described India as a "key partner in the global coalition" against terrorism.

The U.S. also believed that Pakistan "is 100 per cent on board" in regard to the current U.S. "priority" of cracking down on Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network. "Right now, we are confident that the nuclear weapons in the region are under control", the official said in a briefing. About the terrorist status of the Jaish-e-Mohammad and the Lashkar-e-Taiba under the U.S. laws, the official said that the State Department had not at this moment put them on its list of foreign terrorist organisations. Yet, their links with Al-Qaeda were evident and that had prompted the inclusion of Jaish in a recent executive order, the official underlined.

THE HINDU

9 NOV 2001

# Lashkar, Jaish not yet on ban list

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, NOV. 7. The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Ms. Christina Rocca, said on Tuesday that to the best of her knowledge the State Department had not yet put the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad on the list of Foreign Terrorist Organisations (FTOs).

The U.S. Attorney-General, Mr. John Ashcroft, had sent a request to the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, asking him to designate as many as 46 terror networks formally as FTOs and this request was still being processed, Ms. Rocca told South Asian journalists at the State Department.

Ms. Rocca's statement has to be seen in the backdrop of the hoopla in India last Saturday in the wake of reports that Washington had in effect moved in "finally" on the two Pakistan-based terror networks.

And the media 'confusion' is partly attributable to Indian Embassy sources here who were either as confused as the scribes were or going along with a farce that had already been "welcomed" by official India. In fact, at least one senior Indian diplomat claimed that the State Department had "added" the names on Saturday.

"Go and look up the website," was the refrain. And there was nothing on the website and the Duty Officer over the weekend argued that she was not aware of anything new released over and beyond what the State Department spokesman, Mr. Richard Boucher, said on Friday. The two terror networks can be put on the list anytime but the fact remains that this did not come about last Friday.

Part of the 'confusion' is because in the aftermath of the September 11 terror attacks there are at least three "lists" doing the rounds — the White House, the Treasury and the State Department's FTOs. In India's context, the Jaish-e-Mohammad is officially on the list of the Treasury Department and, therefore, subjected to restrictions on the visa front. At the time of writing, the LeT does not even face this restriction as no official determination has been made.

What happened last Friday was something different. The State Department added 22 terrorist outfits to the original list of the White House, which was released as an Executive Order on September 23 by the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush. At that time, the Executive Order focussed on the Al-Qaeda and five related terror groups. The decision to add the remaining terror networks was a result of

pressure from the pro-Israeli lobby that the original Executive Order of September 23 did not contain such groups as the Hamas, the Hizbollah, the Islamic Jihad or the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

It also gave rise to the wrong impression that terrorist groups which figure in the State Department's list such as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been let off the hook. That was not the case. Making the announcement at the State Department, Mr. Boucher argued that it brought all foreign terrorist organisations under one uniform set of rules. "There are 22 others on the foreign terrorist organisation list. These are now being added to the President's List," Mr. Boucher had said.

"We are taking a methodical approach to this and all aspects of the campaign to ensure maximum impact on the terrorists. This executive order designations is by no means the last," he said.

The State Department said that in addition to the assets already blocked in the U.S., the new executive order provided authority to act against individuals and organisations associated with the named terrorist organisations. The U.S. would not rest "until every terrorist group has been removed as a threat to the U.S., our citizens or interests and our friends and allies".

THE HINDU

... fugitive, seated between two Taliban fighters near Ghāzni in Afghanistan.

## AFGHAN OPPOSITION FIGURE EXECUTED

# Crackdown on Al-Qaeda finances

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, NOV. 7. In a fresh crackdown on the flow of funds to terrorist organisations, especially the Al-Qaeda, law enforcement agencies today raided several establishments all over the United States as Washington put pressure on foreign governments to tighten the financial squeeze.

Federal authorities had warrants issued for establishments in Washington, Boston, Minneapolis, Columbus and Seattle; and more States are being identified.

Separately, the Treasury Department added another 61 entities and people to a list of suspected terrorist outfits. The new list included 45 groups and 16 individuals. The earlier list included 88 entities and people and had their assets frozen.

The latest steps on the financial front is being taken as the Bush administration is trying to further lift its image on the public relations front, domestically and internationally. Although the President, Mr. George W. Bush, is still retaining solid support, by and large there is this generalised view that the U.S. is getting bogged down in the military operations in Afghanistan.

AP, Reuters report:

In the wake of the U.S. asking allies to freeze assets that aid Osama and his Al-Qaeda organisation, Swiss police detained two Arab financiers.

The new list of targeted entities, provided by the Treasury Department, covers groups and people affiliated to two suspected Osama financial networks — the Al-Taqua and the Al-Barakaat. Both are informal, largely unregulated financial networks that authorities say funnel money to the Al-Qaeda through com-

panies and non-profit organisations they operate.

On the war front in Afghanistan, American efforts to encourage an anti-Taliban revolt in the south got off to a rough start, with one opposition figure captured and executed and another plucked from the area by U.S. forces.

The difficulties contrast with efforts in the north, where the opposition Northern Alliance said it seized a district from Taliban forces on Wednesday and was closing in on the key northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

A report from Islamabad said the Taliban had executed Izzatullah, nephew of the slain former Mujahideen commander, Abdul Haq, and handed his body over to relatives in the eastern city of Jalalabad.

"We got the body in Jalalabad yesterday where he was buried alongside Abdul Haq," said Mr. Mohammad Yusuf, a cousin of Izzatullah, speaking from Peshawar.

Commander Abdul Haq, a supporter of the former Afghan king, Mr. Zahir Shah, and at least two companions were summarily executed by the Taliban within hours of their capture after a gunbattle in Afghanistan late last month.

In Washington, the U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, said Hamid Karzai, an exiled tribal chief who had been in Afghanistan to rally opposition to the Taliban, was flown a couple of days ago to Pakistan where he has been living in recent years. He said the trip was not a rescue mission, though Taliban officials claim Karzai was picked up by a U.S. helicopter during a gunbattle with Taliban forces.

Mr. Rumsfeld said Karzai would go back to southern Afghanistan to resume his efforts against the Taliban.

8 NOV 2001



## THE NEW TENTACLES OF TERRORISM

IN A FLASH, the world's approach to terrorism changed on September 11. Objects considered ubiquitous till the other day are now seen as potential killers, with the ability to conjure up private and public panic. From aircraft to mail-bags, the changed ingredients of the terrorists' arsenal do not augur well for the world. It is one thing to aspire for a change from the status quo — several individuals and groups have done so with success in the past — it is another to deploy terror to reach such an end. The world has seen its share of armed insurrection, it has also seen rival armies resorting to tactics that could go down as the use of biological weapons — Hannibal is credited to have used it in 184 B.C. During the several wars that man has fought against man, contaminating enemy supply lines for instance, has been part of the tactics, and not many states at war have resisted such temptations. The present threats of biological warfare, however, mark a distinct difference from the past. The possible use of such weapons by terrorist groups aimed at innocent non-combatants calls for a complete new look at countering the menace of terrorism. The ease with which biological agents can be concealed and the extent of damage that can be caused by even small amounts make the new form of terrorism more difficult to combat.

If cruel ingenuity killed thousands of innocents in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Terror Tuesday, it takes a real life Prof. Moriarty to sustain the tempo of terror through the threat of the use of biological weapons. Across the globe, mail has now become objects of scare. Of the several possible faceless suspects behind this new-age terrorism, the global spread of anthrax-laced mail points to the possibilities of either a networked organisation or

groups working in tandem. However, as it will be "a capital mistake to theorise before one has data", it is important that Governments take urgent and concerted steps to track down the perpetrators of this new form of terror. The lack of any credible evidence on who has been behind the innumerable mail — both hoaxes and real ones — points to the ease with which those behind such acts can evade the long arm of the law, thereby making such forms of terror an easy option for outlawed groups. Clearly, the perils of proceeding against unknown enemies are too huge to be ignored, especially given the increasing possibility of their being dangerously armed.

8711 110-10  
The subcontinent's share of anthrax mail — including those sent to a State Minister in India, a newspaper office in Pakistan and diplomatic missions in Sri Lanka — is a serious pointer to the vulnerability of the region. Given the wide spread of terrorist organisations in South Asia, these are to be taken as an early wake-up call. Responses from the Governments to this new threat have concentrated largely on stemming the spread of panic. The use of technology to scan mail as well as the periodic advisories that have been issued by Governments are indications that the seriousness of the threat has engaged the attention of states. Yet, there are areas that remain to be addressed, including testing facilities, the availability of vaccines, and the ability to respond to a mass emergency. While these and other initiatives are required to be taken by Governments, at the larger level it is imperative that the multilateral mechanism in place to check the production of biological weapons is effectively activated and complete compliance ensured.

THE HINDU

6 NOV 2001

# Pak freezes Jaish accounts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 6. - Pakistan has frozen the bank accounts of Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Lahore-based Islamic charity, Rabita Trust, said a State Bank of Pakistan official today, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Both Jaish and the trust were on the US Attorney General's list of organisations supporting or committing terrorist acts. Pakistan has already frozen the accounts of Harkat ul-Mujahideen and the Islamic charity, the Al-Rasheed Trust, after the US state department included them in an earlier list of suspected organisations with terrorist-links.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani President, General Pervez Musharraf is leaving on a six-day tour of France, Britain and USA tomorrow.

The President would go to France for a two-day visit during which he is scheduled to hold talks with the French President, Mr Jacques Chirac. He would then go to Britain to meet the British Prime Minister, Mr Tony Blair. Gen Musharraf is also expected to meet members of the British Parliament at a joint session.

The Pakistani President would then leave for New York to attend the UN General Assembly session on 9 November. Besides addressing the UN, he would attend an exclusive dinner hosted by the US President, in recognition of the stand taken by him to join the fight against terrorism.

This would be his first ever meeting with the Mr George W Bush.

**Curbs on Taliban envoy:** Pakistan has directed the Taliban ambassador to the country, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, to "limit" his activities and "barred" him from holding daily media briefings highlighting Taliban propaganda against US operations in Afghanistan.

Mr Zaeef has been told to limit his activities according to "diplomatic norms," a report on the website of the Pakistan daily, *The News*, said.

THE STATESMAN

6 NOV 2001

PUTIN FROWNS ON 'DOUBLE STANDARDS' IN CAMPAIGN

# India, Russia sign declaration to combat global terrorism

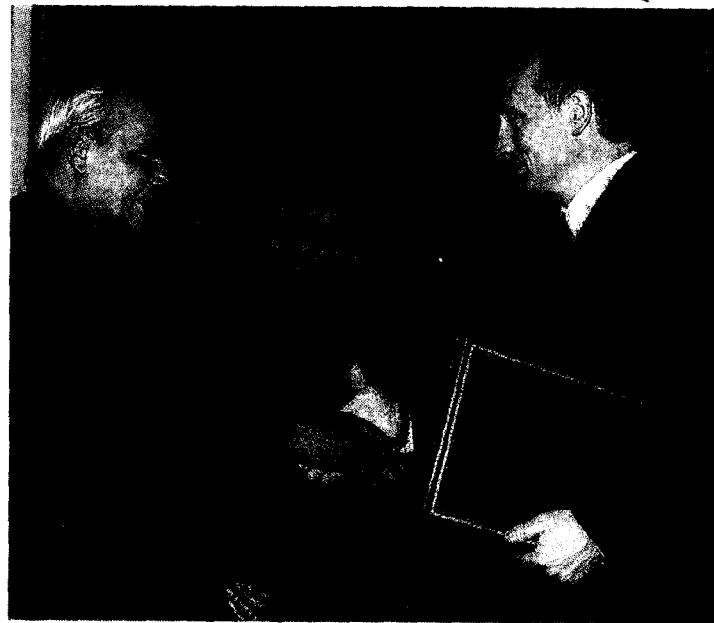
By P. S. Suryanarayana

MOSCOW, NOV. 6. India and Russia today signed a new Moscow Declaration on "international terrorism" and made a joint statement exclusively on "strategic issues" of global importance. The statement called for the creation of "a new cooperative security order" as the launch-pad for the development of "a multi-polar world".

The advocacy of the new security order, not a novel proposition, can acquire significance as a competitive Indo-Russian effort to induce the U.S. to look at its own concept of a "new strategic framework" through this prism as well.

In mapping out today's documents, the Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, sent out signals to the U.S. about their desire to join it in reshaping the terror-traumatised world order. Yet, both Mr. Putin and Mr. Vajpayee stopped well short of putting themselves on a collision course with the U.S. There was no wake-up call that might be of immediate or direct concern to Washington.

The new Moscow Declaration was given finishing touches during the Putin-Vajpayee summit that took place in the Kremlin today. The centrepiece of the declaration was their joint call for the "completion of negotiations un-



The Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, shaking hands with the Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, as they exchange documents after signing the anti-terrorism declaration in Moscow on Tuesday. — AFP

der (the) U.N. auspices on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the Convention for the suppression of acts of Nuclear Terrorism".

The adoption of these conventions would "assist in strengthening the international legal basis for effectively combating the glob-

al menace of terrorism", the two leaders underlined.

At a post-summit press conference, Mr. Putin spoke disapprovingly of the present "double standards" of the international community in the fight against terror — a transparent reference to the perceptions about the U.S.' response to Russia's troubles in

Chechnya and India's saga of sorrow in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, the Moscow Declaration was silent on this aspect of "double standards". This could only be inferred from the insistence by India and Russia that "international law" be the take-off base for "decisive measures against all states, individuals and entities which render support (to), harbour, finance, instigate terrorists" or against those promoting terrorism in other ways too.

The Indo-Russian statement on "strategic issues" was more forthright than the Moscow Declaration in spelling out views of immediate interest to the United States. India and Russia expressed "their support to preserving (the) existing arms control and disarmament agreements including the (Russo-American) Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (of 1972)". Moreover, the two countries called for the "non-weaponisation of outer space." In some contrast, it was only a few days ago that Russia indicated a certain willingness to take a fresh look at this Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in the new strategic environment that is defined by America's plans for a missile defence system.

India and Russia today pledged their "readiness to work jointly with other states on the creation of a global control system for the non-proliferation of missiles and missile technologies on a global, equal and non-discriminatory basis under the U.N. auspices."

On Afghanistan, Mr. Putin endorsed India's credentials for a role in the settlement of the crisis. But he did not call for an expansion of the U.N.-sponsored "six-plus-two mechanism" to include India. The 'six-plus-two' caucus on Afghanistan consists of its six geopolitical neighbours plus the U.S. and Russia.

On Kashmir, the Russian leader commended the instrumentality of a direct dialogue between India and Pakistan.

## Koodankulam deal concluded

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, NOV. 6. A deal for construction of a nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu with technical and financial assistance from Russia was signed here today on the sidelines of the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee's visit.

The agreement, inked by Mr. V.K. Chaturvedi, CMD of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd., and Mr. Viktor Kozlov, General Director of Russia's Atomstroexport, provides for the construction of the plant at Koodankulam of two Russian-designed 1,000 MW VVER light-water reactors. Russia will supply fuel and spare parts for the plant.

The accord, which effectively breaks a 30-year western blockade of nuclear technology supply to India, was hailed by the chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission, Mr. Anil Kakodkar, as a "milestone" in Indo-Russian nuclear energy cooperation and an important addition to power supply in Tamil Nadu.

Construction of the reactors is to begin on May 1. India will finance 46 per cent of the construction cost of about \$ 3 billion, with the rest to be raised on credit from Russia. The credit, extended at 4-per cent interest, was to be repaid in instalments after the commissioning of the first unit in 2007.

THE HINDU

7 NOV 2001

# N-bomb blueprint found in al-Qaida safe house

Vijay Dutt

London, November 15

A PARTLY burnt blueprint of a nuclear bomb was found in a Kabul house abandoned by al-Qaida members after the Northern Alliance took over the city.

The documents, discovered by the London-based *The Times* reporter, gave detailed designs of nuclear weapons, missiles and bombs and were written in English, Urdu, Arabic and the German language. Al-Qaida members had tried to burn the documents when they fled.

The notes describe how the detonation of TNT compresses plutonium into a critical mass that triggers a thermonuclear reaction. The documents also indicate that studies to develop a kinetic energy super gun, capable of firing nuclear or chemical

warheads and for making smaller bombs, had also been done.

Experts say the designs suggest Osama may have been working on a fission device similar to Fat Man, the bomb dropped on Nagasaki. But they say it is difficult to build a viable warhead.

One set of notes written on paper from the Grand Hotel in Peshawar and dated April 26, 1998, says, "Naturally the explosive liquid has a very high mechanical energy which is translated into a destructive force. But it can be tamed, controlled and used as a useful propulsive fuel if certain methods are applied to it."

The document, according to *The Times*, was one of the many found in two of four al-Qaida houses, which had been used by Arabs and Pakistanis and probably even by Osama bin Laden.

The discovery of the document

has confirmed the worst fears of the West. In London, sources have been saying that Osama's agents have in the past eight years spent over £1 million in trying to secure nuclear fissile material to make a "dirty bomb". The Atomic Energy Board has recorded 175 attempts to illegally secure fissile material from Bulgaria, Russia and Germany. A dirty bomb if detonated in a populated area could kill thousands and contaminate the region for decades.

The report goes on to allege that Osama and al-Qaida had acquired nuclear materials illegally from Pakistan. Taliban agents have contacted at least 10 Pakistani nuclear scientists in the last two years.

Though not much credence was given to the Osama interview by a Pakistani journalist last week in which he claimed he

might use chemical and nuclear weapons if the US did, the authorities here do not rule out that he might have some crude form of mass destruction weapon.

The Intelligence agencies are also worried at the discovery of some material which suggest that Osama provided detailed training to his men to blow bridges and roads and contaminate air-conditioning systems. Documents listing telephone numbers and addresses of scientists from different countries were also found.

Nuclear consultant Dr John Large, however, rules out the possibility of Osama having a ready bomb. But he says the discovery of documents is "worrying". A small dirty bomb could still kill dozens of people.

**Omar threatens 'big' plan to destroy US, Page 9**

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

16 NOV 2001

Omar warns of 'big plan' to destroy America

# I'd rather die than surrender: Osama

## AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD/LONDON, Nov. 15. — Osama bin Laden has told the Taliban that he would rather die than be handed over to the USA, even as the militia chief warned of a "big plan" to destroy America.

"America can never arrest Osama alive. He has decided that death is better than being handed over to the Americans. He prefers death," Afghan Islamic Press today quoted Taliban spokesman, Mullah Abdullah, as having said.

He denied rumours that the Saudi dissident had been arrested. "At 9 a.m. today, I contacted my headquarters in Kandahar and there was no report about Osama, and they strongly denied the rumour."

A defiant Mullah Mohammed Omar today warned of a "big plan" to destroy the USA shortly. "The current situation in Afghanistan is related to a bigger cause — that is the destruction of America," the Taliban supreme told BBC Radio's Pushto service over phone.

"The plan is going ahead and God willing, it's being implemented, but it's a huge task beyond the will and comprehension of human beings. If God's help is with us this'll happen in a short period. Keep in mind this prediction."

Is the plan related to Osama's threat to use chemical, biological and nuclear weapons against the USA? Omar said: "This is not a matter of wea-



An Afghan shows off his T-shirt emblazoned with the picture of a woman in Herat on Thursday — something unthinkable a few days back. — AP/PTI

pons. We're hopeful of God's help. The real matter is the extinction of America and, God willing, it'll fall to the ground."

On the Taliban's military setbacks, he said it was not important how many provinces were under his control, because territories could be lost and regained. Four to five provinces, including Kandahar, are still in the Taliban's hands, he said.

"It makes no difference if we control one or two or 20 provinces. Once we didn't have a single province, but later we captured all the provinces. We have lost the captured provinces but it makes no difference."

Omar said his men were "all

moderate... taking the middle path." The recent setbacks, he said, had given him an opportunity to test his fighters' loyalty.

**'Osama may flee':** The US defence secretary has said Osama may outmanoeuvre his forces and sneak out of Afghanistan in a helicopter, a report from Washington adds.

"My guess is what he'd probably take a copter down one of those valleys that we couldn't pick up and pop over to some part of the country where there is an airfield and have a plane for him," Mr Donald Rumsfeld told the *New York Times*.

Fearing that Osama may enter Pakistan, Islamabad has

sealed the country's border with Afghanistan and moved troops and tanks to the southern frontier. Officials said only lorries carrying relief were being allowed Afghanistan.

Mr Rumsfeld said three-quarters of the Taliban's fleet of helicopters had been destroyed since the US air raids began on 7 October, but some choppers may have been hidden and made available to Osama. "He's got the wherewithal to do pretty much what he wants, at least to try to."

Officials told the daily that more than 100 US commandos were in southern Afghanistan where the Taliban is still active, driving around in special vehicles and carrying out covert operations against the Taliban and Al-Qaida.

The commandos have blocked roads and marked potential landing strips for US forces. The mission's other objective, the officials said, was to show the Taliban that the US forces could function on enemy's turf.

**N-plans:** Osama's Al-Qaida network had kept detailed plans of nuclear bombs and other terrorist devices in a cells in Kabul, the *Times*, London, said today. The paper said it had come across partially burnt documents in an abandoned house in Karta Parwan, Kabul.

The notes, written in Arabic, German, Urdu and English, give graphic designs of missiles, bombs and nuclear weapons.

■ More reports on pages 5 and 8

THE STATESMAN

10 NOV 2001

# Pak. arrests 83 Harkat militants

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, NOV. 17. The Pakistan border police today arrested 83 members of the Pakistan-based militant outfit, Harkat-ul- Mujahideen, while they were trying to return in the wake of the collapse of the Taliban militia. The militants, who had gone to join the Taliban, reportedly fought along with the militia in Kabul.

Reports from the border town of Miran Shah said the Harkat militants who had gone to fight along with the Taliban and the terrorist mastermind, Osama bin Laden, were arrested by the Frontier Corps when they attempted entry through the Boya check-post.

Officials said this was the first batch of militants which had deserted the Taliban ranks and returned to Pakistan. It was handed

over to local police for custody.

The militants told the local media that they had returned following the Taliban's decision to withdraw from most of the Afghan towns and retreat into the countryside. They were present in

Kabul when the Northern Alliance troops entered the city but escaped before it fell. They were teased and abused by the people of Afghanistan on their way back.

The Musharraf Government, in the last few days, has been main-

taining that the "law would take its course" with respect to those who had crossed over to fight alongside the Taliban.

The Harkat chief, Mr. Fazlur Rehman Khalil, crossed over to Afghanistan on November 8 to join the fighting.

The group's involvement in the fighting came to light when 22 of its members were killed when a U.S. bomb hit a building in which they were reportedly hiding.

The Harkat was banned by the U.S. after the September 11 terrorist attacks for its alleged links with Osama. Its accounts were frozen. Islamabad, however, maintained that the organisation did not exist in Pakistan. The Harkat has been fighting in Chechnya, Kashmir, Bosnia and Afghanistan.

## 'No asylum for Osama, Omar'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, NOV. 17. Pakistan today said it would not grant political asylum to either Osama bin Laden or the Taliban chief, Mullah Mohammad Omar.

The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Mr. Aziz Khan, responding to a specific question, dismissed the suggestion that Pakistan, only country that still allows a Taliban embassy, would grant asylum to the two if sought under the relevant Geneva Convention.

"The Geneva Convention cannot be applied so simply that everybody can (get asylum)," Mr. Khan said. "The country giving asylum takes a decision under international laws as well as its own laws... So far as these persons you have mentioned (are concerned), we have made it clear that they will not be given asylum."

12/11/2001

# Harkat on recruitment spree in J&K, Bangla

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Nov. 7. - Harkat-ul-Mujahideen has launched a massive recruitment drive in Jammu and Kashmir and Bangladesh to "continue the struggle against anti-Islamic forces", Intelligence officials said.

Rahman Khalil and Sadaatullah Khan, who head the organisation in Pakistan and PoK, are personally monitoring the recruitment drive. According to Intelligence officials, more than 6000 youths, most of them from Bangladesh, have joined the group. Paramilitary forces on the Indo-Bangla and the Indo-Pak borders have been put on high alert.

Intelligence inputs suggest "a six-week training course will be organised in the border districts. The youths will be sent to camps in Afghanistan for training in use of arms, ammunition and explosives. The camps are reportedly being run by Jala-luddin Haqqani, the leader of the Hezb Islami (Khalis) Afghan Mujahideen group.

The recruitment drive is being funded by Bin Laden's Al-Qaida and also by Pakistan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The drive in Kashmir and Bangladesh began after more than 3,000 youths were recruited from Arabia, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan and The Philippines. Some Harkat leaders visited Bangladesh last month, reports said.

The Harkat, a member of Osama bin Laden's Islamic World Front, has been sending armed volunteers to Afghanistan to assist Mujahideen groups there.

THE STATESMAN

8 NOV 2001

# READ OSAMA'S LIPS!

5/10 Moscow Declaration is on target 6/11

**T**HE jury is out on the question whether the United States is able to read the danger signs appearing thick and fast over its ambivalent policy as to what constitutes terrorism. They are very clear that 11 September was terrorism, which it was, and they are prepared to allow that the Tamil Tigers may be terrorists too but are not at all sure about other theatres of operations. Chechnya? Kashmir? Palestine? When Vladimir Putin realised the selective nature of American definitions and the way the Pakistanis were leading the United States by the nose over being kind to the Taliban, he went to Dushanbe and established contact with Rabbani instead. For once Indian diplomacy can be applauded. The joint statement issued in Moscow is just what the situation demanded. Apart from limited commando operations, the only forces able to fight in the inhospitable terrain of Afghanistan are Taliban and Northern Alliance. America's war is with Osama bin Laden and Mullah Omar for the grievous act of terrorism and it is still hoped that the United States will accept terrorism as one and indivisible and not limited to the land mass between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Thanks to Pakistani duplicity and worse they have wasted valuable time to knock the Taliban for a six before Northern Alliance troops can move in, Abdul Haq, looking for the good Taliban was betrayed by ISI inspired Pakistani army and they have even been led to urge that contrary to all experience of fighting in Afghanistan, America should call a halt for a month on the excuse of Ramzan. The Americans are naïve and inexperienced in duplicity but they are not fools; their Secretary of Defence deservedly brushed it aside. Unintentionally they have placed Musharraf in mortal danger from within; he is to embark a longer tour than he originally intended covering the UK and Europe before meeting Bush in Washington; he ought to take into account the possibility that someone else will be sitting on his chair by the time he gets back. And then the fat will be in the fire.

No one should be impressed that Pakistan has frozen the bank accounts of the Jaish-e-Mohamed and the Rabita Trust in which Musharraf was involved. The relevant question is how much was in the accounts by the time they were frozen? America still does not recognise Islamic terrorism publicly for fear of upsetting the Muslim world. They would be spending their time better if they persuaded their Saudi and other friends in the Middle East that they have more to fear from Osama and his gang than anyone else. The name of the game is power, the power that flows from control of oil resources. Hence the periodic attempts in Washington to turn the spotlight on Iraq, because the Taliban are too difficult.

America has to understand a few simple points and they are immovable. One, they will never be able to break the links that bind Pakistan and Taliban, all Musharraf's talk notwithstanding. Apart from high stakes in drug trafficking, they are bound by Islamic fundamentalism. There can be no place for the Taliban in a post-war Afghanistan, they should be talking to Russia first. They can make a lasting friend of India if they tell Pakistan — client states are told, they are not persuaded — that the only part of Kashmir they can hope to get is what is already under their occupation and give up terrorism in Kashmir. Then Russia, Europe and India with China ambivalent, will accept that their concern for terrorism is for real. One last word. What we are all dealing with is indeed Islamic terrorism primarily; instead of protesting to the contrary, America should be telling the Gulf states the truth; Islamic terrorism is threatening them as well. Read Osama's lips!

THE STATESMAN



# Fear of the invisible

Most nuclear countries are concerned about their arsenal as protection of such material is being seen as a global responsibility. Russian Intelligence sources believe Osama bin Laden has tactical nuclear weapons received from Chechen rebels who raided Russian installations. It is now feared that Al Qaida may storm nuclear set-ups in Pakistan to take material or warheads, writes **STANLEY THEODORE**



Above: Collage of Osama bin Laden with the symbol of the atom. — Pix courtesy The Economist.

**I**RRADIATION is sinister because it makes man feel his hopelessness to cope. "The potential for panic is quite large. Radioactivity is invisible, you can't see it or feel it. And you don't know what its impact on your health in 10 years will be," says the International Atomic Energy Agency's scientific adviser, Graham Andrew.

There are no antidotes or vaccines like those available for anthrax or its biochemical warfare cousins. Two months ago deploying "dirty nukes", forget a full-fledged nuclear warhead, was dismissed as unreal.

Now, nothing seems improbable after 11 September and the worst and valid fears received official seal when George W Bush confirmed last week that Osama bin Laden is seeking nuclear weapons. The terrorist, for the first time claimed, having nuclear weapons that he intends using as a deterrent.

Ever since he began his terrorist career, there is evidence that Bin Laden had been trying to acquire nuclear weapons. In 1998, his operatives struck a deal where they would pay \$30 million and two tons of opium for 20 nuclear weapons, which Chechen rebels captured from Russian military installations. Russia's Federal Security Bureau foiled the plan.

This was the third known time in five years that he could not make it happen. In September 1997, Israeli Intelligence sources told *Time* that Bin Laden paid \$2 million to a Kazakhstan agent in British currency for a suitcase bomb in two years.

In 1993, when in exile in Sudan, Bin Laden made his first venture. His senior aide, Jamal Ahmed al-Fadl, met a Sudanese military commander in Khartoum to negotiate a sale of a cylinder of enriched South African uranium for \$1.5 million. He inspected the uranium, had it sent to Cyprus for quality testing and received \$10,000 for the job, but is now not sure where it is. Al-Fadl left Al Qaida on charges of swindling money and currently lives with his family in the USA under the federal witness protection programme.

The Stanford University's Centre for Security's Friedrich Steinhausler, while recounting the 1998 episode to Radio Free Europe said there was more. He said European security agencies were investigating alleged negotiations in early 2001 in Spain for radioactive material between Al Qaida representatives and a prominent Russian mafia member. The radio quoted another report by *eaststrategy-direct.com* that said Bin Laden's possession of nuclear weapons was not in doubt.

Russian Intelligence sources believe Bin Laden has a handful of tactical nuclear weapons received from Chechen rebels who raided Russian nuclear installations, it said. Clearly, Bin Laden is at the right place at the right time, being alongside the worst proliferated place in the world. It is not known where Bin Laden may have got his nuclear material - if he has them - is not known, but fingers are pointing to ex-Soviet republics or Pakistan, the BBC wrote.

Afghanistan is reportedly awash with nuclear material in the black market. Robert Puffer, an antiques dealer there, told *The Guardian* that he was frequently offered enriched uranium in the late 1990s. "They would carry yellow cake (uranium) in matchboxes in their breast pockets. They would have rashes and they would ask me why. And I said: you're stupid, that stuff is dangerous," he said.

In October, the Russian defence ministry reported two recent incidents where terrorist groups attempted to break into nuclear storage sites, but were repulsed. US Ambassador to Japan and former Senator Howard Baker and former presidential counsel Lloyd Cutler co-chaired a panel that surveyed Russian stockpiles on the USA's behalf. They submitted their report last March.

"The bombs and the material are kept loosely in warehouses that are not guarded, or if they are guarded, they're guarded by guards who can easily be bribed," Mr Cutler said. His partner was incredulous while testifying before Foreign Relations Committee then. "It really boggles my mind that there could be 40,000 nuclear weapons, or maybe 80,000, in the former Soviet Union, poorly controlled and poorly stored, and that the world isn't in a near state of hysteria about the danger", Mr Baker said.

Russian defence analyst Pavel Felgenhauer said 10 years of investigations of reports that material reached terrorists proved they were unsubstantiated. Yet in his article to *The Moscow Times*, he confessed having "easily obtained" large amounts of radioactive isotopes for research "and none ever seriously inquired about what I did with them next".

Though Russian President Vladimir Putin dismissed reports of radioactive material reaching Al Qaida "as legends", Bin Laden's proximity to former Russian states is perhaps modern terrorism's most worrisome part. In early 1992 there were over 50,000 nuclear devices practically strewn over about 500 sites in the fragmented Soviet Russia and East Europe.

"The Russians don't know how much plutonium they have, let alone where it is. That's a matter of some concern," the

director of Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, Gary Milhollin, said. The American worry goes back to the date when the empire began to crumble. In 1994, a secret American team even went to the former Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan, where it bought and flew 1,300 pounds of weapons-grade uranium to their weapons plant's safekeeping.

Then the Kazakh government was reported to be glad to see the stuff out. Since then, the USA has deputed experts and millions of dollars to help modernise Russia's security. But this does not mean American security is flawless - during mock drills and attacks at nuclear installations in 2000-2001, "terrorists" succeeded in breaching security every second time. This year's energy department audits showed improper records being maintained - more nuclear material was returned than was let out, but US officials say there is no evidence of pilferage.

Since 1993, 175 cases of nuclear theft were recorded worldwide, especially, from former Soviet territories, 18 of these involved small amounts of highly enriched uranium or plutonium, the material needed to produce a nuclear bomb.

Some experts believe Bin Laden received some spent but toxic material through these criminal channels. These channels are very active. Last week, two persons were arrested in Turkey when they tried to sell 1.16 kg of weapons-grade uranium to undercover officers. They offered it wrapped in newspaper for \$750,000.

The basic question is: can Bin Laden build a nuclear bomb and use it? Last year, the CIA intercepted a conversation where an Al Qaida operative was heard boasting of "Hiroshima plans" for the USA. Boasts apart, the bomb process is

tremendous in terms of time and skill and certainly not possible in mountain lairs. A country like Israel took more than 15 years.

IAEA spokesman David Kyd said, "Could you build one? Well, that's a challenging, expensive and time-consuming proposition. You need 8 kg of plutonium or 25 kg of highly enriched uranium. That's a large quantity, not easy to come by." But there's total unanimity that it's within terrorists' reach to create a "dirty nuke" or "dirty bomb" where nuclear material is detonated with conventional explosives.

Amid the chilling prospects of terrorists' access to nuclear weapons, the IAEA conducted an emergency seminar early in November to take steps to secure nuclear facilities. Hundreds of experts from several countries deliberated over three possible terrorist approaches - making a nuclear bomb, creating a dirty bomb, and a suicide aircraft ramming into a nuclear facility, which are aplenty.

Across the world there are 438 nuclear power reactors, 651 research reactors - of these, 284 are in operation - and 250 fuel recycle plants, which include uranium mills and plants that convert, enrich and store nuclear material.

Stanford's George Bunn who worked on nuclear terrorism for 15 years reacted, "Exactly what it would do, nobody can say. But when I think about it, I'm scared." On 30 October, the USA clamped "no fly" zones over all its nuclear installations. France went a step ahead and deployed anti-aircraft missiles around the Cap la Hague reprocessing plant, a huge facility that stores used but still toxic nuclear material and also said they would use warplanes to shoot down hijacked aircraft.

In October last week, British authorities sent two Tornado fighters to patrol the sky above Sellafield plant, another waste fuel facility, after receiving a threat call. The tension is valid as the suicide aircraft approach carries the heaviest risk, as unimaginable levels of radiation would fill the atmosphere. Though reactors are reported to have shields in place, doubts remain, as they were not built keeping this kind of terrorism in mind. Unnamed experts told the BBC that "a level of over-engineering" has gone into constructing reactors in the West and emphasised, even if the installations take a direct plane

hit, its unlikely the reactor cores would be exposed.

This was demonstrated in 1989 when, in a joint US-Japanese crash test, a F-4 Phantom jet was flown at 800 kmph, straight at a concrete block. Only a few centimetres of the four-metre thick block was penetrated. The plane, however, completely disintegrated. The example brings no reassurance with others pointing out that the energy imparted by a jet fully laden with fuel would be far greater than the impact of a fighter-bomber.

The biggest concern now is Pakistan. It is feared terrorists may storm nuclear installations and take material or warheads for Bin Laden. Pakistan is the only Islamic nation having a nuclear bomb to which Bin Laden staked claim in the name of religion. This apart, as civilian unrest peaks violently, speculation mounts on the continuance of General Pervez Musharraf and the possibility of a hardline and fundamentalist regime replacing him.

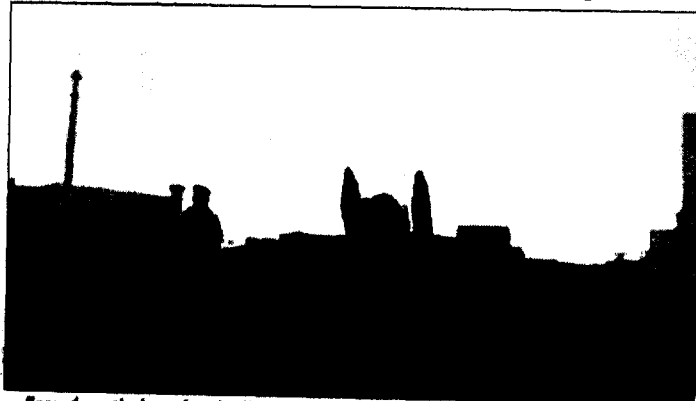
In such an event, the USA has decided to physically move in. *Newsweek* quoted official sources as saying that the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's 2,200 troops would move into Pakistan, evacuate the Americans and stay back to protect nuclear weapons and materials from going into Bin Laden's hands. This is specially after the Pakistan-Taliban nuclear connection has come out in the open with reports that Taliban welcomed "with open arms" Gen. Musharraf's proposal to move the nuclear arsenal to Afghanistan for safekeeping during the Kargil war.

The battle of wits over nuclear material is sizzling, to say the least, and never before was such global responsibility seen to protect it.

Mr Cutler said: "It's our responsibility to get rid of those weapons. It's probably one of the most important responsibilities we have". And it's Bin Laden's holy responsibility to get them.

He has reiterated his May 1998 edict "The Nuclear Bomb of Islam" - "It is the duty of Muslims to prepare as much force as possible to terrorise the enemies of God".

(The author is The Statesman's Hyderabad-based Special Representative.)



French anti-aircraft missiles outside the Cap la Hague reprocessing plant, a huge facility that stores used but still toxic nuclear material.

# Osama admits hand in <sup>11/9</sup> Sept strikes <sup>11/11</sup>

HT Correspondent & Agencies  
London/Islamabad, Nov 11

OSAMA BIN Laden has for the first time admitted that al-Qaida carried out the attacks on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon, according to a *Sunday Telegraph* report.

The paper claims that in a hitherto undisclosed video, circulating among his supporters for 14 days, he has confessed, "history should be a witness that we are terrorists. Yes, we kill their innocents."

A smiling bin Laden goes on to say that the World Trade Center's Twin Towers were "legitimate targets". "The towers were legitimate targets, they were supporting US economic power. These events were great by any measurement. What was destroyed were not only the towers but the towers of morale in that country."

## Pak N-scientist claim

A DAY after bin Laden claimed that he possessed nuclear and chemical weapons, Pakistan's retired nuclear scientist Bashiruddin Mehmood today said he had met the terrorist twice in Afghanistan. And both meetings were before the September 11 strikes on the US.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

12 NOV 2001

# U.S. is indulging in greater terrorism

By Swati Das  
Times News Network

CHENNAI: Noted American scholar and founder of modern linguistics Noam Chomsky has said that the U.S. is indulging in greater terrorism than the attack on the WTC and Pentagon on September 11 by imposing a war against a weaker state like Afghanistan.

Delivering his lecture on 'September 11 and its aftermath: Where is the world heading', Mr Chomsky, the most prominent political dissident in American history, said, "The United States is an indicted terrorist state and the war against Afghanistan is a greater crime against humanity than even the September 11 attack."

He pointed out that it was only the powerful states of the western world which had committed crimes of terrorism. He said it was a very serious analytical error to say, as is commonly done, that terrorism was the weapon of the weak, when actually it was primarily the weapon of the strong.

He argued that it was held as the weapon of the weak because the strong also controlled the doctrinal systems and their terror did not count as terror. He went on to cite examples where it was the strong states which had exerted terror—especially the European countries like Britain and France who had their colonies of weaker states for years. Therefore, he said, it did not

come as a shock when the U.S. attacked Kabul in the name of weeding out Osama bin Laden and the Taliban. The strong, he quipped, could not fight another strong.

It is a fact that the U.S. has defied and vetoed all resolutions on international law of the world court and the UN Security Council, so as to continue with its own form of terrorism, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) linguistics professor said, drawing out the double standards of Uncle Sam.

While the U.S. is terrorising and massacring innocent people of Afghanistan, demanding extradition of Bin Laden, even though there has been no clear evidence that the September 11 attack was his handiwork, it is not willing to extradite the terrorists of other countries it is harbouring, he pointed out.

Mr Chomsky, with his wit and humour, amidst roars of laughter and thundering appreciation, observed that when its interest was affected, the U.S. had cultivated terrorist groups and overthrown governments. Commenting on the term 'democracy', as seen by the western elite, Mr Chomsky contended that it was what served the self interest. For instance, he said, the globalisation process was an attempt at total domination, benefiting the West and the corporate world. Globalisation is only widening the gap between the haves and have-nots, he added.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

12 NOV 2001

# U.S. can't catch me alive: Osama

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, NOV. 11. Terrorist mastermind Osama Bin Laden has asserted that the United States would not be able to catch him alive during the ongoing military operations.

In the second part of the interview to Mr. Hamid Mir, Editor of the Pakistani Urdu daily, *Ausaf*, Osama has claimed that the U.S. and its allies might succeed in killing him but would not be able to "eliminate his mission." He alleged that the American bombing was killing hundreds of civilians every day. He would fight the war alongside the Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Omar, "till the last drop of his blood" and even if the Americans captured Kabul, the Mujahideen (fighters) would continue their war from the mountains.

Mr. Mir has claimed that he obtained the interview with Osama on November 7 somewhere near Kabul. In the first part of the interview, Osama had claimed that he and his associates reserved the right to retaliate against the U.S. with nuclear and chemical weapons.

The Saudi fugitive is clearly unhappy with the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, for his "unstinted support" to the U.S. and its allies in the military operations against Afghanistan.

He has alleged that most of the air strikes on Afghanistan were being carried out from airbases in Pakistan. He provided a document to the *Ausaf* in support of his claim and said it was recovered from a U.S. helicopter which was destroyed near Ghazni. The document was about the Jacobabad airport in Pakistan reportedly under the disposal of U.S.. The document indicated that the helicopters attacking Afghanistan were flying from Pakistan airbases, Osama told the interviewer. Criticising Gen. Musharraf, he said the motto of the Pakistan army was "Iman" (faith), "Taqva" (piety) and "Jehad" (the Holy war) but Gen. Musharraf had forgotten the motto.

He said "jehad" was the height of worship and Pakistani Muslims should play their role in the Afghan "jehad". During the interview, Osama did not reply to several questions and to some others, he gave only short answers.

Asked whether he was trying to get nuclear or chemical weapons, Osama said, "even if the U.S. uses chemical or nuclear weapons against us, it would not eliminate us. Rather, we will respond. We have nuclear deterrent with us." He alleged that the U.S. was using chemical weapons in Afghanistan and claimed that the bodies of all Mujahideen killed in the American bombing near Kabul had turned dark.

Asked whether he was behind spreading the anthrax fear in the U.S., Osama laughed and said he knew nothing about anthrax. He ignored a question on whether he would form an anti-U.S. alliance with Saddam Hussain and Gaddafi.

Osama also avoided replying to a query on Mr. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's support to the Taliban and whether it had Iran's backing.

## Osama got n-material from Russian scientists?

Mr. Mir is of the view that Osama could have obtained nuclear material/weapons either from Russian scientists or from one of the Central Asian Republics. Mr. Mir quotes a recent BBC report to the effect that after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, theft of 30 nuclear weapons was revealed.

He said Osama looked very fresh and healthy and wanted to know about the situation in Pakistan and what happened to Gen. Musharraf. He was curious to know whether the November 9 wheel jam strike (organised by the religious parties) would succeed or not. Osama said Pakistan was like his home and he was concerned about it. He said Gen. Musharraf could not win the heart of the U.S. and one-day the U.S., India and Israel would certainly harm Pakistan. He said that some time back, a religious leader from India had sent a message

to Mullah Omar saying that Pakistan had betrayed him and now he should join hands with India and see the effect. But Mullah Omar had replied that though Pakistan had joined hands with non-Muslims against him, he could not do the same against Pakistan. "I was asking questions in English and Zuwahiri was interpreting in Arabic. But on various occasions, Osama did reply in English and some times even corrected Zuwahiri's English version. Despite knowing English language well, he likes to talk in Arabic".

Mr. Mir said the Al-Qaeda did not have the expertise to use nuclear weapons but it was making all attempts to obtain the expertise. The BBC report clearly indicated that Osama had obtained nuclear weapons from some of the scientists of the erstwhile Soviet Union.

"After more than one and a half-hour, Osama himself switched my recorder off and said that the breakfast was ready. We ate Afghani bread with butter and olive. After the breakfast, I asked some more questions. During the interview, Osama was getting information on Mazar-e-Sharif situation. At the end he said that even if the Americans captured all the important cities, the Afghan nation would continue the war and throw Americans out of Afghanistan like Russians."

## Shabir Shah under house arrest

SRINAGAR, NOV. 11. The Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) president, Mr. Shabir Ahmad Shah, who planned to visit Tral, where an entire market was set ablaze allegedly by policemen, was today placed under house arrest. A contingent of 20 policemen reached the house of Mr. Shah early this morning and did not allow him to move anywhere, official sources said. — PTI

THE HINDU

12 NOV 2001

# 'Two Pak N-scientists met Osama this year'

By Rashmeel Z. Ahmed  
Times News Network

LONDON: In a chilling reinforcement of Osama bin Laden's claims that he possesses a nuclear deterrent, Pakistani and American interrogators have reportedly revealed that two leading Pakistani nuclear scientists had "close links with bin Laden and met him in Afghanistan twice this year".

British officials have apparently underlined the importance of the revelation, with *The Guardian* quoting an anonymous official as saying that the two scientists, Sultan Bashiruddin Mahmood and Abdul Majid, who held key positions in Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme till two years ago, were definitely "working with Osama bin Laden, not the Taliban. The Taliban wouldn't know what to do with this".

According to reports, the two scientists, who were arrested,

released and have now been detained once again, have admitted meeting the Saudi dissident in Kandahar "in connection with the construction of a flour mill", as a Pakistani official is quoted to have told a news agency.

The Pakistani authorities, who arrested the scientists after the FBI warned them of their "close contacts with Al Qaida and the Taliban" have not been charged with any offence so far.

The admission that they met bin Laden has raised new concerns that they may be the weak link in a chain of circumstances, which allowed bin Laden to threaten the use of nuclear weapons in the event of a nuclear attack in his interview last Thursday with Hamid Mir, his official biographer and editor of the Urdu-language Pakistani daily, *Ausaf*.

The reports added, however, that investigators had apparently been unable to establish so far if the men had passed on sensitive nuclear information or materials to anyone in Afghanistan.

*The Guardian* said that Mahmood especially was seen as suspect because "he had in the past advocated helping arm other Islamic countries with nuclear weapons".

Amid growing international concern about the possibility of Pakistan's nuclear facilities falling into the wrong hands, Britain and the U.S. have been playing down bin Laden's claims with experts insisting bin Laden probably has no more capability than to make a so-called "dirty bomb".

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
NOTICE  
Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, Central Railway, Byculla  
SELECTION OF HOUSE OFFICERS FOR DNB (MEDICINE, OPHTHALMOLOGY & GYNAECOLOGY)  
The candidates who have cleared DNB Part I & are willing to join DNB (Medicine, Ophthalmology & Gynaecology) offered by National Board of Examinations, New Delhi at our Hospital are requested to submit their applications in the prescribed format to the Office of Medical Director, Dr. B.A.M. Hospital, Byculla, Mumbai 400 027 by 12.12.2001 positively and appear for written and viva examination on 18.12.2001 at 2.00 p.m. The forms can be obtained from the above office upto 30th November 2001.

THE TELEGRAPH

13 NOV 2001

# Britain urges end to support for terrorism

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Nov. 13. — Indirectly hitting out at Pakistan for cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, Britain today sought an end to "external support" for terrorism in the state and said the fight against terrorism by the international coalition would not end in Afghanistan but the scourge would be tackled everywhere, including Kashmir.

Addressing a joint press conference along with the defence minister, Mr George Fernandes, the visiting British defence secretary, Mr Geoffrey Hoon, said: "UK and India are united in the war against terrorism".

The defence secretary further

57-8 19/11  
said: "That fight won't end in Afghanistan. We are against terrorism everywhere — including Kashmir. We have long called for an end to external support for terrorism in Kashmir, and we condemn all acts of violence there". His acknowledgment of external support in promoting terrorism while stopping short of naming Pakistan in this context, comes a day after the Prime Minister, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, held talks in London with Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Emerging from a 90-minute meeting with Mr Fernandes, Mr Hoon, who arrived here on a day's visit this morning, said, "What is being achieved in Afghanistan should send a strong message to terrorists worldwide."

While mentioning Britain's support to Indian initiatives, Mr Hoon said a peaceful future for the region would be attained only through dialogue.

Replying to a question on Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr Hoon said, "We unreservedly condemn those who seek to foster terrorism not in their own country but in other countries as well". Britain would use all its influence to ensure that such a form of terrorism is stopped, he added.

He emphasised an international effort to ensure an ethnically broad-based government in Afghanistan. Replying to a question on a situation if the Northern Alliance forms the government

in Afghanistan following the fall of the Taliban, Mr Hoon said that an establishment of that kind was unacceptable because that would represent only a part of the ethnic groups and not reflect the diversity of the region. However, both India and Britain agreed on keeping the Taliban out of the future government in Afghanistan.

The international community was united in seeking a sustainable political, economic and physical rebuilding of Afghanistan. The UN is playing a prominent role in this regard. He said "We are encouraged by the military success of the past few days. The challenge for the people of Afghanistan now is to put in place a new political structure as quickly as possible".



Mr Devinder Kumar Gupta (right), freed by a Pakistani Intelligence agency late on Monday night, arrives at the IGI airport in New Delhi on Tuesday.  
— The Statesman

THE STATESMAN

14 NOV 2001

A Chhau mask on display at Kholu Mela outside Howrah Market, Kolkata, on Sunday. — Saindra Mal

# Four jawans killed in Lashkar suicide attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR, Nov. 4. — Four soldiers and a militant were killed in an encounter following a suicide attack by the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba on an Army camp in the Anantnag district of south Kashmir, officials said today. Five jawans were also injured.

The militants, dressed in Army fatigue, fired RPGs and grenades at the main gate of the camp at Diyalgam (about 60 km from here) around 9 p.m. last night. Two of them managed to sneak inside the camp manned by the troops of 36 Rashtriya Rifles, the officials said.

In the ensuing gunbattle, three jawans were killed and six injured. One of the jawans later died. The troops launched a search operation to find the intruders, but it was abandoned as the ultras were in Army uniform. A militant, who had taken

shelter inside a wooden structure, fired and lobbed grenades when the troops moved in for a thorough search operation early today and was killed in the exchange of fire, sources said. However, his accomplice could not be traced, they said, adding perhaps only one militant had entered the camp while his accomplices fired to cover him from outside. Confirming the attack, a defence spokesman said four jawans and a Pakistani militant were killed and two jawans injured in the incident.

Claiming responsibility, an LeT spokesman said three of its activists, Abu Hashim and Abu Muslim (both Kashmiris) and Abu Umar (Pakistani), were involved in the attack. He claimed eight soldiers were killed in the attack, adding Abu Umar had returned to his hideout.

Stepping up the anti-militancy drive, securitymen had killed 29

militants. Among them were 10 ultras who tried to enter Pakistan from Poonch. Fifteen ultras, belonging to Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Tehreek-e-Jehadi Islami and Hizbul Mujahideen, tried to slip out from Loren, Poonch, today when troops fired at them. Five of them were held. In another encounter, forces killed six ultras in Gali Pandi area of Poonch.

**Toy planes as weapons:** The ISI has asked militants in Kashmir to use explosive-laden "toy planes" to attack VIPs in the state and New Delhi, officials said. This was revealed during interrogation of militants arrested and wireless intercepts. A remote-controlled toy plane can carry 10-15 kg of explosives. It takes a trajectory path and can hit the target within a range of 300 metres.

■ Photograph on page 3

THE STATESMAN

# Fresh anthrax traces found

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4. — The anthrax scare spread further as deadly spores were discovered at yet another mail distribution centre in New Jersey, while investigators in Washington studied a suspicious letter sent to the US treasury department.

The New Jersey department of health and senior services announced yesterday that one of the environmental samples taken by the FBI in the Bellmawr mail distribution centre last Wednesday came back positive. A suburb of the city Camden, New Jersey, Bellmawr is located just across the Delaware river from Philadelphia, which means that after outbreaks in New York and Washington, anthrax now has penetrated a third major metropolitan area. All employees of the facility have been offered a 10-day course of antibiotics as a precaution, the department said.

Health officials focused their attention on the Bellmawr centre after a Delaware resident who works there came down with skin anthrax, a less deadly form of the disease.

The patient, whose identity has not been released, is said to be recovering. The Bellmawr case brings to three the number of New Jersey postal facilities affected by anthrax. Earlier, traces of the deadly bacteria were discovered at the main Princeton post office and at a mail processing centre in Hamilton township, near Trenton.

5/11  
**Anthrax in Washington:** Trace amounts of anthrax spores were found at a mailroom in the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Washington. Some employees have already begun treatment for possible exposure to the bacteria, a government health official said today, Reuters reports.

Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, also defended a new move by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to inoculate health officials against smallpox. "We must be prepared for the use of smallpox as a bioterrorism weapon," Dr Fauci told *Face the Nation* on CBS.

He said a small amount of anthrax was discovered at the Veterans Affairs Center, whose mail passes through the Brentwood postal processing facility that handles mail for much of Washington. Dr Fauci said officials were considering Brentwood "the primary facility from which contamination has occurred."

He confirmed a report in Sunday's *New York Times* that the CDC had moved to vaccinate about 140 members of epidemiological teams that can be dispatched on short notice to examine suspected cases of smallpox in the USA.

**Pak anthrax case:** Police in Karachi today said they had detained two men for questioning over a suspected case of anthrax spores delivered to the country's most popular Urdu daily.

THE STATESMAN

5 NOV 2001



# Bush: Bio-terrorists will be brought to justice

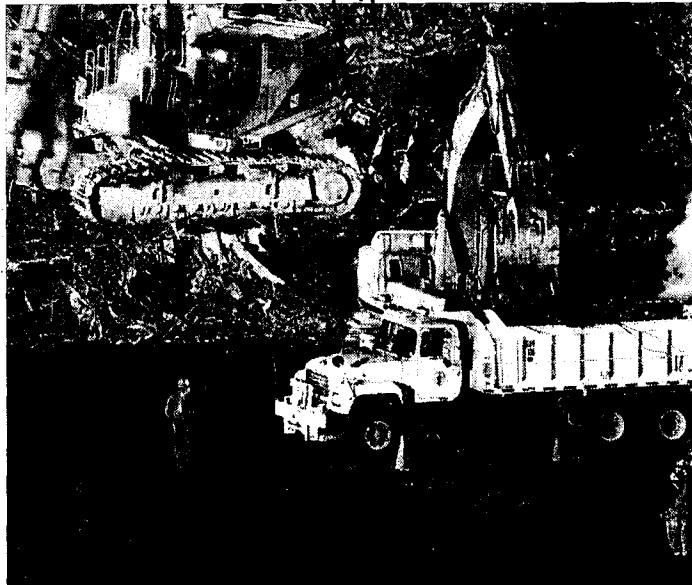
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4. — President George W. Bush assured Americans that the anthrax bio-terrorists would be brought to justice, even as opinion polls indicated that Americans are losing faith in his administration's response to the anthrax terror.

Mr. Bush for the first time admitted in his weekly radio address yesterday that thousands of law enforcement officers have failed to come up with a plausible lead on who is behind the bio-attacks. The President's admission came a month after the first of the four deaths in the USA from anthrax infection. "We don't yet know who sent the anthrax, whether it was the same terrorists who committed the attacks on 11 September, or whether it was the other international or domestic terrorists," Mr. Bush said.

The President also urged the public to take "appropriate precautions" when opening their mail because of the anthrax threat.

US officials as well as Mr. Bush suspect that the bio-terror scare is also linked to Osama bin Laden, the man behind the 11 September attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.



Cranes load trucks with debris as the recovery efforts continue at the site of the WTC disaster on Sunday. — AP/PTI

Mr. Bush declared that investigators had identified "several different letters" that contained anthrax spores and added that new information was emerging about the nature of the anthrax threat. "Originally, experts believed the anthrax spores couldn't escape from sealed envelopes. We now know differently," said the President.

Meanwhile, a new poll showed that Americans, coming to

terms with the widening bio-terror scare and the four anthrax deaths and 17 infections, are no longer convinced that Mr. Bush and his White House team are on the top of the anthrax outbreak.

Asked whether they thought Bush had a solid plan for fighting bio-terrorism and other terrorist threats, Americans were split down the middle, according to a poll of the 'Newsweek',

which goes on sale today. The poll said 46 per cent of Americans believe the President's approach is ineffective.

Undeterred by the scepticism, the President assured that the administration would continue to issue warnings whenever they were considered justified and "As we learn more about these anthrax attacks, the government will share the confirmed and credible information we have with you."

In the radio address to the nation, Mr. Bush also dangled a one-million-dollar reward for any information leading to a resolution of the anthrax investigation. He said, "If you see anything suspicious, or have useful information, please contact law enforcement authorities. The Postal Service and the FBI have offered a reward of up to one million for information leading to the arrest and the conviction of the anthrax terrorists."

Warning pranksters about the consequences of sending hoax letters, Mr. Bush outlined the serious penalties by referring to "at least 20 individuals" in police custody for such hoaxes and said, "Those who believe this is an opportunity for a prank should know that sending false alarms is a serious criminal offence."

THE STATESMAN

5 NOV 2001

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2001

HPD-12  
5/11

## MEETING INDIA'S CONCERNS

(10/20/01)

INDIA'S LONG, LONELY battle against fundamentalist terrorism on its soil may be about to be joined, even if indirectly and remotely, by the global coalition as the U.S. expands its campaign to include terrorism in its multifarious forms. The American State Department's action in designating the Pakistan-based militant outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad as terrorist organisations — and in effect banning them — will be welcomed in India as the first positive signal that New Delhi's concerns are being recognised and acknowledged. The action, followed up within hours by Britain, coincides with the Bush administration's significant decision to broaden its campaign and expand the terror list to include groups beyond those with links to Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda network. The U.S. can now seize the assets of these groups and impose other stringent financial sanctions, already imposed against Osama and his group to choke the flow of money. Included in the list are outfits as far apart as the Hamas and the Hizbolla in the Middle East, ETA, the Basque separatist group in Spain, and three Colombian groups operating in the civil war torn South American nation.

The decision to widen the campaign, not totally unexpected or non-controversial, follows criticism that Washington has two standards when it comes to targeting terrorism. The initial moves by Washington after the September 11 attacks did create the impression that its sights were too narrowly focussed on Osama bin Laden and his cadre, to the exclusion of terrorist groups operating elsewhere. New Delhi, which responded by unilaterally offering all assistance to the U.S., found itself on the sidelines as Washington put together a global coalition and placed Pakistan on the frontline. India made no secret of its dismay that Pakistan should form part of the anti-terror coalition despite its record of encouraging cross-border ter-

rorism in Kashmir. Within three weeks of that catastrophic strike against the U.S, Pakistan-based militants launched a murderous attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Legislature in Srinagar in which innocent people were killed. The massacre, for which the Jaish-e-Mohammad claimed responsibility, shocked the world and evoked words of sympathy, but India's appeal that the global focus include the groups operating in Kashmir from bases in Pakistan went unheeded. The U.S, which said it was placing the JeM under "close" watch, and its allies and friends had their own priorities.

The American decision to broaden the anti-terror campaign, encompassing the action concerning the LeT and the JeM, may end this abnormal situation. The State Department's decision will have a dampening effect on the two terrorist groupings based in Pakistan. Besides having their assets impounded, anyone suspected of providing aid or financial services to them can be targeted. Both groups have their patrons in Pakistan who have openly raised funds and solicited donations for them. With their designation as terrorist groups by the State Department, the Pakistan Government will come under enormous pressure to crack down on their fund-raising activities, effectively neutralising them. Other groups have rechristened and reincarnated themselves, apparently with official backing. But with the U.S-led coalition significantly stepping up its campaign, this ploy may prove less effective in the future. For its part, New Delhi, which has welcomed the U.S. action, must continue to keep its vigil, in the realisation that fighting cross-border terrorism is primarily its own battle, which it has to carry on with restraint, without distracting talk of untenable ideas like hot pursuit. And quite apart from terrorism the political issue with Pakistan and the aspirations of the people in Kashmir need also to be addressed.

THE HINDU

5 NOV 2001

# From the bloody pages of Al-Qaida's killing manual

By NICK FIELDING

LONDON: A unique manual for Islamic terrorists, detailing every aspect of how to fight a guerrilla war, from biochemical attacks to finding the fatal pressure point during hand-to-hand combat, has been obtained by western intelligence agencies.

The 7,000-page guide — titled *Encyclopaedia of Jihad* — provides an insight into how terrorists from Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaida network operate in both urban environments and on the battlefield.

Filling 11 volumes and circulated both in book form and on CD-Rom to terrorist instructors, it offers guidance on how to inject frozen food with biochemical agents to create mass panic, rig up a door lock to explode when the handle is turned, and bring down a plane with a missile.

The encyclopaedia is dedicated to bin Laden and Abdullah Azzam, a charismatic preacher who was a formative influence on the Saudi terrorist. It distils the experience of 10 years of guerrilla fighting against the Russians in Afghanistan and draws on stolen CIA and special services' handbooks.

The most chilling volume is the 11th, which deals with bioterrorism, which is on a separate CD-Rom. It explains how to disperse potentially lethal organisms and poisons, ranging from botulism and viral infections to anthrax and ricin.

It details targets such as water and food supplies, and advocates maximising public panic by poisoning medicine, thereby jeopardising treatment of the sick and injured. Sources of biological material include a list of countries that produce anthrax and a training camp in Pakistan where toxins are manufactured.

The encyclopaedia was found in 1999 in the home of Khalil Deek when he was arrested in connection with an alleged plot to bomb Jordan's main airport in the capital, Amman, on the eve of the millennium.

Each of the 10 volumes of the main encyclopaedia carries a picture showing a belt-fed machinegun standing in a window next to a copy of the Koran. One, on security and intelligence, shows the long-term planning involved in operations, with " sleeper " cells set up years in advance. "The mujahed should be young, so he can start the mission 10 years before the start of the *jihad*," it states.

Surveillance of potential targets — with video cameras, still cameras and mini-microphones — is critical. They include:

- Symbolic targets, such as the Statue of Liberty in New York or the Eiffel Tower in Paris, where attacks would cause psychological damage but would be largely victimless;
- Key infrastructure, such as nuclear power stations, skyscrapers, ports and train stations;
- Human targets, including stadiums where large numbers of people congregate and, particularly in Arabic countries, influential public figures.

The construction of booby-trapped explosive devices that would not be out of place in a James Bond film is explained in minute detail. One page, from the volume on explosives, shows how to turn a packet of cigarettes into a bomb. It goes on to detail how individual cigarettes can be primed with explosives as well as cigarette lighters, mattresses, chairs and even chocolate bars, toothpaste tubes and hairbrushes.

Another page shows how an envelope can be booby-trapped with a slim lead of C4 explosive, a desk drawer sprung to explode when it is opened, and a barbecue or fireplace prepared to set off a hidden bomb when the fuel is lit.

A carefully drawn picture of a motorcycle helmet shows how it can be lined with explosive, then remotely controlled to blow up when the intended victim puts it on. One section shows how to turn cameras into bombs. It was the method used to kill Ahmed Shah Masoud.

The encyclopaedia contains instructions on the ingredients needed to make explosives, including innocuous substances bought from supermarkets. It begins with the basic chemical compounds and then lays out the exact quantities to be combined. One suggestion even includes Nescafe coffee and sugar.

Each volume is comprehensive. In discussing timers, the section on explosives ranges from complex loop, tremor and tilting switches to cruder versions that can be made from mousetraps, clothes pegs or light switches.

Unlike other Islamic terrorist manuals, previously revealed in court papers, there is little religious direction in the encyclopaedia. Everything is presented factually, almost

## BOOK OF TERROR

- The 700-page manual, called *Encyclopaedia of Jihad* is in 11 volumes.
- It is available both in book form and on CD-Rom to terrorist instructors.
- Details every aspect of guerrilla warfare.
- Teaches how to inject frozen foods with biochemical agents.
- Guides on how to handle explosives or how to bring down a plane with a missile.
- Teaches how to kill an opponent by pinching pressure points on the back of the neck.
- Outlines importance of propaganda and misinformation.
- Volumes dedicated to teaching typography and map reading.
- Unlike other Islamic terrorist manuals, there is little religious direction.
- Almost every page carries a diagram.

every page carries a diagram.

At least four of the chapters are devoted to the military, from showing how to create an assault gun in a field forge from metal scavenged from the battlefield to mounting an attack on combat vehicles.

Another section covers first aid, including how to prevent blood loss from wounds. Alongside are further diagrams demonstrating how to kill an opponent by pinching pressure points on the back of the neck and the windpipe.

The book outlines how bridges can be blown up using conventional military explosives. Last week America was put on high alert over the possibility of attacks on bridges such as the Golden Gate in San Francisco.

Other volumes teach typography, map reading and how to use the stars to work out your location. The importance of propaganda and misinformation is outlined, telling operatives of plans to "penetrate certain Arabic papers and also western ones". The aim is to sow trouble and confusion by spreading false rumours.

The sophistication of some parts of the manual has alarmed intelligence agencies, which have asked counter-terrorism experts given access to the document not to discuss or release key elements, particularly on bioterrorism. (*The Sunday Times*)

# Osama criticises U.N., Arabs

DOHA, NOV. 3. The suspected terrorist mastermind, Osama bin Laden, has said that the United Nations is "an instrument of crimes" against Muslims and that leaders of Arab U.N. members are "infidels".

In a videotape broadcast today by Qatar's al-Jazeera television, he also said that the United States had "no proof" to justify its strikes on Afghanistan after the ruling Taliban militia refused to hand him over to Washington. "We have suffered and continue to suffer because of the U.N., and no Muslim should turn (to the U.N.) because it is an instrument of crimes," he said in the recorded address.

There was no indication when the videotape was recorded, but this was Osama's second appearance on al-Jazeera since the U.S.-led bombing campaign began. The first was shortly after the strikes were launched on October 7.

"Those who want to solve our problems at the U.N. are hypocrites; our suffering is caused by the U.N.," he said. "Who issued the Palestine partition resolution in 1947? The U.N. Those who claim to be Arab leaders and whose countries are U.N. members are infidels who have renounced the Koran and the prophet's (Mohammad's) sayings."

"We (Muslims) are being slaughtered every day and it (U.N.) does not lift a finger. The worst suffering is being inflicted on our brethren in Kashmir" without the U.N. lifting a finger.

"Those who claim to be Arab leaders and are still (cooperating) with the U.N. are infidels," said Osama who appeared on the footage wearing traditional headdress and a military camouflage jacket, and with an automatic rifle propped at his side against a brown wall or screen behind him. "Today, without any evidence, the U.N. is pedalling resolutions in support of America...against the weak who just emerged from a massive war by the Soviet Union." "The people of Afghanistan have nothing to do with this matter (the September 11 attacks on the U.S.)," said Osama. "But the campaign continues

annihilating villagers, women and children without a right."

No rest during Ramadan (Jumma) The Taliban was determined to fight on during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, an official close to its leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, told al-Jazeera today.

"We see this war as a jihad (holy war). We have not asked for a halt to the fighting — this is up to the United States," said Mullah Omar's chief of staff, Mohammad Taieb al-Agha. "Jihad is a religious duty, and it does not violate (the tenets of) Ramadan", which starts on November 17.

"Protecting Sheikh Osama bin Laden is a religious duty. The Afghan people have expressed readiness to sacrifice themselves to defend Osama. They will not capitulate to the U.S. or to any other infidel force," he added.

The U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, had on Friday said that the U.S. "won't rest" the war on terrorism during Ramadan, but left day-to-day decisions about strikes to the military.

'Osama in Kandahar'

Osama has been spotted in Kandahar, the Taliban's southern bastion, a media report here said today. Osama was in the city mainly to "boost the morale of the people who have been braving the carpet bombing (by the U.S.) for the last couple of days," the *Pakistan Observer* quoted "reliable sources" as saying.

It said Osama, who is hiding in one of the "longest caves", addressed a gathering of his "Arab elite guard and the local residents".

Meanwhile, another band of 2,000 radical Islamists and Pashtoon tribesmen left the northwestern Pakistan town of Bajaur on Friday for neighbouring Afghanistan to fight against the U.S., organisers enlisting the volunteer fighters said. A first batch of 1,500 had crossed over into Afghanistan on Thursday, after the Taliban gave them permission to enter the country. — AFP, PTI, DPA

THE HINDU

4 NOV 2001

U.S. WON'T REST TILL EVERY TERRORIST GROUP IS REMOVED'

# U.S. brands Lashkar, Jaish as terrorist outfits?

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, NOV. 3. The United States is said to have formally designated the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad as foreign terrorist organisations. While the State Department has not issued a formal notification to this effect, Indian Embassy sources confirmed late Saturday afternoon that a determination had, in fact, been made.

Three days ago, the U.S. Attorney-General, Mr. John Ashcroft, had written to the Secretary of State asking him to formally designate as many as 46 terrorist outfits that had been identified in the Executive Order of the President of September 23, an October List compiled by the Treasury and the State Department and from the Annex of the State Department's Patterns of Global Terrorism Report that listed other terrorist networks and groups.

"We are taking a methodical approach to this and all aspects of the campaign to ensure maximum impact on the terrorists. This Executive Order designations is by no means the last," the State Department Spokesman, Mr. Richard Boucher, said. On Friday, the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, formally acted on the Attorney-General's request and designated 22 foreign terrorist organisations.

The State Department said that

in addition to the assets already blocked in the U.S., the new Executive Order provided authority to act against individuals and organisations that are associated with the named terrorist organisations. Mr. Boucher said the U.S. would not rest "until every terrorist group has been removed as a threat to the U.S., our citizens or interests and our friends and allies".

The formal designation of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-

Mohammad as foreign terrorist organisations comes barely a week before the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, is due to come to Washington for talks with the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush. Part of India's campaign against terrorism has to do with impressing upon countries like the U.S. that there is actually no difference between the Al-Qaeda and other terrorist networks operating in the subcontinent.

In fact, no one here is making any distinction between global and regional terrorism, or about cross-border terrorism. Mr. Bush and Gen. Powell have rejected not only this as well as the notion of differentiation between terrorists and the so-called freedom fighters.

## Mansingh hails decision

The Indian Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Lalit Mansingh, welcoming the U.S. move against the Lashkar and the Jaish, said the claim that these terror outfits were freedom fighters was "absurd".

"You would expect that freedom-fighters will be sons of the soil, not imported mercenaries. Seventy per cent of the terrorists we apprehend are people who are coming from outside. They are Pakistanis, Afghans, Arabs and others. So it is absurd to say that Kashmiris are fighting the freedom struggle through terrorists imported from the outside," Mr. Mansingh said.

## A right step, Advani

NEW DELHI, NOV. 3. India today welcomed the ban on the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad describing it as yet another display of determination by the U.S. in fighting global terrorism.

While the Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, said the ban was "a step in the right direction" and the action conveyed a meaning to India, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, congratulated the U.S. for showing a determination to tackle the global terrorism.

"It's not so much the ban but the determination of the U.S. that is heartening. We have been advocating that the fight against terrorism cannot be localised as regional or local," Mr. Singh said.

## Pak. in a bind

B. Muralidhar Reddy reports from Islamabad:

The Pakistan Government appears to have been caught in a bind over the latest decision of the Bush Administration to designate the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad as "foreign terrorist organisations".

There was no immediate response either from the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman or the two organisations concerned. The refrain was they would not like to comment without looking at the text of the order from Washington.

## Britain freezes assets of Lashkar, Babbar Khalsa

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, NOV. 3. The British Government today froze the assets of 25 more terrorist organisations, including the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Babbar Khalsa and the International Sikh Youth Federation. These groups were banned under the Anti-Terrorism Act earlier this year.

The Chancellor, Mr. Gordon Brown, said he expected financial institutions to check their records and freeze the assets. "Those named today have committed or pose a real risk of committing or funding acts of terrorism," he said.

The new list—third since the September 11 outrage—includes the LTTE, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the PFLP General Command which claimed responsibility for the assassination of the Israeli Tourism Minister last month.

A total of £63 million in 36 accounts has been frozen since September 11. Mr. Brown said the ready supply of finance was the "lifeblood of modern terrorism" and those who financed terrorism were as guilty as those who actually committed it. "We will do whatever is necessary to deprive terrorists of the funds they rely on. Just as there is no safe haven for terrorists there is no safe hiding place for their funds," he said.

Besides a number of Arab-based organisations, the list includes the Basque Fatherland and Liberation (ETA), the Shining Path and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

## Don't rule out hot pursuit: BJP

By Neena Vyas

AMRITSAR, NOV. 3. Hot pursuit may not be the current Government policy to fight terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, but the BJP made it clear today in its political resolution that "if the situation demands and circumstances compel," the country should not hesitate to go all out to "eliminate terrorism from both inside and outside the country." In short, the Government should not hesitate to follow a policy of hot pursuit just as the United States and the United Kingdom had done by crossing international boundaries in their fight against terrorism.

The three-page resolution was hotly debated and adopted late last night and it focussed almost entirely on terrorism. It seems that the party wants to build a kind of pre-election campaign on the issue of terrorism in general and the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance (POTO) in particular. On Friday, the Law Minister, Mr. Arun Jaitley, told the press that the Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani, had warned opposition parties that they would be "appeasing terrorists" if they opposed the POTO, but today the party president, Mr. Jana Krish-

namurthi, denied this although Mr. Jaitley was caught by television cameras with the "quote."

It seems there were even some difference of opinion on the subject's utility as an election campaign point, especially since some of the BJP's allies at the Centre have already expressed reservations on the POTO. But here at the executive, the entire meeting has been somewhat turned into a high-profile campaign in favour of the POTO.

The resolution avoided direct criticism of the Government's stand since the September 11 attacks in the U.S. but it was clear that the party was under tremendous pressure to "do something" against Pakistan in relation to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. That apparently led to the resolution stating that the country should resort to hot pursuit if the situation so demanded, especially as the U.S. and Britain had done it when the West was threatened by terrorism.

It approved the Security Council resolution condemning terrorism and sought an early adoption of a United Nations convention on terrorism which India and several other countries had proposed

two years ago. What had been troubling the party since the September 11 crisis was the emergence of Pakistan as the great champion against terrorism and the virtual sidelining of India in the global battle against it. The resolution has come just before the Prime Minister leaves for Moscow, Washington and London and it made it clear that the party was suspicious of Pakistan's readiness to fight the Taliban when it had played a significant role in its creation. In short, the BJP questioned American wisdom in choosing Pakistan as a frontline state in the global fight against terrorism.

While the party completely supported the Government's policy of collaborating in the global fight against terrorism, it qualified this in the context of the earlier rather adventurous offer of Indian bases made by the Government to the U.S., an offer which did not have the support of the RSS and many others in the party. The resolution assured opposition parties that India's assistance to the global fight would be in line with "established policies" and "in pursuance of our own national interest."

# Anthrax hits Pak newspaper office

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 2. — Pakistan's largest Urdu newspaper, the *Daily Jang*, has been hit by a positive case of anthrax, the paper's sister publication, *The News*, reported today.

The incident has forced the newspaper offices in Karachi to put its editorial staff on antibiotics and to move the staff out of the infected area until it is properly disinfected, the report said.

On 23 October, a *Jang* reporter received white powder in an envelope which was supposed to contain a press release. It was sent for examination to the Aga Khan University Hospital.

The laboratory report, issued on Thursday, confirmed the white powdery substance as anthrax spores. The contaminated letter was sent by a social welfare organisation.

The microbiologists hired to disinfect the newspaper's main editorial sections will start their job on Friday morning and take 24 hours to complete it, an administration official said.

Earlier, the *Jang* offices in Quetta, Rawalpindi and London had received similar letters with claims of anthrax spores inside. The Quetta office got a mail with a short message — "Anthrax gift for you and your staff".

So far none of the employees, exposed to the mail, has been detected positive for anthrax.

An international bank and a computer firm in Karachi have already received mails loaded



Rescue workers examine the *Daily Jang* newsroom after it was sealed off on Friday. The office was evacuated after it was confirmed that the powdery substance received by the newspaper nine days ago contained anthrax spores. — AP/PTI

with anthrax spores. The bank executive was also treated for contracting anthrax.

The editorial staff of *Jang* has been asked to work in an alternate environment, safety of other workers being a matter of concern for the administration. "We have advised our workers to be on high alert, especially when they handle mail," an official said.

District coordination officer, Mr Shafiqur Rehman Paracha, on Thursday evening, visited the *Jang* offices, met the editor

and assured the *Jang* Group of government's help.

Special measures have been adopted by the Post office authorities following the incident.

The postmaster general, Mr Qamar Jamil A Shaikh was quoted as saying, the staff at the International Desk have been provided masks and gloves.

Doctors have advised people, working at the major national and multi-national offices, to take special care before opening any mail.

THE STATESMAN

Terrorism  
Ho-1

# Designate Lashkar, Jaish as terrorist outfits, says Ashcroft

3711

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, NOV. 2. In a significant move, the U.S. Justice Department has asked the State Department to designate the Pakistan-based militant outfits, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, as foreign terrorist organisations.

The U.S. Attorney-General, Mr. John Ashcroft, in a letter to the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, has asked for the designation of 46 organisations under the new Anti-Terrorism Law. All the groups, he said, had committed

or planned terrorist acts, or served as fronts for terrorist organisations.

New Delhi has been pressing Washington for quite some time to target outfits like the Lashkar for its violence in Jammu and Kashmir. The JeM was identified in a Joint Treasury and State Department list of October 12 as a terrorist outfit. Among other things, its assets were frozen.

The 46 organisations which the Attorney-General wanted designated formally as terrorist have been identified from three sources; the U.S. President's executive

order of September 23; the Joint Treasury Department and State Department List of October 12; and the State Department's Patterns of Global Terrorism which lists in its annexe, the names of other terrorist groups which have not been formally designated. The Lashkar has been drawn from this category.

The Attorney-General's memorandum to the Secretary of State is only a "request," and not an "order." The process of formal designation of the terror outfits will begin at the State Department. Given the kind of environ-

ment that exists in the U.S. against terrorism, it is unlikely that the Secretary of State will think differently from the Attorney-General.

A formal designation of the Lashkar and the JeM by the State Department as terrorist organisations will undoubtedly have an impact not only on the outfits themselves but also on their benefactors.

Besides a financial freeze, a number of legal restrictions will be in place for members of the outfits and their supporters.

THE HINDU

3 NOV 2001

## Chandrika assures SAARC's support to combat terrorism

By Farah Mihar Ahamed  
Times News Network

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka



C. Kumaratunga

President  
Chandrika  
Kumaratunga in  
her capacity as  
chairperson of  
SAARC has  
assured the coop-  
eration of South  
Asian nations to  
the UN Security  
Council on

implementing its recently passed resolutions to combat terrorism.

Ms Kumaratunga, in a special statement, welcomed the September 28 resolutions passed by the Security Council that called on member-states, among other measures, to suppress financing of terrorists, eliminate supply of weapons to them and introduce domestic legislature to break up international terrorist networks.

While recognising the UN's emphasis for a coordinated effort at national, sub-regional and regional level to strengthen the global response against terrorism, she said SAARC member states would extend their "fullest cooperation" to implement the resolutions.

"Beyond the tragic loss of lives in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, the September 11 attacks have revealed the extensive, deeply felt ramifications of terrorism which touch the day-to-day lives of people throughout the world," Ms Kumaratunga said.

She justified the U.S. attacks on Afghanistan as being necessary to bring to justice those responsible for the terrorist attacks. "The necessity for action against military targets is well understood and the statement of the U.S. government that such actions are not directed at the long-suffering people of Afghanistan nor against the members of the Islamic faith is appreciated," she said.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

2 NOV 2001



# Bombings continue but US, Afghan Opposition targets vary

## Few hits, one miss

**AGENCIES**  
KABUL/KANDAHAR, OCTOBER 31

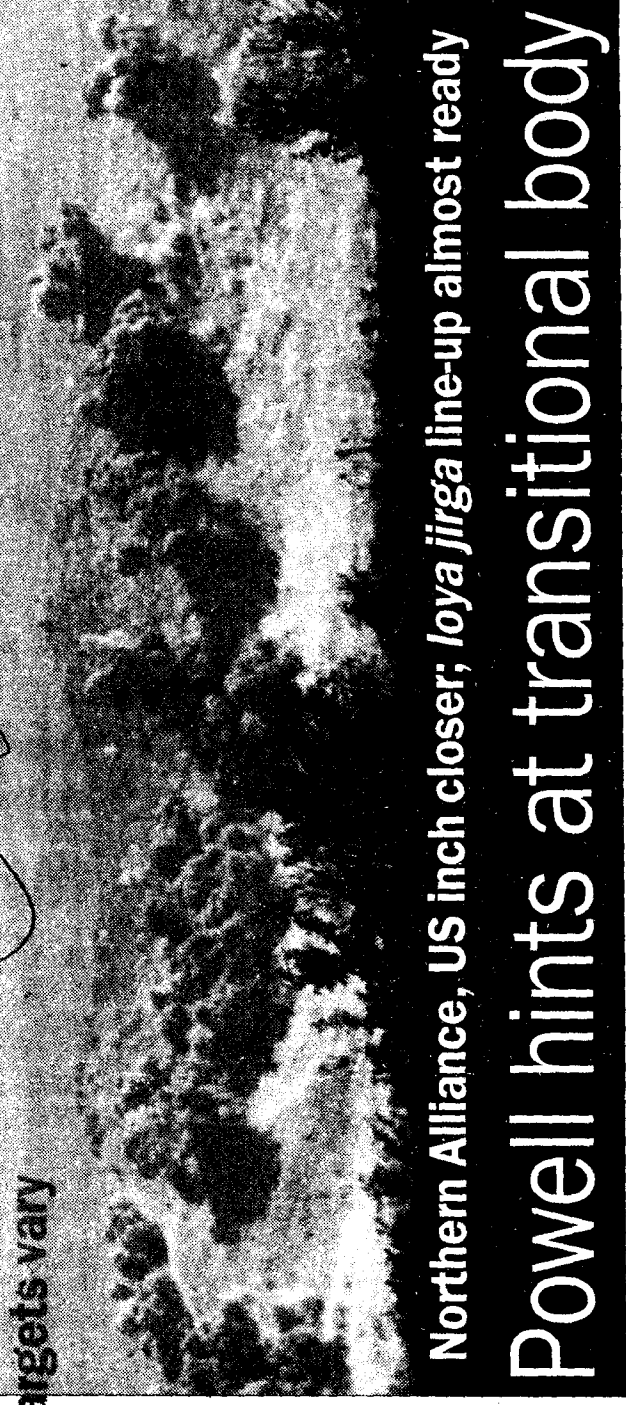
**K**ABUL was spared the overnight bombing that has focused in recent days on Taliban front-line positions and on Kandahar and its environs. But on Wednesday afternoon, a US-B-52 bomber carried out at least two heavy raids on Taliban frontlines 50 km north of Kabul. It was the first time a B-52 was used in raids in the area, where the Taliban have concentrated up to 6,000 hardened fighters. Earlier in the day, reports said, US jets dropped up to six bombs on Taliban areas in Karabak, Kaloqan, Hossein Kot and Bagram.

One of the pre-dawn air raids hit a dispensary of the Red Crescent Society in Kandahar, killing 11 people, said a doctor who said he was injured in the track. "The bombs fell at 4.30 this morning," Dr Obaidullah told reporters, escorted by the Taliban to the dispensary.

On the 25th day of raids, it was not clear how much the bombing had achieved as far as defeating the Taliban goes. While Opposition commanders said again that they had asked for more bombing and support to help capture cities, the commander of the US military campaign in Afghanistan said this wasn't the top US priority. "We have discussed whether it would in fact support our campaign objectives to move towards a variety of places. And we have taken a decision that says we will remain focused on our objectives, and we will retain the initiative rather than providing specific focus on a specific area," Franks said in Uzbekistan.

Talking of one of the cities the Northern Alliance has been trying to seize, Rear Admiral Craig Quigley, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence, who is traveling with Franks, also said: "The world does not center on Mazar-I-Sharif."

The remarks of the two seem at some difference with the public comments of Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell. Both have said the Northern Alliance efforts to



istans' western Baluchistan, province, at least three refugee camps had been set up for frightened residents of Kandahar. They are caught between the US raids and the border which Pakistan has closed to adult Afghan males except those with proper papers. As dusk fell, families cooked their meagre rations over woodfires.

**AGENCIES**  
WASHINGTON/KABUL, OCT 31

**U**SS SECRETARY of State Colin Powell said yesterday that the composition of a potential post-Taliban peace-keeping force in Afghanistan would likely be decided by a transitional authority chosen to replace the Islamic militia. "It really comes almost behind what kind of civil administration you're going to put in," Powell said in an interview with AFP.

But the Taliban's main opposition in Afghanistan, Northern Alliance, fears that it will be left out of any such government. The Alliance has been fighting the ruling Taliban for five years, and now finds itself on the same side as the United States. But it fears that its alliance may not be enough to guarantee it the number of seats it wants at the top table in a post-Taliban Afghanistan.

Powell admitted he had not yet formed an opinion about which of three options now available — a blue-helmeted UN force, one made up of troops from "willing nations", or an all-Afghan unit — would suit Afghanistan best. With respect to a transition government and what follows, Powell said there was wide agreement between all principles that whatever is created must represent a "broad base" of the Afghan society.

This worries the Northern Alliance as it has already created many enemies. Pakistan has little time for them, while exiled ethnic Pashtuns don't even bother to consider them. The Alliance represents the minority Uzbek and Tajik ethnic groups based in the north and north-east of the country and the Shiite Hazaras in the centre, supported by Iran, and knows it must have the Pashtuns on board for a new government to work. Which is why it is backing the Pashtun ex-king Mohammad Zahir Shah. "If we go to Kabul without a strong Pashtun beside us," admits Muhammad Yahya Masood, the elder brother of the revered Opposition leader Ahmad Shah Masood, "then the Pashtuns will not take us seriously." There are differences within the Alliance on whether Zahir Shah is the right Pashtun.

Militarily, the Alliance may be about to get at least some of what it wants. Its Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah told Reuters that high-level talks between them and the US had begun. But

US campaign to hunt down Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden and punish his Afghan protectors. As night fell, the city was plunged into darkness. Power had apparently been cut in advance of the almost nightly air raids. The air port — a major target since the first raids on October 7 — showed no sign of life. Streets on the outskirts of Kandahar, which like all Afghan cities observes a night-time curfew, were practically empty.

In one suburb filled with government offices, only armed Taliban fighters patrolled the streets, apparently guarding the buildings around them. The night was almost silent, with barely a dog barking. "The raids usually don't start until about two in the morning," said one Taliban official, who professed no fear at the prospect.

In daylight, the road from Kandahar to Pakistan was crowded with traffic. Several truckloads of refugees fleeing the bombardment rattled along the rutted road. Piled high with bundles of the few possessions they could throw together,

# Kandahar a city under siege

**ALTAH HUSSAINI**  
KANDAHAR, OCTOBER 31

**D**ARKNESS blankets Kandahar, the stronghold of the Taliban's Supreme Leader Mullah Mohammad Omar. It is a city under siege with the electricity cut, a curfew in place and only Taliban guards moving in the streets.

Late on Tuesday, the Taliban escorted a group of foreign reporters into the city, the target of some of the most intense bombing of the

destroyed house in Kandahar as US warplanes continue to pound the city. Reuters photo

# Did bin Laden meet CIA agent this summer?

**DEUTSCHE PRESSE-AGENTUR**  
PARIS, OCTOBER 31

**OSAMA bin Laden** had a meeting with an official of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) just two months earlier, the newspaper *Le Figaro* claimed today.

The meeting allegedly took place between July 4 and 14, while bin Laden was being treated for a serious kidney ailment at the American hospital in Dubai, the paper said, citing as its source an unnamed "professional associate of the hospital's administration".

During his stay at the hospital, bin Laden was visited by several family members, officials from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and by the local representative of the CIA. The intelligence official was seen taking the hospital elevator to the floor on which bin Laden's room was located, *Le Figaro* claimed.

The American hospital in Dubai, however, categorically denied the report. "What *Le Figaro* has published is wrong. Osama bin Laden was never treated in the hospital or outside the hospital by our doctors. The report is completely baseless," Bernard Koval, manager of the American hospital in Dubai, told *DPA*.

*Le Figaro* reported that the CIA agent — who was not named — had boasted several days later to several friends that he had visited the Saudi millionaire. According to what *Le Figaro* termed "official" sources, the agent was called back to CIA headquarters in the US on July 15, the day after bin Laden left Dubai for Qaddafi.

It wrote that the CIA's ties with bin Laden date back to 1979, when the Saudi millionaire began enlisting volunteers to fight the Soviet Army in Afghanistan.

**REUTERS ADDS:** A senior representative of the Afghan Opposition movement said on Wednesday he believed that bin Laden was hiding in mountains north of Kandahar. Friends who had just arrived in the Opposition stronghold of the Panjsher Valley from the Taliban power-base of Kandahar in the south of Afghanistan had relayed the information, said Ahmad Ziah Masood, a member of the Opposition's senior council.

# Northern Alliance, US inch closer; loya jirga line-up almost ready

**AGENCIES**  
WASHINGTON/KABUL, OCT 31

**U**S SECRETARY of State Colin Powell said yesterday that the composition of a potential post-Taliban peace-keeping force in Afghanistan would likely be decided by a transitional authority chosen to replace the Islamic militia. "It really comes almost behind what kind of civil administration you're going to put in," Powell said in an interview with AFP.

But the Taliban's main opposition in Afghanistan, Northern Alliance, fears that it will be left out of any such government. The Alliance has been fighting the ruling Taliban for five years, and now finds itself on the same side as the United States. But it fears that its alliance may not be enough to guarantee it the number of seats it wants at the top table in a post-Taliban Afghanistan.

Powell admitted he had not yet formed an opinion about which of three options now available — a blue-helmeted UN force, one made up of troops from "willing nations", or an all-Afghan unit — would suit Afghanistan best. With respect to a transition government and what follows, Powell said there was wide agreement between all principles that whatever is created must represent a "broad base" of the Afghan society.

This worries the Northern Alliance as it has already created many enemies. Pakistan has little time for them, while exiled ethnic Pashtuns don't even bother to consider them. The Alliance represents the minority Uzbek and Tajik ethnic groups based in the north and north-east of the country and the Shiite Hazaras in the centre, supported by Iran, and knows it must have the Pashtuns on board for a new government to work. Which is why it is backing the Pashtun ex-king Mohammad Zahir Shah. "If we go to Kabul without a strong Pashtun beside us," admits Muhammad Yahya Masood, the elder brother of the revered Opposition leader Ahmad Shah Masood, "then the Pashtuns will not take us seriously." There are differences within the Alliance on whether Zahir Shah is the right Pashtun.

Militarily, the Alliance may be about to get at least some of what it wants. Its Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah told Reuters that high-level talks between them and the US had begun. But

# Powell hints at transitional body

politically, the alliance is uneasy. Its biggest concern is Washington's close consultations with Islamabad, raising fears among them that any new government in Kabul may be little different from the one it replaces.

Another front where it is making progress is in its convening of the *loya jirga* (national council of elders) to consider a future government, and Alliance Interior Minister Yunus Qanuni said they were ready to announce the line-up for the gathering. He also revealed that the high council of the anti-Taliban coalition had been meeting for the past three days in Cherkat, 80 km north of Kabul.

Meanwhile, the UN bid to reach some consensus on future government reached a dead end when its envoy to Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, turned down a request by the Taliban Ambassador in Pakistan for a meeting, citing lack of time. Later, a snubbed Taliban too rejected any contacts with Brahimi, accusing the UN of being a "tool" of the US. While earlier there were reports that the Taliban had approached Brahimi for a meeting, the militia later denied it, saying Mullah Omar had told them not to have any truck with the UN envoy.

# Kandahar a city under siege

istans' western Baluchistan, province, at least three refugee camps had been set up for frightened residents of Kandahar. They are caught between the US raids and the border which Pakistan has closed to adult Afghan males except those with proper papers. As dusk fell, families cooked their meagre rations over woodfires.

Heading towards the squalid camps were yet more Kandaharis, escaping the raids that pounded the city almost daily throughout the night and into the dawn. The United Nations refugee agency says the camps are not equipped with even the most basic amenities.

— Reuters