

# Al-Arabiya airs Laden tape

Dubai: The Dubai-based Al-Arabiya satellite channel on Saturday night aired an audiotape attributed to Al Qaida chief Osama bin Laden in which he slammed the US-led war in Iraq as "a new crusade" against Muslims. But its Qatar-based rival Al-Jazeera said the tape was the same one it had aired more extensively on October 18. "The last audiotape which Al-Arabiya channel broadcast was broadcast before, on 18 October 2003, by Al-Jazeera satellite channel," it said in a statement sent to AFP, along with a transcript of the tape.

The recording was aired at the time in the form of "messages" from Bin Laden to the Iraqi and American peoples. Al-Arabiya officials were not available for comment. Parts aired by Al-Arabiya did not include remarks in which the man purported to be Bin Laden threatened to send suicide bombers to the United States and to attack any forces joining the US-led coalition in Iraq.

Both Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya, the leading Arab news channels,



Bin Laden

They have been accused by US officials of inciting violence by airing such tapes of Al Qaida leaders as well as those of deposed Iraqi president Saddam Hussein before he was captured by US forces on December 13. They have denied the charge. The latest controversy came just one day after Al-Jazeera aired a tape purported to be from Bin Laden's right-hand man Ayman Al-Zawahiri, in which he said the Americans were beginning to stagger under the blows of Al Qaida. A US intelligence official said in Washington that CIA analysts had concluded that the Zawahiri tape was "most likely" authentic.

Al-Arabiya — like Al-Jazeera on October 18—did not give a date for the tape, but it appeared to be several months old. The man purported to be Bin Laden lashed out at "collaborator

governments formed by America," citing as an example that of Mahmud Abbas, the Palestinian Prime Minister who stepped down on September 6, suggesting that the tape was recorded before then. "It is no secret that any government formed by America is a collaborator, traitor government, like all the governments of the region, including those of (Afghan President Hamid) Karzai and Mahmud Abbas, which were set up to thwart jihad (holy war)," the voice said.

The roadmap (a US-backed West Asia peace blueprint) is no more than a new link in the chain of the conspiracy aimed at ending the blessed Intifada. The jihad should continue until an Islamic government that rules on the basis of Allah's law (the Islamic law) is set up (in Palestine)," the voice added. "This war is a new crusade against the Islamic world," the man alleged to be the Al Qaida chief said, referring to Iraq, according to Al-Arabiya, which aired parts of the tape interspersed by commentary. AFP

# Camps lost, rebels pick up bandh weapon

OUR BUREAU

Dec. 19: As reports came in of all 30 insurgent camps being dismantled by the Royal Bhutan Army, the three northeastern militant outfits together called a 48-hour bandh in Assam and north Bengal from 5 am tomorrow.

Within five days of the start of the crackdown, Bhutan officials suggested that the rebel infrastructure on Bhutanese soil had been demolished.

Bhutan's director at the ministry of foreign affairs Yeshe Dorjee said: "All the camps are dislodged, flushing-out operations are going on."

Stunned by the reverses, the United Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa), the National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB) and the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO) threatened that the bandh they have called would continue "indefinitely" if the bodies of their members killed in the operation are not handed over to their families within 24 hours.

In Bengal, only Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar districts might be affected by the bandh.

The bandh call came within hours of the Ulfa suffering ano-

ther blow with the capture of its top military strategist "Major" Bening Rabha, who was in charge of the camps in Bhutan.

So far, the Ulfa has lost four of its top leaders — Rabha, founder-member and seniormost leader Bhimkanta Buragohain, publicity secretary Mithinga Daimary and "Major" Rabin Neog, among the first to join the outfit.

Buragohain died after his surrender and the Ulfa has accused the Bhutan army of violating Geneva Convention norms by "killing a prisoner of war". The others have either been captured or have surrendered.

"The royal government of Bhutan not only launched the offensive against the Ulfa, NDFB and KLO without any clear ultimatum but is also brutally killing its cadre, particularly octogenarians, women, children and the injured," the three groups said in a joint statement.

They described Buragohain's "killing" as "tantamount to gross violation of the Geneva Convention as well as all civilised norms of modern war".

In an appeal, Ulfa chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa requested the Bhutan government to treat the "prisoners of war" accord-

ing to the norms of the Geneva Convention.

Although the outfits have been claiming death of children and women in the operations, Dorjee refused to give any death count. "The operations are continuing. We are not in a position to say anything about the casualties," Dorjee said in the border town of Samdrup Jongkhar.

There were reports that crown prince Jigyel Wangchuk visited the area of crackdown today to make an assessment.

The International Committee of the Red Cross revealed that it has begun talks with the Bhutan government for permission to offer humanitarian aid to victims of the operation.

In Delhi, the cabinet committee on security took stock of the operation. External affairs minister Yashwant Sinha said India has thanked Bhutan for the offensive. Sinha said Indian troops were not headed for Bhutan immediately.

"No request has been made and I do not think that situation has arisen so far," Sinha said.

Eros Bosisio, a Red Cross spokesman, said a dialogue has been initiated with the Bhutan government to offer medical aid.

# Last act of heroism that foiled a hijack

K.P. NAYAR 18/12

Washington, Dec. 17: The heroism of an Indian air hostess in terminating a hijacking, which riveted all of India's attention 17 years ago, reached its conclusion when the Palestinian leader of the hijackers was sentenced here to three consecutive terms of life imprisonment and a further 25 years in jail.

Several Indians were killed in the attempt to hijack the Pan Am Boeing 747 at Karachi airport on its way from Mumbai to New York, but it was the alertness of Neerja Bhanot, an Indian stewardess on the plane, which made the incident a legend of sorts for Indians.



Neerja

Neerja was greeting and explaining passengers at the aircraft's door when she noticed four armed men, masquerading

as security staff, boarding the plane.

With remarkable presence of mind, she activated a hijack code. Within seconds, the pilot and the flight crew ejected from the plane, foiling the hijackers' plans to take the hostages to Cyprus and demand the release of 1,500 Palestinians jailed in Israel.

Frustrated and angry, the hijackers, members of the Abu Nidal terrorist organisation, commandeered the plane. When the plane's auxiliary power unit failed at the end of 15 hours of futile negotiations, the plane plunged into darkness and the terrorists began shooting wildly.

Two American citizens of Indian origin, Rajesh Kumar and Surendra Patel, were among the first to be killed.

Neerja was hit but she managed to open a chute and let several passengers escape. Four more bullets struck her, killing her. In all, 22 people died.

The four hijackers and a fifth terrorist were caught and tried in Pakistan, then under General Zia-ul-Haq. The five were sentenced to death, but their sentences were commuted to life imprisonment soon enough.

What was worse, the leader of the hijackers, Zayd Hassan Abd al-Latif Masud al-Safarini, was released a mere fortnight after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York.

But US agents caught Safarini as he was trying to sneak into Jordan. Safarini will now spend the rest of his life in an American prison.

← 'MERE SUPPORT FOR TERROR GROUPS NOT A CRIME'

# SC okays Pota

Memorandum  
SFI  
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## Our Legal Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Dec. 16. — The Supreme Court (coram, Babu, Mathur, JJ) today upheld the constitutional validity of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (Pota), 2002, but laid down most of guidelines on the way particular sections of the Act should be read to prevent the misuse of its stringent provisions.

"These petitions stand dismissed subject, however, to the clarifications that

we have set out above on the interpretation of the provisions of the enactment while dealing with the constitutionality thereof," the court said in its 87-page judgment.

The court dismissed the contention that Parliament had no competence to enact the law, recognising the cross-territorial dimensions of the threat presented by terrorism. "This court cannot examine the 'need' for Pota, It is a matter of policy," it said. "Moreover, we would like to point out that this court has repeatedly held that mere possibility of abuse cannot be counted as a ground for denying the vesting of powers or for declaring a statute unconstitutional," the court said.

The court also exhaustively dealt with the most contentious of the provisions of the Act such as Section 3(3), 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 30, 32, 43 and 49 which had been challenged in five petitions filed by Nedumaran, Vaiko, the PUCL, a rights NGO and a Tamil publisher.

Section 21, which has been challenged by jailed MDMK leader Vaiko, the court said does not per se make support to any banned organisation a crime. The apex court also refused to go into the merits of the case against Vaiko. The court upheld Section 14 which makes it mandatory for lawyers and journalists to part with privileged communication. "It is the duty of every body to assist the state in detection of the crime and bringing criminals to justice. Withholding such information cannot be traced to the right to privacy," the court said.

Pota Amendment Bill passed, page 4

## Highlights

- Lawyers, journalists can't withhold information
- Witnesses can depose in-camera
- Confessions to police can be evidence
- Pota bail provisions only if detention exceeds 1 yr
- Police can with court's permission take semen, blood, hair, saliva, handwriting, finger-prints, voice samples of person "reasonably suspected"



# Istanbul mastermind rises from debris

DAMIEN MCELROY  
ANDELIF URAL

Istanbul, Nov. 30: Turkish intelligence officials believe that the mastermind behind the wave of suicide bombings in Istanbul, who was said to have died in the attack on the HSBC bank building, is in fact still at large and planning further attacks on British interests.

A terrorist alert issued last week by the Milli Istihbarat Teskilati (MIT), Turkey's intelligence agency M15, identifies Azad Ekinic as the key figure in the attacks and warns that his group still has as many as seven specially adapted trucks that could be used in further attacks.

The alert was issued after DNA tests on remains recovered

from the HSBC building failed to corroborate reports that Ekinic — whose remains were apparently buried during a funeral service last week — was among the four suicide bombers. "Ekinic is alive and he is the main player," one MIT official said.

In an important breakthrough, Turkish police announced yesterday they had arrested the man who directed the attack on Istanbul's main synagogue earlier this month. Haili Yilmaz, the city's deputy police chief, said the suspect was arrested at the Agri Frontier post on the border with Iran. He said: "He went to the Beth Israel synagogue area with the other attackers on the day of the explosion and gave the order for the attack."

Western intelligence agencies have warned terrorist cells fr-



An unidentified suspect held in Istanbul on Saturday in connection with the suicide bomb attacks on the synagogues. (Reuters)

om the Bingol region in eastern Turkey are active across Europe. "We're putting increased scrutiny on the diaspora from Bingol,"

week by warning that another attack on the British community in Ankara was imminent. British intelligence officials have, however, told the government that there is little confidence the MIT or the Turkish police will be able to stop another attack. "What is alarming is that the Turks are slightly muddled by this threat," said the official. "They don't even know how many trucks the bombers may have."

At a meeting between American and Turkish intelligence officials in September, the Turks reported that the Great Eastern Islamic Raiders Front and Hezbollah, two groups with which the suicide bombers have been linked, had been rendered toothless by an official crackdown. It was a view attributed to Abdulkadir Aksu, the Turkish interior

minister, who has been close to Islamic militants since the 1980s. British embassies in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, and Berlin tightened security last week, installing concrete blast barriers and asking for more police patrols. In Germany, a suspected al-Qaida member was arrested as a result of the warnings.

MIT officials say the bombers joined Turkish Hezbollah as schoolboys and Azad Ekinic and Mesut Cabuk travelled to Pakistan in the mid-1990s for training. According to neighbours in Bingol, Ekinic, 29, was an antisocial individual who was devoted to his mother, a closeness fostered in the wake of his father's murder by leftist guerrillas during the Kurdish independence insurgency.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

# Mullah Omar seen in Pak city: Karzai

Vijay Dutt

London, November 29

ONE OF the world's most wanted men, Mullah Mohammad Omar, the supreme leader of the ousted Taliban regime in Afghanistan, was spotted last week in the Pakistani border city of Quetta, Afghan President Hamid Karzai has told *The Times*, London. He has also accused Pakistan of turning a blind eye to terrorism in its border region.

Karzai urged President Musharraf to stop hardline Islamist groups from providing sanctuary and support to those responsible for the resurgence of violence in Afghanistan that has left more than 400 dead in the last four months.

Karzai asserted, "We have received information that Mullah Omar was seen praying in a mosque in Quetta 10 days

ago." Mullah Omar comes after Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein as the man US-led coalition forces would most like to capture. He has a £14.5 million bounty on his head.

Karzai confirmed that Quetta has become a stronghold of terrorists. Mullah Omar is alleged to have reorganised the command structure of a resurgent Taliban. It has been increasingly mounting cross-border attacks on US forces.

A BBC reporter shot a documentary of how terrorists sneak into a desert town near Pak border and after shooting at the army post run back into Pakistan. Karzai said the Pakistan government should take immediate action, particularly against the clerics, who were openly recruiting volunteers from madrasas in Baluchistan and the North West Frontier Province.

## Man behind Istanbul synagogue attack held

ANKARA, Nov. 29. — Police investigating a string of deadly suicide bombings in Istanbul arrested a man suspected of ordering the attack on the Beth Israel synagogue, an Istanbul police official said today.

Istanbul deputy police chief Mr Halil Yilmaz said the man was arrested on Tuesday for carrying a fake passport while trying to leave Turkey through a border crossing with Iran. The man, whom he did not identify, made plans for the Beth Israel attack and ordered it, Mr Yilmaz said. He said investigators brought the man to the wrecked synagogue early today as part of the ongoing investigation into the bombing of it and another synagogue on 15 November.

Earlier today, private NTV television showed the man — bearded, handcuffed and appearing to be in his 20s — at Beth Israel talking to an investigator. — AP

# Istanbul outrage

Britain under Al Qaeda attack

*From*  
**A**l Qaeda cannot be faulted on the symbolic value of its choice of targets. And its modus operandi appears to be to mount its deadly suicide attacks in pairs. Thus, two synagogues in Istanbul were simultaneously bombed, killing 23 and wounding 277. The attack got at both Turkey, a secular and pro-Western Muslim state, and Jews, seen to represent the state of Israel. That was followed by Thursday's twin attacks on the British consulate and Hongkong Bank, killing at least 27 people, including the consul-general. The series of orchestrated attacks sends a warning that Al Qaeda is as potent as ever, the "war on terror" hasn't made much difference yet. The targeting of British interests follows Britain's partnership with the US in the occupation of Iraq, and coincides with President Bush's state visit to Britain. No doubt the Al Qaeda would have liked best to mount a terror attack within Britain itself, but the massive security accompanying the Bush visit would have discouraged such an attack. So it makes a perverse kind of sense that they should choose to attack British institutions abroad.

Neo-conservatives will likely argue that there is no connection between the Turkish bombings and the US-British invasion of Iraq, and in a certain limited sense they are right, as no such connection can be proved. But there is no doubt that the invasion has rallied anti-Western opinion in the Muslim world, which has helped extremist groups to recruit. The horrific attacks dramatise the fact that they can happen anywhere, anytime. It is not enough to provide security to likely targets, or to go after known terrorist groups and leaders. The focus of the war on terror must be to sap the motivation of fresh recruits who are contemplating joining extremist movements, for which reason it must be fought politically, not merely militarily. What makes matters more urgent is a yet unpublished UN report, which says the Al Qaeda may soon acquire chemical and biological weapons.

One clue is provided by Turkish police investigations which have turned up pieces of a Pakistani passport believed to belong to one of the synagogue bombers, while three of them are reported to have received training in Pakistan. Both Washington and London appeared to have convinced themselves that Musharraf is their best hope in Islamabad; after him, there will be the deluge. Yet the best his government can do is to ask militants to sign a bond of good behaviour, while the jihad in Kashmir goes on unabated. It is time for Washington and London to admit that what is good for Baghdad is good for Islamabad too — a dose of democratic governance is the best antidote to terror.

# US issues warning over Al Qaida network attack

Washington: Highlighting the "recent terrorist attacks" in Saudi Arabia and Turkey, the US state department has issued a worldwide warning that the Al Qaida network may stage new attacks, designed to be more "devastating" than the September 11 strikes.

In a "worldwide caution" against attacks and plane hijackings, the state department has warned that "US citizens may be a target of terrorist actions".

Deeply concerned about the security of American citizens overseas, the alert, issued on Friday, cautioned them to "maintain a high level of vigilance, to remain alert and to take appropriate

steps to increase their security awareness".

"We are seeing increasing indications that Al Qaida is preparing to strike US interests abroad," said the warning, which came a day after 27 people were killed and more than 450 injured in two bomb attacks on British targets in Istanbul.

"The Al Qaida and its associated organisations have struck in West Asia in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and in Europe in Istanbul, Turkey. We, therefore, assess that other geographic locations could be venues for the next round of attacks," it said.

"We expect Al Qaida will strive for new attacks designed to be more devastat-

ing than the September 11 attack, possibly involving non-conventional weapons such as chemical or biological agents. We also cannot rule out that Al Qaida will attempt a second catastrophic attack within the US," the alert said.

"Terrorist actions may include, but are not limited to, suicide operations, hijackings, bombings or kidnappings. These may also involve commercial aircraft and maritime interests, and threats to include conventional weapons, such as explosive devices," the alert said. PTI



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2003

## A CAMPAIGN GONE AWRY

THE DEVASTATING ATTACK in Istanbul, in which 27 people were killed and over 400 injured, has underscored the extent to which the United States and its allies have mismanaged the campaign against global terror. This campaign, characterised by the use of brute military power to conquer and subjugate countries that the U.S. unilaterally deemed to be bases for terrorist groups, has conspicuously failed to curtail the menace. To the contrary, terrorist groups appear to have gathered new adherents and gained a wider operational area as the U.S. and its allies carried forward the campaign from Afghanistan to Iraq. While officials of the Turkish and other Governments drew a link between the perpetrators of this attack and the Al-Qaeda, their observations might be largely irrelevant. Those who attacked the Consulate General of the United Kingdom and a branch of the HSBC Bank on Wednesday, and two synagogues last week, might or might not have organisational ties with Osama bin Laden. But it is more than likely that they drew on his blueprint for operations of this nature. They also apparently believe that the righteousness of their cause absolves them of guilt for the mass slaughter even when most of the victims share their religious belief. In facing the challenge of transnational terrorism, the U.S. needs to re-examine an approach that is proving to be horribly counterproductive.

The operative philosophy behind the Bush administration's campaign is that the U.S. is under threat from forces bred in illiberal countries and must use its phenomenal military power to remake these societies. The perspective of people in the developing world, including countries with Muslim-majority populations, is altogether different. In their experience, the U.S. has been the main prop for autocratic regimes that provided American corporate interests with untrammelled access to the natural resources of

their countries. The superpower has almost without exception, opposed indigenous movements for political reform within Muslim-majority countries. Given this history, the people of these countries could hardly be expected to submit meekly to any enforced tutelage in liberalism. While the U.S. caused widespread death and destruction in Afghanistan and Iraq supposedly to advance the cause of democracy and liberalism, the people of these two countries are a long way from gaining control over their own destinies. Claims about benevolent intentions appear all the more hypocritical when the superpower blindly supports Israel's brutally unjust repression of the Palestinians.

The strike in Istanbul might be part of a pattern in which the U.S. and its allies are under attack wherever they are vulnerable. That British assets were specifically targeted at a time when George Bush was in the United Kingdom conveyed a very explicit message. However, conditions specific to Turkey also appear to underlie the attacks. Turkey is the closest regional ally of the U.S. and Israel. It was very supportive of the war against Iraq, refraining from contributing troops only at the last minute. In upholding Turkey as the secular democratic model for other Muslim-majority countries of West Asia and North Africa, the U.S. reminds Arabs of their own failings and offers extremists among them one more target for their ire. However, the attacks might have quite conceivably been carried out by Turkish rather than Arab extremists. While the Turkish Government is controlled by the latest incarnation of an Islamist revivalist movement that has always been influential, it was able to gain power only after it made a bargain with the secular pro-U.S. military. That their homegrown fundamentalists have been co-opted by the local gendarmes of the U.S. is intolerable to Turkish extremists and those of their ilk.

THE HINDI

2 ? NOV 2003

# Donkey cart rockets take on superpower America

Baghdad, Nov. 21 (Reuters): Guerrillas fired rockets from donkey carts at Iraq's oil ministry and two Baghdad hotels used by westerners today in audacious strikes on targets linked to the US-led occupation.

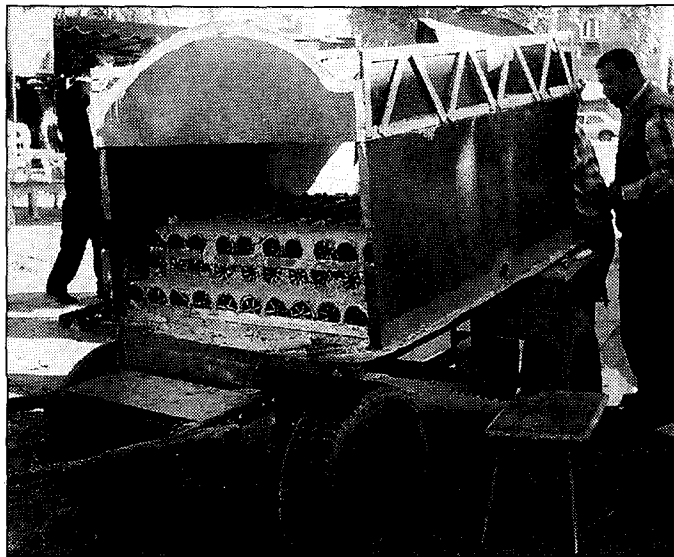
Iraqi police found a third cart loaded with 21 rockets near the Italian and Turkish embassies and close to the offices of one of Iraq's main Kurdish parties. A fourth cart was found near Baghdad's law faculty with the donkey wired with explosives.

Flames and smoke belched from the oil ministry complex which controls Iraq's most important industry, crucial for funding reconstruction after decades of conflict and sanctions.

Guests streamed out of the heavily fortified Sheraton and Palestine hotels, where many foreign contractors and journalists stay. Rockets punched holes in the walls and scattered concrete and broken glass across a wide area.

A US military spokesperson said the rockets — identified as Russian-made Katyushas — were aimed at the Palestine hotel but one had missed and hit the Sheraton.

"We saw a big flash — there



An Iraqi official looks at a donkey cart loaded with a makeshift rocket launcher in Baghdad. (AFP)

was just one big bang and then lots of crashing glass," said Dihyaa Salem, a manager at the Sheraton. "There was screaming as everyone left their rooms."

A US civilian contractor staying at the Palestine was critically injured, the US spokesperson said, and several others suffered cuts from flying glass. Two rockets hit an unoccupied room in

the Palestine, blowing a large hole in the wall.

Another rocket hit an external lift shaft in the Sheraton, cutting the cables on one of the elevators which crashed down to the ground floor. Debris smashed through the glass ceiling of the hotel lobby, bringing shards of glass down with it.

Reuters journalists staying

in the Sheraton were woken by the blast and the shouts of panicking guests.

Colonel Peter Mansoor of the 1st Armored Division said both the oil ministry and the hotels were hit by rockets fired from launchers hidden under agricultural goods on donkey carts.

"The peace of Ramazan was once again shattered by terrorists who would target civilian structures," Mansoor said near the oil ministry compound, as firefighters tried to contain the blaze.

Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt, a US military spokesperson, said Iraq's insurgents were becoming increasingly sophisticated.

"This is an adaptive enemy... He's inventive, he's ingenious, but we'll continue to try to stay one step ahead."

The attack boosted oil prices. Brent crude in London jumped 32 cents to \$29.88 a barrel, while New York crude futures rose 26 cents to \$32.12 a barrel after eight-month highs this week.

Iraqi police chief Ahmed Qadim Ibrahim said the attack was an attempt to target journalists and spread fear. "These were terrorist acts that aimed to frighten citizens," he said.



# Al Qaeda owns up, seven arrested...

92-3  
22/4

## ...UK warns of fresh attacks in Turkey

**BRIAN WILLIAMS**  
ISTANBUL, NOVEMBER 21

**T**URKEY said on Friday that it had arrested several people in connection with the twin truck bomb attacks in Istanbul that killed 27 people, including Britain's top diplomat in the city.

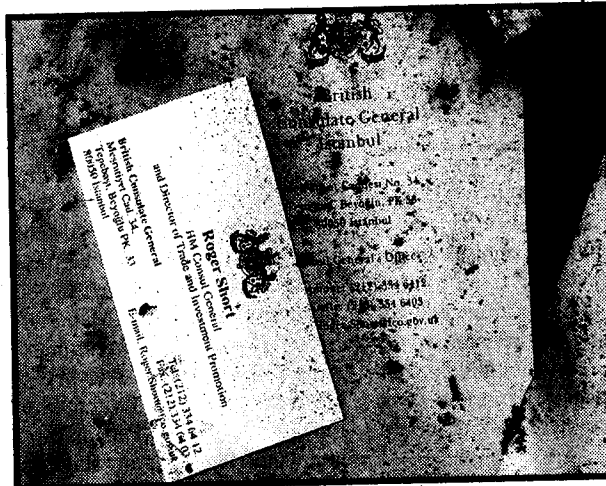
A statement purporting to come from a unit of the Al Qaeda network said it carried out Thursday's strikes on the British Consulate and the London-based banking giant HSBC. "Some people have been arrested, but it's too early to give any information," Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said, refusing more details.

Meanwhile, a statement apparently from the Abu Hafz al-Masri Brigades, an Al Qaeda unit, said it had carried out the latest attacks. The same group had earlier claimed responsibility for the synagogue bombings. A Turkish group called the Islamic Great Eastern Raiders Front (IBDA-C) has claimed joint responsibility for all four Istanbul attacks, and warned that Al Qaeda was planning more strikes against the US and its allies.

The Turkish daily *Hurriyet* said on Friday that seven people had been arrested over the second pair of blasts, which it said were carried out by Turkish suicide bombers. A spokesman at the Istanbul Governor's Incident Room could not confirm the report.

The twin blasts killed 27 people, including British Consul General Roger Short, and wounded more than 400 others. On Saturday, two Istanbul synagogues were devastated by suicide truck bombs that killed 25 and wounded 300, making this the worst week of peacetime violence in Turkey's modern history.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, who visited both bomb sites after arriving in Istanbul late on Thursday, said



The business card of Consul General Roger Short with headed paper from the British consulate found amid debris on top of a nearby building in Istanbul on Friday. Reuters

Britain stood side by side with its NATO ally. "We who represent the civilised world are facing a global threat and we have to deal with it in a global way. This was as much an attack on the Turkish people as it was upon British interests, and we stand together with Turkey in this," Straw told a joint news conference with Gul. Straw added that the bombings would bolster rather than harm Turkey's prospects of joining the European Union, with which Ankara hopes to start full membership talks.

"This atrocity...simply strengthens our will and determination to do anything we can to ensure that Turkey becomes a full member as soon as possible," he said.

A NATO statement, issued in Brussels, also voiced its support. "NATO also expresses its full and unwavering solidarity to its two allies, Turkey and the UK, which have been targeted in this latest act of terrorism," it said.

British Police Chief John Stevens said 16 officers from an anti-terrorism squad were travelling to Turkey to join the investigation. "We will be looking at analysing if what has happened in Turkey has any relevance to us here," he said. —Reuters

**BRIAN WILLIAMS**  
ISTANBUL, NOVEMBER 21

BRITAIN has warned that more terror attacks may target Turkey, after 27 people were killed by truck bombs at its Istanbul Consulate and HSBC offices. "We have information that further attacks may be attempted," a Foreign Office spokesman said on Thursday.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw who flew into Istanbul on Thursday surveyed the blast site and said the attacks bore Al Qaeda hallmarks.

The blasts cast a pall over US President George W. Bush's talks with Iraq war ally PM Tony Blair in London and left Istanbul shaken and fearful. Turkey, the only Muslim NATO member, is one of Washington's closest allies, which makes it a possible target for Islamist militants. "Al Qaeda is at war with Turkey," was the headline in *Radikal* newspaper as Istanbul awoke to a day of mourning.

Britain, the US and Australia — allies in the Iraq war — told their citizens to stay away from the city. Some firms sent Turkey-based staff home while other corporations arranged for staff to leave.

A caller to Anatolian news agency claimed responsibility for the bombings on behalf of Al Qaeda and a group known as the Islamic Great Eastern Raiders Front. —Reuters

### 2 Baghdad hotels, Oil Ministry attacked

**BAGHDAD:** Rockets on Friday slammed into the Iraqi oil ministry and two Baghdad hotels, injuring several people. Three rockets hit the Oil Ministry, police said. Guests evacuated the Sheraton and Palestine hotels after the buildings were hit.

Police officers said a man fired the rockets from a launcher hidden on a donkey cart, while a US soldier identified the rockets as RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenades. The Palestine Hotel appeared to have been hit around the 16th or 17th floor. — Reuters



US soldiers stand in front of the launcher which was used to launch rockets at two hotels in Baghdad on Friday. Reuters

# 27 killed, over 400 injured as twin blasts rock Istanbul

● British Consulate, bank targeted ● Consul-General dead



The HSBC Bank building in Istanbul devastated in a bomb blast on Thursday. — AP

By Sebnem Arsu and  
Christine Hauser

ISTANBUL, NOV. 20. Two explosions rocked Istanbul today, one at the British Consulate and the other at the British international bank HSBC, killing at least 27 people and wounding more than 400, Turkish Government officials said.

International news agencies and the Turkish television network, NTV, reported that Britain's Consul-General, Roger Short, was among those killed.

"In today's attacks, there were again trucks loaded with explosives and it is highly likely that both were suicide attacks," the Turkish Foreign Minister, Abdulkadir Aksu, said. He said two of those killed were police officers. The Istanbul Governor's office said the toll was 27, but rescue workers said more victims could be buried in the rubble. The explosion at the consulate blew down the outer wall of the compound, sending debris crashing into the street and crushing cars, eyewitnesses said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blasts, but Britain's Foreign Minister, Jack Straw, said, "I'm afraid to say it has all the hallmarks of international terrorism practiced by the Al-Qaeda."

Mr. Straw said that three or four consulate employees did not show up for roll call after the blasts in Istanbul, which he called an "appalling act of terrorism." He did not give the nationalities of the employees.

The blast at the bank, located near shops, restaurants and a metro station on the busiest street of the upper middle class Levent neighbourhood, shattered windows in nearby buildings. Shocked victims rushed from the scene, their hands clamped on their wounds in an attempt to staunch the bleeding. "There was a massive explosion, I couldn't tell what was happening," said a banker, Cigdem Dicle, who was coated with dust. Her suit was spattered with blood. "I was in shock. We immediately went down, everything happened in seconds."

NTV reported that the HSBC bank closed its branches in Turkey for security reasons, and that security was tightened at American institutions.

The attacks came less than a week after suicide bombings at two Jewish synagogues in Istanbul left 25 people dead, including the bombers.

**Terrorists will not succeed, say Bush, Blair**

The selection of British targets coincided with the visit to

Britain by the U.S. President, George Bush.

At a joint news conference with the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, in London, Mr. Bush said that terrorists hoped to intimidate and demoralise free nations, but "they are not going to succeed."

Mr. Blair called the attacks a "terrorist outrage," and said an "unshakeable unity of purpose" was required to confront terrorism side by side with the U.S.

Uxval Gochez, a photographer and filmmaker working in Istanbul for *The New York Times* on the web, said he heard an explosion and saw a big cloud of ash and dust rising into the air above the British Consulate.

"I approached the building and people started coming out, covered in blood, debris and glass," he said in a telephone interview. "There was confusion. Cars were flipped over."

A large crater and what looked like the wreckage of a car were directly in front of the security station, just inside the compound walls, Mr. Gochez said.

"Many people with different levels of injuries were coming out of the building and making their way, assisted by other people," he said.

CNN Turk, a local affiliate of CNN in Istanbul, quoted a wit-

ness, Mehmet Celik, as saying he saw a brown van with an open back driving toward the British consulate just before the blast.

A Turkish man, Gunduz Akyurek, and his friend were unloading their car across from the Consulate when the explosion shook the Taksim neighbourhood.

"The car hit the wall of the building," he said in an interview. "We were just about to rush to help whoever was inside, thinking that it was a traffic accident but we were thrown back by a huge explosion. I was in shock. I walked through people who were lying unconscious on the ground, and the car was upside down, partly destroyed."

Rescue workers said today's attacks were similar to those at the synagogues, and that the same strong odour lingered, apparently from the explosions. Citizens crowded into hospitals to donate blood and search for relatives and friends.

At Taksim Hospital, Kadir Cetinkaya sobbed over the news that his niece and her husband were killed. "They worked at the consulate as the cleaning personnel," he said. "This is not fair!"

On Wednesday, Turkish authorities named two Turks as

the suicide bombers who carried out the attacks on the synagogues — at the time, the worst terrorist attack in the republic's 80-year history.

The Istanbul Governor, Muammer Guler, said at a news conference that there were parallels with attacks by the Al-Qaeda.

At their news conference, Mr. Bush and Mr. Blair put the attacks in Turkey in the context of their efforts in Iraq.

"We will finish the job we have begun," Mr. Bush said, referring to Iraq. Blair, linking the response to the attacks in Turkey to strikes in Iraq and elsewhere, said: "Our response is not to flinch, give way or concede one inch." — *New York Times*

Other reactions: Page 13  
More photos: Page 18

# Pakistan to choke terror funding<sup>11-11</sup> 19/11

**Islamabad:** Pakistan vowed on Tuesday to choke "terrorist" financing channels within days as it pursued a surprise new crackdown on militant groups, raiding offices and making more than 100 arrests.

The pledge follows an earlier move by President Pervez Musharraf's government banning three militant groups outlawed last year under different names, and placing a fourth group on a "watchlist."

"Everything is on course and in 72 hours this operation will be completed and the sources of terrorist financing, if any, would also be choked," foreign ministry spokesman Masood Khan told a weekly press briefing.

He denied the new bans were a response to US ambassador Nancy Powell's warning last week that re-named militant organisations posed a threat to Pakistan, the region and the United States.

"No such coordination or

no such cue was given (by the US) to the government of Pakistan. We have taken the decision in our own interest and this coincidence is just a coincidence," he said.

Information minister Sheikh Rashid told AFP on Monday raids had already begun on offices of banned organisations. "Some arrests have been made and more people will be arrested in the current operation against militant organisations," the minister said. Pakistani officials claimed to have sealed 137 offices of the three proscribed groups and indicated banning four more outfits which sprang up with different names.

Denying reports of any mass arrests of members of banned groups, director general of the Pakistan's national crisis management cell Brigadier (retd) Javed Iqbal Cheema said more offices of these groups could be sealed in the coming days. AFP

## wide angle

SALMAN HAIDAR

# Terrorism in Saudi Arabia <sup>5/11</sup> <sub>1911</sub>

**T**HE recent murderous strike against a housing complex in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, shows the widening reach and increasing complexity of the global terrorist threat. In Riyadh, terrorists hit at a soft target, an almost totally unprotected housing development. The residents – and targets – were Arabs, well-to-do but not ostentatiously rich. They are far removed from the elite group of foreigners who have been attacked in the past in their heavily guarded compounds. Moreover, the victims were Muslims, co-religionists of those who chose to kill and maim them. This was not a case of “collateral damage” affecting innocent bystanders, for there were no other people of different nationality or faith in the target area. The strike was aimed at Saudi Arabia, and not, as has more often been the case, at the USA and its citizens. After a brief initial silence, Al-Qaida came out to claim responsibility for the attack; unsurprisingly, this brazen assertion has provoked great resentment in Saudi Arabia. Currently, and perhaps belatedly, Saudi security forces are striking at the terrorist groups that have established themselves in that country and they seem to have achieved some results.

Al-Qaida has demonstrated its revival by mounting this attack. In recent times, there has been speculation about the resurgence of the organisation brought about in particular by the circulation of tapes containing threats and messages attributed to Osama bin Laden. The hunt for bin Laden continues in the wild border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan, without success until now, impeded both by the difficulties of the terrain and the ambiguous role of the security forces engaged in the endeavour. While prime attention remains fixed on this region, there is evidence to suggest that the terror network has spread outward, especially towards South-east Asia. But it is one thing for bin Laden to keep a step ahead of his pursuers and send out the odd tape to friendly radio stations, and quite another for Al-Qaida to strike the kind of blow that was delivered at Riyadh. A regrouped Al-Qaida is a substantial international menace. It may not have the capacity to make or unmake governments and societies according to its own prescriptions, but it cannot be ignored and demands a coordinated international response.

The Saudi crackdown on terrorist groups following this attack – and even before – represents a significant change of approach. Saudi authorities have not always been ready to acknowledge the extent of the terrorist threat they face, but now they seem determined. The daunting quantities of arms and explosives that have been unearthed must add to their concerns. It is to be recalled that bin Laden’s original target was not the USA but Saudi Arabia: he saw the Saudi regime as corrupt and godless, and worked for its destruction. It is only later that the USA became his prime quarry, a target of opportunity, chosen because it brought under his banner a number of groups of similar ideology that were trying to strike at the USA and its friends. Now Al-Qaida, once more, has Saudi Arabia in its sights.

The Riyadh attack comes at a time when Saudi Arabia is facing a number of domestic and external difficulties. Its economy is stagnating while its population increases rapidly. Standards of living are not what they used to be. The large royal family shows no sign of moderating its profligate habits at a time when ordinary citizens are feeling the pinch, and this stimulates criticism of royal ways. Moreover, the glaring contrast between the rigid orthodoxy demanded at home and the hedonistic lifestyle of the elite when they go abroad has become more difficult to explain. Earlier, such contradictions were accepted without any real ~~domur~~ but after 9/11, this is no longer the case. The fact that most of the perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks were Saudi citizens has cast its own shadow. There is a marked weakening of the once seemingly unassailable ties with the USA: no breach but many murmured criticisms, on both sides. The USA has reduced its military commitments in Saudi Arabia, having found alternative locations for its forces in the Gulf, principally in Qatar, from where they sustain the operations in Iraq. Yet despite the underlying problems and complaints, there can be no gainsaying the importance of the Saudi regime: it continues to dominate the world’s oil market and retains the prestige conferred by custodianship of the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. Where it faces perhaps its most important fresh challenge is in responding to the demand for reform that has now been raised within the country.

India and Saudi Arabia may not look like natural partners in the fight against terrorism, yet they have been targeted by the same fundamentalist group and there should be advantage to both in closer cooperation to meet this threat. What might hold them back is Saudi funding and support for some highly conservative social and educational organisations in India, something that has not always gone down well with the Indian authorities. Non-official links of this nature tend to inhibit official exchanges on sensitive questions, and may have something to do with the slow Saudi response to repeated Indian overtures since the 1990s. India can feel that it has made its effort and it is now for the other side to take up the running. There are many substantive reasons that should draw the two countries closer, and combating terrorism ranks high among them.

(Salman Haidar is a former Foreign Secretary, Government of India.)

**TERRORISM IN TURKEY / AL-QAEDA HAND SUSPECTED**

# Synagogue blasts leave 20 killed, 257 injured

By Atul Aneja

**MANAMA, NOV. 15.** At least 20 people were killed and more than 257 injured when car bombs exploded almost simultaneously outside two synagogues in Istanbul during prayer time this morning, sparking fears that Islamic extremists had begun to target Turkey.

One car bomb went off near the Neve Shalom synagogue, the city's largest, while another brought down the roof of the Beth Israel Synagogue in the upscale Sisli district about 5 km away. Turkey, which is a member of the NATO, is home to around 25,000 Jews and has close ties with Israel.

In Israel, Raanan Gissin, an adviser to the Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, said, "This wasn't just an attack against Jews. This is radical Islamic terrorism against humanity."

Gunmen had targeted the Neve Shalom synagogue in 1986, resulting in the death of

22 Jewish worshippers. Television pictures showed medical teams rushing victims, some with their faces bloodied or charred, while Turkish private television NTV focused on the wreckage of a car and a huge crater in front of the Neve Shalom synagogue. Parking was not allowed in front of the synagogues but NTV, quoting intelligence sources, said two passing pick-up trucks might have been using in the attack.

The television channel quoted police as saying that it had information about the Al-Qaeda planning an attack in Turkey. The radical Turkish group, the Great Eastern Islamic Raiders' Front, has claimed responsibility for the bombings, but Turkish media said the attack was too sophisticated for the relatively small local organisation to carry out. A person claiming to be member of the Front told Turkey's Anatolia news agency, "the attacks will continue in the future and the reason is to pre-

vent the oppression against Muslims."

In televised remarks, the Turkish Foreign Minister, Abdullh Gul, said there were "international links" to the two terrorist attacks, which he believed were carried out by suicide bombers. "It is clear that this is a terrorist event with international links," Mr. Gul said. "These attacks will have no effect on our policies. We will continue our struggle with strong determination against terror."

The Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is on a visit to Cyprus, said the intention of the attackers was to destabilise Turkey. "This is a bomb aimed at the stability and peace in the Turkish Republic," he said, adding it needed to be condemned "as an attack against humanity."

Mr. Erdogan said he would fly direct to Istanbul later on Saturday rather than return to the Turkish capital, Ankara.



# Car bombs rock Istanbul

Istanbul, Nov. 15 (Reuters): At least 20 people were killed and more than 250 wounded today when car bombers shattered two Istanbul synagogues as worshippers celebrated the Sabbath.

Turkish officials said al Qaeda might have had a hand in it. "It is clear that this is a terrorist event with international links," foreign minister Abdullah Gul said as emergency services struggled to treat those caught up in the blasts, which wrecked cars and buildings over wide areas.

Interior minister Abdulkadir Aksu said he could not rule out a role by Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda, blamed for attacks on other Jewish targets around the world in the past 18 months.

"It was like a battlefield," said Yavuz Guler, who dashed to one of the synagogues from the nearby restaurant where he works. "The injured were in an awful state, moaning, but unable to speak. Some were screaming, there was a lot of blood and body parts on the street," the 24-year-old said. The attackers could have been suicide bombers or may have detonated devices in the vehicles by remote control, Aksu said.

"In both cases, vans were driven by the attackers towards their targets. We believe they contained the same kind of explosives, they are the same kind of terror attacks," he said.

Istanbul health authorities said 20 people had been killed and 257 wounded in the two attacks, which hit the central Neve Shalom synagogue and another, Beit Israel, in the Sisli district around 0730 GMT. The Neve Shalom — "Oasis of Peace" — was especially busy for a bar-mitzvah coming of age ceremony.



Shattered vehicles after an explosion outside the Neve Shalom Synagogue in Istanbul. (AP)

ny. But many of the casualties were not Jews but people passing by on the busy streets outside the heavily protected synagogues.

Police officers earlier said as many as 24 had died. The Anatolian news agency said one policeman was among the dead.

A radical Turkish Islamist group, widely believed to be backed by Iran, claimed responsibility, but Aksu said he doubted a local group could mount such a large-scale operation.

"It is difficult for any Turkey-

based organisation to carry out an attack of this magnitude," he said at the scene.

Injured people covered in blood were carried on stretchers from around the Neve Shalom synagogue, target of a 1986 attack by Palestinians which killed 22 people. Six years later it was hit again, this time by a Turkish group. A passer-by was hurt.

Predominantly Muslim Turkey is a key Nato ally of the US and recently offered to send

troops to help secure neighbourhoods in Iraq, though it later abandoned the plan due to strong opposition from Iraq's US-appointed governing council.

Turkey, which has a long history of homegrown political violence, also has warm relations with Israel.

Turkish Islamist group IBDA/C — the Islamic Great Eastern Raiders/Front — claimed responsibility in a call to Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency.

# synagogues, 20 die

## Jews feel more vulnerable

Jewish sites have been targeted in recent attacks blamed on militants linked to al Qaeda — notably in Casablanca in May, a Tunisian synagogue bombed in April 2002 and Israeli tourists in the Kenyan seaside city of Mombasa last November. Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer issued a statement condemning the bomb blasts as did numerous world governments.

Istanbul, as the capital of the Ottoman empire, has a long history of Jewish presence, notably bolstered after Spain expelled Jews in 1492. About 30,000 live there now, some of whom still speak a medieval form of Spanish known as Ladino.

"If they are trying to scare the Jewish community here, they will fail. We have been here for 500 years and we will stay. Terror will not win," Roberto Abudara, who had been in the Sisli synagogue when the attackers struck, said.

Edi Baruh, a 30-year-old Turkish Jew said his father-in-law, who was at the Neve Shalom synagogue when the bomb exploded, had told him up to 300 people were there, 10 times more than usual, because it was a bar-mitzvah, a coming of age for a boy. Gul said the attacks would not affect government policy.

"We will continue our struggle with strong determination against terror," he said.

Roland Jacquard, head of the International Terrorism Observatory in Paris, said the likeliest suspect was the militant group Ansar al-Islam, which the Pentagon has called the principal "terrorist adversary" of US forces in Iraq. Jacquard said claims of responsibility should be treated cautiously, but that IBDA/C was very close to Ansar.



Relatives cry for the victims of the bomb attacks in Istanbul. (Reuters)

Jerusalem, Nov. 15 (Reuters): Israelis pained by car bombs that ripped through two synagogues in Turkey today said the blasts would make Jews feel more vulnerable everywhere.

The car bombings in central Istanbul — the latest in a series of attacks on Jewish targets around the world in the past 18 months — killed at least 20 people and wounded more than 250 during Sabbath celebrations.

"As a Jew I find it very painful," said Shelly, 56, a British-born Israeli living in Jerusalem. "There is a feeling of increased vulnerability since the attacks are aimed at a specific population I am a member of."

The graphic accounts of the bombings on Israeli radio stations soured a sunny Sabbath day in Jerusalem, which has grown only too used to militant attacks during a three-year-old Palestinian uprising.

"It is as if it happened here," said Shirli Shem-Tov, 50, whose sister-in-law is among some 25,000 Jews living in Turkey. "We were in contact with her and she is fine."

Jewish sites have been targeted in recent attacks blamed on militants linked to al Qaeda — notably in Casablanca in May, a Tunisian synagogue bombed in April 2002 and Israeli tourists in the Kenyan seaside city of Mombasa last November.

Necdet Sezer issued a statement condemning the bomb blasts as did numerous world governments. Israelis have ties to Turkey not only because of its Jewish community and because it is more friendly than most states in an often hostile region, but also because tens of thousands go there each year on package holidays.

Shem-Tov said she would not be put off holidaying at Turkish resorts by the bombs, though.

"I won't think twice. I go from my home near Tel Aviv to visit Jerusalem which is also a target," she said.

## TERRORIST THREAT TO SAUDI ARABIA

119-10

THE TERRORIST ATTACK on a residential complex in Riyadh last week is part of an intensifying campaign against a political order that has prevailed for decades. In this political scheme the royal family of Saudi Arabia, the Al Saud, keeps its subjects under control by mixing force and largesse in varying measure even as it allows the United States to pursue its interests in the kingdom and the region. While this particular terrorist outrage was perpetrated on a complex that mainly houses Arabs from countries other than the kingdom, the attack conveyed a political message to the Al Saud and its foreign patrons. The residential complex was apparently chosen because it was a soft target in a part of Riyadh that is otherwise well protected; several members of the royal family have mansions in the vicinity of the site and the diplomatic enclave is not very distant. No organisation admitted responsibility but the Saudi Government did not appear to be far off the mark when it claimed that the attack bore the stamp of Al-Qaeda. The perpetrators apparently shared Osama bin Laden's belief in the efficacy of indiscriminate violence and their action helped fulfil his expanded agenda. Al-Qaeda seeks not only to drive western military forces out of the Holy Land of the Muslims but also to topple a Government that invited them in. It appears to be creeping closer to its objective.

The U.S. had scaled down its military presence in the kingdom as public resentment grew and closed its diplomatic missions in apprehension of a growing terrorist threat a day or so before the attack. These measures are reversible. However, the divide that the terrorist menace has created between the Al Saud and the U.S. administration is likely to be more enduring. Most of the men involved in the attacks on September 11, 2001 were Saudi citizens. That

14/11

Saudi charitable organisations were a major source of funds for terrorist outfits added to the mistrust engendered in American minds. The rift widened after the U.S. Congress discovered disturbing links between Saudi officials and those who carried out the attacks in New York and Washington. While the internal affairs of the Al Saud are shrouded in mystery, enough information has trickled out to suggest that the several thousand-strong royal family is riven by factionalism. The Princes who control the Government are under constant pressure from those branches of the royal family that have been kept out of power. A mix of personal interest and religious belief provides disgruntled royals with the incentive to support charitable organisations, which in turn sustain fundamentalism even of the terrorist variety. With its internal cohesion in question and the traditional source of external assistance becoming estranged, the Saudi royal house is fast approaching a crisis.

The Saudi royalty can no longer rely on time-tested methods to keep its subjects complacent. In other words, it cannot rule in the old way. It cannot absorb the ever growing numbers of educated youth into the public sector and it has been unable to persuade the private sector to give preference to Saudis over expatriates. A programme for political reform could have at least provided hope to Saudi youth even if it did not immediately lead to a solution of their problems. The political reforms attempted by the Al Saud can hardly be taken as serious when the proposal to hold local body polls next year is the only item on the agenda. The conditions favour anti-monarchist elements that have opted for a campaign of terror. Going by current trends and indications, the Al Saud will find the ground sinking under its feet — unless it contrives to pull off something truly extraordinary.

# Suicide attack shatters Iraq's calm corner



An Italian military policeman walks away from the bomb blast in Nassiriya. (Reuters)

Nassiriya, Nov. 12 (Reuters): Iraqi traffic policeman Ahmed Nasser was standing nearby as a fuel tanker drove towards an Italian police base in Nassiriya. Seconds later, a huge explosion destroyed the calm the town has enjoyed since the war.

"I saw the tanker coming fast over the bridge. I couldn't see any security police outside the gates of the base. The tanker zig-zagged across the road so it could get through the gate," said Nasser, 30, nursing a broken arm in hospital. "Then it exploded."

At least 17 Italians and eight Iraqis died in the suicide attack, which the British military said involved the truck and a civilian car. The Italian dead included 11 Carabinieri military police, four army soldiers and two civilians. At least 20 Italians were wounded. It was Italy's highest military death toll since World War Two.

Nassiriya General Hospital director Khudair al-Hazbar said at least eight Iraqis were killed and more than 80 wounded. Many wounded were not expected to survive, doctors said.

It was the bloodiest single attack in Iraq since August when at least 80 Iraqis were killed by a car bomb outside a mosque in Najaf. The explosion tore the front off the concrete building used by the Carabinieri on the Euphrates riverfront 375 km 235 miles southeast of Baghdad. It set cars on fire and sent a plume of black smoke into the air.

Ambulances and fire engines rushed to the scene with sirens wailing. The explosion shattered windows, hundreds of metres away, and houses near the base were badly damaged.

"A truck crashed into the entrance of the military police unit, closely followed by a car

## THE NEW KILLING FIELDS

- August 7: A truck bomb explodes outside the Jordanian embassy compound in Baghdad, killing 17 people
- August 19: A truck bomb devastates the UN headquarters in Baghdad, killing 22 people including top UN envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello
- August 26: A car bomb kills at least 83 people, including top Shia leader Ayatollah Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim at the Imam Ali mosque in Najaf
- October 12: Six Iraqis are killed and dozens wounded in a blast outside the Baghdad hotel on Baghdad's main street
- October 26: Guerrillas fire rockets into Baghdad's Rasheed Hotel where US deputy defence secretary Paul Wolfowitz was staying, killing a US soldier
- October 27: Bombers strike four times in Baghdad killing at least 35 people near a Red Cross building and three police stations

which detonated," a spokeswoman for the British-led multinational force in southern Iraq said. Aid worker Fadhil Abbas Khodeir, 42, said somebody in the tanker had pointed a gun at guards before it exploded.

"The tanker came through the car park. Nobody stopped it," Khodeir, who works for the International Medical Corps, said in the general hospital.

"Someone wearing a black shirt put a hand out of the window and pointed it at the guards. Then it blew up."

Several aid agencies were based in the same road as the base. Nassiriya has been relatively peaceful since Saddam was ousted in April, unlike Baghdad where most aid workers have been forced to leave by security fears.

Now humanitarian organisations are also thinking of pulling out of Nassiriya.

The Italian and Romanian forces in Nassiriya had been generally well received by the local people. Jassem Abdel-Hassan, a

researcher for aid group Caritas, was in a nearby building when the attack took place. "The windows came flying in, and I lost consciousness," he said.

"I thought this was a safe place," he said. "This is a black day. This will really change things here." Witnesses said security was not tight near the base, due to Nassiriya's reputation as a haven of calm in the violent country. "The Italians weren't like the Americans," Khodeir said. "They know that this is an easy going town."

US soldiers opened fire on a truck coming back from a chicken farm near the tense Iraqi town of Falluja, killing five people and wounding three hospital officials said today. A US spokesman said troops had killed five "enemy militants" after coming under attack on the outskirts of the town. Relatives said the truck was fired at near a checkpoint last evening, and hospital officials said five bodies had been brought in with gunshot wounds.



# Al-Qaida may target Bush in London

Stewart Tendler/  
The Times, London

LONDON, Nov. 12. — Al-Qaida terrorists using the cover of huge anti-war protests are a very real threat to the safety of Mr George W Bush during his state visit to London next week, Britain's most senior policemen have warned.

Scotland Yard says that concerns over an attack on the US President are the reason for the biggest security operation Britain has seen for any visiting head of state. The threat of demonstrators embarrassing Mr Bush during his three-day stay is a secondary worry.

Senior officers finalising security arrangements with the White House described the trip as "a nightmare". One source told *The Times, London* that the original demands made by the US Secret Service were "simply unacceptable".

An officer said: "They (US Secret Service) wanted to turn London into little Washington by closing roads for miles around, hours before the President's motorcade passes, and that is just not acceptable here." While the White House has been told that it will not get its

own way on every demand, police have had to agree to greater restrictions on protesters and the public than they wanted. Few people will see Mr Bush, who no longer risks walkabouts or unscheduled stops.

His security team fear that if street protests lead to running battles with police and gridlock in the centre of London, Islamic terrorists could take advantage of the disorder to stage an attack.

Because of the 9/11 attacks, no President has been given tighter security and Mr Bush's bodyguards fear that too much of the President's itinerary has leaked out.

Wherever he goes, Mr Bush is surrounded by a tight security cordon, known to the White House as "the bubble" and which forms an impenetrable wall between him and the outside world.

The White House regards London as a high risk target for a suicide attack. Militant cells of mainly North African extremists are known to operate in Britain.

White House concerns have led to a row over how many of the President's Secret Service detail, the "Men in Black", will

be allowed to carry guns and on the rules of engagement about when US agents can open fire. They now carry firearms openly in front of American crowds.

Whitehall officials insist that US agents must follow the law and can only use arms if there well over 4,000 police on the streets, including many who are armed.

Scotland Yard said last night that it would not seal off the centre of London during the visit, from 18 to 21 November. "Some roads will be closed for

perches in an unprecedented security operation, anarchists are planning a cat-and-mouse game to dodge police and cause maximum disruption.

Groups have grown wise to police and security services eavesdropping on their plans and have abandoned open website communication, their traditional modus operandi. Instead, they are sending text messages on mobile telephones and using password-protected e-mail groups to coordinate supporters. Some have even resorted to paper and ink to spread the word.

President and anti-war protesters. Anarchists view it as their last chance to grab headlines after failing to cause as much damage as they intended at recent international summits.

Some hardcore groups have pledged to do more than just join in the planned marches across the capital.

Many activists were travelling to Paris today to mobilise an army of protesters at the European Social Forum. Mr Taylor said: "We have 700 people going out to Paris and we will be trying to get people there to come over to London.

Many groups and activists are uniting to make London inhospitable for Mr Bush. We need to make the place as unwelcoming as possible."

He said the heavy-handed security measures demanded by the Bush Administration have acted as a red rag: "We do not want to get shot, but it is becoming an occupational hazard. We are refusing to let them scare us. If we are attacked, we will defend ourselves."



**Scotland Yard says that concerns over an attack on the US President are the reason for the biggest security operation Britain has seen for any visiting head of state. The threat of demonstrators embarrassing Mr Bush during his three-day stay is only a secondary worry**

is "an imminent or direct threat to life".

The US Secret Service wants immunity from prosecution for any agent who uses a gun and insists that Mr Bush's personal safety is its responsibility, not Scotland Yard's.

The White House wanted to bring 250 armed officers with Mr Bush. Diplomats argued for fewer saying there will be

a time for operational reasons but the Mall and Whitehall will remain open," an officer said.

Anarchists have abandoned the methods that defined their movement in an attempt to outwit police ahead of Mr Bush's three-day state visit to London.

As Secret Service agents scout the capital for sniper

Other groups are running legal seminars around London this week to advise protesters of their rights if they break the law. They are handing out details of "friendly" solicitors for protesters to call after arrest.

Mr Bush's three-day trip is set to be the biggest public showdown yet between the

known troublemakers are being told to get to Britain before strict security measures are put in force at ports and airports in the days running up to Mr Bush's arrival.

**Britons not happy**  
LONDON, Nov. 12. — Mr Tony Blair delivered a passionate defence of Mr Bush's state visit next week as a poll exposed the depth of public hostility to the US President.

The Prime Minister asserted that next week's visit had come at "exactly the right time" and that it would be a "disaster" for both sides if Europe allowed anti-Americanism to define its foreign policy. But according to a Populus survey for *The Times, London*, half the public believe that the strong personal relationship between Mr Blair and Mr Bush is bad for the country. Voters, particularly women, strongly disapprove of his handling of the Iraq war. As the Prime Minister faced head on the controversy over the three-day visit, the survey provided further embarrassment for both leaders.

According to the survey, only one in four voters approve of the President's handling of the war and overall support for the war in Britain has fallen heavily. Nearly three-fifths of voters (59 per cent) think USA's standing in the world has diminished under the Bush presidency.  
— The Times, London

# Three LeT men sentenced in US for 'jihad' in Kashmir

**Washington:** In the first case of its kind in the US involving Kashmir, a US court has sentenced three American members of Lashkar-e-Toiba, including a Pakistani-born American citizen, for plotting "jihad" in the valley.

The three have been sentenced by a Virginia court to prison terms ranging from three to 11 years following guilty pleas in August to conspiracy and weapons charges to escape harsher sentence. The Pakistani, Khwaja Mahmood Hasan, had visited Lashkar's terror camps in Pakistan to train for their mission to "drive India out of Kashmir."

US district judge Leonie M. Brinkema in Alexandria on Saturday sentenced Yong Ki Kwon, (27), a naturalised US citizen of Fairfax, Khwaja Mahmood Hasan, 27, a Pak-

istani-born US citizen who lived in Alexandria, and Donald T. Surratt, 30, a former US soldier of Suitland. The three men were among 11 named in a 41-count indictment handed up in June in a conspiracy to "prepare for and engage in violent jihad" against foreign targets. Nine of the 11 were identified as US citizens. A fourth person, Mohammed Aatiq, a Pakistani national living in Pennsylvania, has also pleaded guilty. He will be sentenced next month.

Hasan and Kwon could have received life sentences, while Surratt faced up to 15 years. All three have agreed to cooperate with authorities in the government's ongoing investigation.

US attorney Paul J. McNulty said the men were members of an extremist Muslim group Lashkar-e-

Toiba, listed by the State Department in 2001 as a terrorist organisation. He said they "secretly plotted in this community and pervasively planned and travelled to camps in Pakistan" to carry out the scheme.

The indictment said the men conspired and trained at shooting ranges and other locations in Maryland and Virginia with AK-47 assault rifles, other military weapons and equipment from early 2000 for possible military action in Jammu and Kashmir.

Other training, including military tactics, also took place in St. Louis and at the Quantico Marine Corps base in Prince William county. Three of the men, including Surratt, are former US military personnel who reportedly assisted in training the others. PH

INDIAN SECURITY GUARD AMONG VICTIMS

11/10/03

Al-Jazeera

# Blasts in Riyadh kill 9; Al-Qaeda role suspected

By Atul Aneja

MANAMA, NOV. 9. A huge explosion jolted a residential compound in Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh, at midnight on Saturday, killing nine people and injuring 86. There was, however, confusion about the damage caused by the blast, as there were initial reports that the explosion had caused dozens of casualties.

People who lived in the compound told the *Al Arabiya* television over telephone that the attack had injured scores and caused an unknown number of deaths. Among the dead is reportedly an Indian security guard of the compound. The others are a Sudanese, three Lebanese and four Egyptians.

Television pictures showed fire and smoke rising from several of the 200 houses in the ravaged compound and a huge crater, apparently caused by the explosion, was visible inside. Some eyewitnesses said

car bombers had used a police vehicle to carry out the attack.

The Muhaya compound is located in a politically sensitive district. It is less than five km away from the Riyadh's diplomatic zone where most of the foreign embassies and some of the prominent palaces that belong to Saudi Arabia's ruling family are located.

The Saudi Interior Ministry issued a one-paragraph statement, carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, calling it a terrorist attack.

In comments published on Sunday on the website of the Saudi daily newspaper, *Okaz*, the Interior Minister, Prince Nayef, said that a connection to the Al-Qaeda terrorist cells targeted in recent encounters could not be ruled out.

Unlike the May 12 attacks which were on residential compounds occupied by westerners, Saturday's attack targeted mostly expatriate Arabs: Lebanese and

Palestinians as well as Saudi nationals. A handful of people from European or other western nations, however, occupied some of the houses.

There is speculation that the attackers wanted to dissuade the Arabs and the Saudis from mixing with foreigners, known for their liberal lifestyle.

An internet site with Al-Qaeda leanings had posted a notice in February warning Saudis not to reside close to possible targets, especially where Americans lived.

The *modus operandi* was similar to the one used by extremists in the May bombings, which had killed 25 people. Witnesses said they heard two smaller explosions and the sound of gunfire, before the larger blast took place. Analysts point out that the smaller detonations might have been used by the attackers to force their way into the compound. The main explosion took place after the intruders were inside the

compound.

The attack has apparently not come as a total surprise as the U.S. had shut down its embassy in the Saudi capital and its consulates in Dhahran and Jeddah in anticipation of an extremist strike. On Friday, the U.S. had warned that it had "credible evidence" of a planned terrorist attack.

There have also been reports that the Saudi authorities are yet to eliminate a suspected Al-Qaeda cell in the Kingdom, which came to light after the May attacks.

There have been several engagements between Saudi authorities and extremists recently. Two suspected militants blew themselves up in Mecca on Thursday.

In London, the Saudi Ambassador to Britain, Prince Turki al-Faisal, said the attack was the work of an "evil cult" whose "sole aim is the destruction of the kingdom."

Another photo, condemnation: Page 14

# Militant suicide in Mecca chase

Riyadh, Nov. 6 (Reuters): At least one Muslim militant blew himself up during a police raid in Mecca today, hours after another militant was shot dead in Riyadh as authorities cracked down on suspected al Qaida activists.

Today's raids, the second action against militant hideouts this week, came shortly after the US and Britain warned of terror attacks during the Muslim fasting month of Ramazan.

A Saudi security source said police in Mecca had been hunting down militants when one of them killed himself.

"Most probably one of the fugitives blew himself up. Another suspect may also have done the same, but we are still waiting for autopsy results," the source said.

There were no immediate reports of other casualties.

The raid took place in the same area of Mecca where two militants believed linked to al Qaida were killed in a shootout with security forces earlier this week.

Earlier today, police raided a suspected hideout in the capital Riyadh at dawn, shooting dead one militant.

The Saudi Press Agency quoted an interior ministry official as saying eight policemen were slightly wounded in the clash in the capital's southern Suweidi area.

The official said an unspecified number of militants had escaped. He gave no further details.

Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of al Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, is battling Muslim militants after a spate of guerrilla attacks, including a triple suicide bombing that killed 35 people.

On Tuesday, the interior min-



A file picture of the Haram mosque in Mecca. (AFP)

istry said police had foiled a plot to target Muslim pilgrims in Mecca. Five militants — four Saudis and a Nigerian — linked to the plot were arrested.

Today, an interior ministry statement said the Mecca militants had intended to use a huge amount of explosives and rocket-propelled grenades to cause maximum damage.

The statement said that while searching the militants' hideout, police had found large stockpiles of machineguns, hand grenades, ammunition and various kinds of explosives.

"This just goes to show the extensive damage that would have happened to our country if these terrorists were allowed to

go ahead with their crime," the statement said.

The kingdom has arrested hundreds of suspected militants since the May 12 suicide bombings on Riyadh housing compounds.

The recent terrorist attacks cannot be blamed on a lack of democracy, and any political reform in the kingdom must take Islam into account, interior minister Prince Nayef said in remarks published today. "Justifying the deeds of some terrorist groups by the lack of democracy ... is not correct," Prince Nayef told the pan-Arab newspaper *al Hayat*, adding his government was doing everything possible against terrorism.

# Dawood has shifted base from Karachi to Islamabad: Report

Agencies  
Islamabad, November 5

Don Quickfoot

MUMBAI UNDERWORLD don Dawood Ibrahim, whom the US recently labelled as a 'global terrorist', has shifted his residence from Karachi to Islamabad along with his associates and is in the process of winding up his operations in the Pakistani port city, a media report said.

Quoting diplomatic sources, Pakistani magazine *Herald* in its cover story on Dawood said that ever since the US unleashed the war on terror in the aftermath of 9/11, the gangster, wanted for a spate of bomb blasts in Mumbai, has moved out of Karachi to stay out of trouble.

"There are also reports that Dawood is trying to dispose off his properties in Karachi and elsewhere and has taken up residence in Islamabad along with a few close associates," the report said.

*Herald* said Pakistan intelligence officials want to see the "saga" on Dawood to end quickly especially in view of the US blacklisting the don and the subsequent forwarding of his name along with his Pakistani passport and Karachi address to the United Nations to initiate necessary action. Officially, Pakistan has denied that Dawood lives in the country, saying that the address and the passport number mentioned to identify him were "fake".

The magazine said that the recent bomb blast at a Karachi plaza reportedly owned by the don have raised domestic security issues. "Besides the Wash-



- **Folding up:** *Herald* says Dawood is winding up his operations in Karachi
- **US effect:** American blacklisting has seriously harmed his activities
- **Wary Pak:** Even the ISI wants an early end to the gangster's saga

ington related fallout, the recent bomb blast in Kawish Crown Plaza, which is reportedly owned by Dawood, are raising troublesome domestic security issues".

FBI investigators, who were keeping a close watch on Dawood's activities, believe that the action initiated by US to blacklist him has dealt a "serious body blow" and impaired the gangster's activities.

However, Pakistan intelligence officials have expressed surprise over the US targeting the Mumbai "don" when there were bigger mafia gangs in Thailand, Hong Kong and South Africa that aided al-Qaida. "Compared to them, D-Company is nothing. Yet the US portrayed Dawood as a terror ring-leader under Pakistan's protection merely to oblige India," *Herald* quoted Pakistan intelligence officials as saying.

## 'Al-Qaeda planned to kill Mecca pilgrims'

RIYADH, NOV. 4. Al-Qaeda fighters were plotting to kill pilgrims in the holy city of Mecca during the fasting month of Ramzan, the Saudi Interior Minister, Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz, said on Tuesday. Security forces shot dead two "terrorists" allegedly belonging to the Al-Qaeda organisation, in Mecca on Monday.

Prince Nayef said the Mecca cell had rented a house in the city only for the duration of Ramzan. "This shows that they only intended on carrying out missions during this month". During Ramzan, which commemorates the revealing of the Islamic holy book to Prophet Muhammad, observant Muslims fast from dawn to dusk.

All eight members of the cell were from the Al-Qaeda network run by the Saudi-born terror mastermind, Osama bin Laden, Prince Nayef told *Al-Riyadh* newspaper.

"Undoubtedly, they all be-

long to the same movement and follow the same tactics," the Minister said when asked if the cell was linked to Al-Qaeda which the Saudi authorities blamed for killing 35 people in Riyadh in May.

"They targeted the month of Ramzan ... when the Saudi and non-Saudi faithful gather" in Mecca for the umrah or minor pilgrimage, he said.

Police arrested six militants after the shootout, Prince Nayef said. "We captured four of them, one of whom was injured, while two others surrendered because they were surrounded".

He did not say whether the militants were on the list of 19 extremists wanted since May, when the kingdom was shaken by a series of suicide attacks in the capital.

"The names they gave us might be false, but the investigations will clear all that," he said. — AP

# HC acquits two accused in Dec 13 terror attack

Our Political Bureau

NEW DELHI 29 OCTOBER

THE Delhi High Court on Wednesday absolved two of the accused in the December 13 terrorist attack on the Parliament while upholding the death penalty on two other accused.

In a verdict which came as a mixed bag for the Delhi Police, a high court Bench comprising Justice Usha Mehra and Justice Pradeep Nandrajog upturned the death sentence awarded to the Delhi University lecturer, S.A.R. Geelani as well as the five-year imprisonment, the trial court had awarded to Navjot Sandhu.

The Bench acquitted Geelani on the ground that the single piece of evidence — a telephonic conversation with Shaukat Guru whose death sentence was confirmed by the high court — was inadequate to prove the crime of the lecturer. The case was taken up by the human rights activists and the members of Capital's liberal intelligentsia. "This circumstance, in our opinion, do not even remotely, far less definitely and unerringly point towards the guilt of the accused S.A.R. Geelani," it said, according to an



**TRIAL & TERROR:** Mohammed Afzal (left), Syed Abdul Rahman Geelani (centre), and Shaukat Hussain Guru. — PTI

agency report. The Bench, the agency said, added that the prosecution failed to bring on record the evidence to conclusively prove the guilt of the accused Navjot Sandhu. Another accused to win the acquittal on Wednesday, is the wife of Shaukat Hussain Guru who along with Mohammad Afzal had been awarded the death penalty.

Upholding the death sentence awarded to Afzal and Shaukat for causing death of nine persons during the attack on Parliament on December 13, 2001, the court also imposed death sentence on them under Section 121 A of the Indian Penal Code for waging war against the country.

The trial court had sentenced the two for life for the offence under Section 121 A of the IPC and the prosecution had moved the high court for turning it to death penalty, according to the agency report. The acquittal of Geelani is a setback to the Delhi Police, which strongly rebutted the accusations from the liberal quarters of framing up the lecturer. "We have not yet examined the judgment. Any decision to file the appeal will be taken by the state after we examine the judgment," Delhi Police's standing counsel Mukta Gupta told the agency.

Mohammad Afzal, whom the prosecution identified as a Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist, however, promptly announced his decision to appeal the order of the Delhi High Court upholding the death sentence to him and fellow accused Shaukat. "We have not seen the judgment as yet but will file the appeal within two weeks for Afzal after going through the verdict," his counsel Colin Gonsalves told the agency.

He said the principle ground for approaching the apex court will be the same as was before the high court that the accused did not receive adequate legal representation during the trial.

The

30 OCT 2003

1 KILLED, 37 INJURED IN SECOND GRENADE ATTACK ON BSNL HUB

# J&K Ramzan reels off with mayhem

SNS & PTI

SRINAGAR, Oct. 28. — Militants today hurled a grenade at the BSNL headquarters here killing one person and injuring at least 37 who were waiting in a queue to deposit telephone bills.

The grenade landed at the bill collection centre where there was a long queue of people waiting to pay their telephone bills. The attack on the BSNL headquarters, less than 300 m from chief minister Mufti Md Sayeed's home in the heavily-guarded Exchange Road, came shortly after Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiyaba threatened to intensify its attacks during the ongoing holy month of Ramzan. One of the injured, Ali Mohammad Joo, succumbed to his injuries at the Soura Medical Institute here. A few of the injured are undergoing treatment at the SMHS Hospital.

IGP (Kashmir Range) Mr K Rajendra termed the incident as a desperate attempt by militants to ease the pressure that's been mounting on them. Security forces have cordoned off the area and a search for the militants is on. A comparatively lesser known militant outfit, Kashmir Freedom Forum, has claimed responsibility. In a statement to a local news agency the outfit has said that CRPF men were the targets. This is the second time that militants targetted the BSNL headquarters within two months. On 27 August militants tried to storm the complex when Prime Minister Mr AB Vajpayee was in town for the Inter-state Council meet.

In another incident, an Army convoy was ambushed at Pancharni Nallah in Doda killing three jawans. A JuM spokesman telephoned PTI office in Jammu saying the outfit set off the IED blast in which three army-men were killed.

Elsewhere in the state, two militants and a civilian were killed in separate incidents while security forces apprehended three ultras, a police spokesman said. In Kupwara, two militants, one of them a Pakistani, were killed in separate encounters. Security forces defused an IED at Bandipora in Baramulla.



Doctors attend to an man injured in the BSNL grenade attack at a Srinagar hospital on Monday. — AFP



LONE SENTINEL: A BSF soldier stands guard on a Srinagar street on Monday. — PTI

## More *fidayeen* bids feared

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Oct. 28. — With the beginning of Ramzan, security agencies fear an upsurge in *fidayeen* attacks in Jammu and Kashmir. On the first day of the holy month, series of bomb blasts that shook the entire Iraqi capital leaving about 40 people dead is a case in sight.

During Ramzan militants generally cause more violence and target the non-muslims, said an observer while quoting the Baghdad incident. It may also be recalled that during the holy month last year a bloody attack took place on Raghunath temple when at least nine innocents were killed in one go — the second attack on the temple in a year. Following the train blast on Sunday night, two

### Shalimar ultra

JAMMU, Oct. 28. — Six persons, including three soldiers, were injured in the exchange of fire between the militant, who survived yesterday's 13-hour encounter in Akhnoor, and the Army. Reports say the militant, who surfaced today, is hiding in the MES quarters and the ground floor of the building has been evacuated. The area has been cordoned off and traffic on the Jammu-Poonch-Rajouri route suspended. — SNS

major incidents took place today. Today's attacks were close on the heels of the LeT vowing to step up violence during the ongoing Ramzan. Meanwhile, the Hizbul Mujahedin, today confirmed its commander, Saiful Rahman, was shot yesterday, adds AFP.

29 OCT 2003

THE STATESMAN



# Riyadh US embassy warns of terror threat

Riyadh, Oct. 25 (Reuters): The US embassy in Saudi Arabia warned today that "terrorist" groups in the kingdom may strike during Ramadan, after Britain said attacks may be in the "final stages" of planning.

Saudi officials vowed to thwart any "terror" plots in the oil-rich kingdom, birthplace of al Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

The fasting month of Ramadan is expected to start tomorrow, depending on the sighting of the new moon. A US diplomatic advisory issued in the Saudi capital Riyadh said: "The embassy continues to receive information that terrorist groups within the kingdom are still active and planning future operations."

"It is the embassy's assess-

ment that terrorist groups may place special operational significance on the upcoming month of Ramadan and American citizens are therefore urged to be particularly vigilant during this time."

Saudi Arabia has intensified a crackdown on Muslim militants since suspected al Qaida suicide bombers hit expatriate housing compounds in Riyadh in May, killing 35 including nine Americans.

It has arrested nearly 600 people since then. In the latest operation, weapons and explosives were seized including bomb-belts of the kind used by suicide bombers.

"Saudi security forces are working hard to foil any terrorist organisation, and have uncovered several cells in the past weeks and thwarted all their

plans to destabilise security," said a Saudi official, but did not identify possible targets.

He said that local security forces would continue "intense" efforts to maintain security in the Gulf state, the world's biggest oil exporter.

The official was responding to earlier warnings by Britain and Australia that attacks against Westerners may be imminent, and after London yesterday stepped up its warning to citizens to avoid Saudi Arabia.

"We believe that terrorists may be in the final phases of planning attacks," the British foreign office said.

Australia, which allied itself with the US and Britain in the Iraq war and has strongly identified with the United States campaign against violent Muslim

groups like al Qaida, issued a similar warning on Thursday.

The US mission issued an advisory on October 15 saying Saudi authorities warned that militants may be targeting two of the most prominent commercial centres in the kingdom, popular with Westerners. But the embassy said on Wednesday that the time period specified in the threat had passed.

Saudi Arabia has faced intense pressure to crush al Qaida cells since the September 11 attacks on the United States two years ago in which 15 of the 19 hijackers were Saudi citizens.

The issue has strained ties between Washington and its traditional Arab ally, which is the birthplace of Islam, and has focused international attention on the conservative monarchy's ef-

orts to deal with domestic Islamist opposition.

Saudi foreign minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, in remarks broadcast today, criticised US groups who say Saudi Arabia is not doing enough to fight terrorism and that its religious and educational system breed militancy.

"Those in the US who attack the kingdom are not serving the interests of the United States or its friends," he told Arabic satellite television Al Arabiya.

"These tendencies are extremist and this is what we are trying to avoid in our Islamic world and the whole world."

Five US soldiers were wounded when their helicopter crashed and came under attack from rocket-propelled grenades near the Iraqi city of Tikrit today.



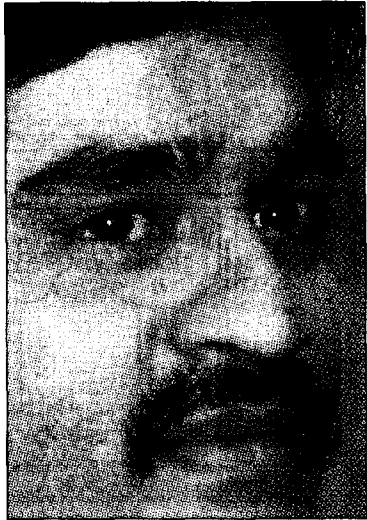
A woman weeps after a suicide bombing damaged buildings and killed 35 people in Riyadh on May 14, 2003. (AP)

THE TELEGRAPH

26 OCT 2003



Don in the dragnet



#### HISTORY SHEET

► Mumbai blast, links with the al-Qaida and Lashkar. Also, heavily into extortion rackets and narcotics smuggling

#### EVIDENCE

► Red-corner notice issued by Interpol for involvement in the 1993 Mumbai blasts. India has handed over information on his group supporting terrorist organisations like the Lashkar. The US has found proof of his common cause with the al-Qaida

#### FALLOUT

► All his assets in the US will be frozen. The US has requested UN to put him on the ban list. Pressure will mount on Pakistan to hand him over to India

## Dawood global terrorist: US

### India demands handover

HT Correspondent  
New Delhi, October 17

HT-1 18/10

VINDICATING INDIA'S stand, the US has designated Dawood Ibrahim as a "global terrorist" and acknowledged for the first time that he has links with Pakistan. India promptly made a verbal demarche to Pakistan, reiterating that it should hand over the don.

Under an executive order, the US treasury department has frozen Dawood's assets and banned his transactions with US nationals. Saying that he has links with al-Qaida and is financing outfits like Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, the department has posted Dawood's Karachi address and his Pakistani passport details on its web site. Washington will now request the UN to list him as a global terrorist, making it obligatory for all member states, including Pakistan, to do the same.

Giving details of his Pakistani passport and Karachi address, the Joint Secretary (Pakistan) in the MEA, Arun Singh, summoned Pakistani Deputy High Commissioner Munawar Sayeed Bhatti and told him Pakistan must immediately hand over the don. But sources said Pakistan denied Dawood was in Pakistan and asked for "additional and accurate information".

US diplomatic sources say Dawood's labelling as a terrorist was based on inputs from their own intelligence network in the region.

■ P4: Why the US is after India's enemy No. 1

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

18 OCT 2003

19 OCT 2003

# 'Isolate nations practising terrorism'

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, OCT. 15.** Favouring globalised enforcement to tackle globalised crime, the Deputy Prime Minister L. K. Advani today called upon the international community to take steps to ostracise and isolate nations which "practise terrorism as an instrument of State policy."

Referring to the Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Srinagar initiative of April when he had extended the hand of friendship to Pakistan, Mr. Advani said that the "response to it had not been adequate." Without naming Pakistan, he said the "touchstone of its sincerity" would be its attitude in acting upon the list of 20 fugitives which was given by India. "If only that can happen, an absolutely new chapter in this region of peace will come into existence," he said.

Though Mr. Advani's observations were spontaneous and he did not name anyone, his reference to the list of "India's 20 most wanted" fugitives clearly pointed towards Dawood Ibrahim, the main accused in the Mumbai blasts in which about 300 people were killed and 700 injured. Dawood Ibrahim, Chhota Shakeel, Memon brothers and others, allegedly involved in terrorist crimes in India, are believed to be in Pakistan.

"The perpetrators of some of the dastardly criminal acts on the Indian soil, including acts of terrorism, have found safe havens in our neighbourhood and elsewhere. It is

pertinent to mention that the masterminds behind the serial bomb blasts in Mumbai in 1993, the attack on Indian Parliament in December 2001 and many other terrorists and criminals are being harboured by a neighbouring country," Mr. Advani said.

Delivering the inaugural address at the 3rd International Conference on Fugitives at Vigyan Bhavan here, he said, "there are nations that profess to be members of the global coalition against terrorism. Yet, they take no steps to curb the export of terror from their soil." Top officials of law enforcing agencies from about 50 countries are attending the three-day conference, being organised by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Interpol.

Though Pakistani delegation had confirmed its participation to the CBI last evening, there was no word on why it had not made to the conference. The seats of Pakistani delegates remained vacant during the inaugural session.

In his 30-minute speech, Mr. Advani said that India has been battling terrorism — a peculiar kind of terrorism which is rightly described as cross-border terrorism — for nearly two decades now.

"For a long time, we did not receive much international support. However, the perception of the global community has changed in this regard in the aftermath of 9/11 and terrorist strikes elsewhere in the world," he told the delegates.

Mr. Advani said half the battle against

terrorism, organised crime, global economic frauds and international fugitives would be won if countries took concrete steps to prevent its spread from their soil instead of offering only lip sympathy.

Both, Mr. Advani and the CBI Director, P.C.Sharma, argued for putting in place simpler, faster and more effective extradition laws. "The tedious and time-consuming procedures have only benefited the accused while it is of little consolation to the victims of crime... deportation rather than extradition should be the rule. The extradition process needs to be completed within a time-bound framework," the Deputy Prime Minister said. While calling for policing at a global scale, the CBI chief said that international community would need to act firmly against countries that offered safe sanctuary to organised crime syndicates.

Advocating frequent and speedier exchange of information globally, the Interpol Secretary-General, Ronald K. Noble, said that about 250,000 blank passports had been reported stolen by 29 Interpol member-countries. In the hand of a fugitive, a stolen blank passport without an international lookout system is giving terrorists too much of an advantage.

Mr. Noble said Interpol had established a new Fugitive Investigative Support service. He said that Red Notices of alert should not only be circulated but also be respected by all.

Australia stops to mark anniversary of twin bombings

# Bali blast victims mourned

*Perman*  
*1-3*  
*18/10*

**Bali, Oct. 12 (Reuters):** Heads bowed and weeping, Australian and other survivors of last year's bomb attacks on Indonesia's Bali island and hundreds of grieving relatives paid tribute today to the 202 people killed.

Voices from a choir of Australian and Indonesian school children drifted over the families at a Christian service on a limestone escarpment overlooking Kuta beach, where militants blew up two nightclubs on this day a year ago.

Of 2,000 mourners at the service, about 800 were survivors and relatives, the majority from Australia, which lost 88 citizens in the worst act of terror since the September 11, 2001, strikes on the US. In all, 22 countries lost people.

For many, the emotion of returning to this fabled isle has been raw. But there has also been defiance.

"If we didn't come back they would have won. It goes to show they can't beat the Australian spirit. We'll keep on coming and sticking it up their face," said Jason Madden, 31, who lost seven friends from Perth's Kingsley Cats football team.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard and leaders from Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country, were among those at the service, which was open to the public and

attracted many who took part in rescue efforts last year.

Chief security minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono vowed to fight terrorism and said Indonesia would never rest until it had caught all those behind the blasts. About 40 people have been captured and 20 sentenced, including three given the death sentence.

One of those on death row, Imam Samudra, said in an interview published today that he had no regrets and was ready to die.

Indonesia has warned that militants were planning more attacks and had built two bomb but insisted the mainly Hindu enclave of Bali was safe for the mourners.

Heavily armed police and sniffer dogs were on patrol.

"These diabolical men and their brand of evil simply has no place in our society. They belong in our darkest dungeons, locked away deep beneath our children's playgrounds. History will condemn them forever," said Yudhoyono.

Across Australia, flags flew at half-mast as the country stopped to mark the anniversary.

On a windy cliff top overlooking Coogee beach in Sydney, 1,000 people gathered for the dedication of a memorial at the site renamed Dolphins Point after the Coogee Dolphins rugby league team, which lost six players.

# Asean terror pact is a political win for India

By Priya Ranjan Dash  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bali: India and Asean issued a joint declaration on cooperation in combating international terrorism at their summit meeting here on Wednesday.

The declaration, diplomats said, is of significant political value for India which has been struggling to get a resolution on the subject sponsored in the UN for a long time. It is, however, of small practical value in terms of fighting international terrorism, they said.

Despite its political significance, foreign secretary Kanwal Sibal conceded that the anti-terrorism declaration needs to be supplemented by extradition treaties as well as legal assistance agreements with each of the 10 Asean members for it to become an effective tool. The extradition treaties and legal assis-

tance agreements would have particular usefulness in those countries which are democracies with rule of law and strong judiciary systems.

The international fight against terrorism can some-

time get stuck in judicial procedures despite the best of intentions at the political level, Mr Sibal said. India would like to conclude extradition agreements with those Asean countries with which it does not yet have such pacts.

But at the UN, the resolution sponsored by India, which got bogged down in wranglings over the definition of terrorism and its root causes, could now get a fillip from the joint declaration with Asean. The declaration steers clear of any definitional problem.

Asean has signed similar declarations with some other countries, notably the US.



Atal Bihari Vajpayee arrives at a dinner hosted by Indonesian president Megawati Sukarnoputri for Asean leaders at the Tempak Siring palace in Bali.

# Advani raps USA's anti-terror drive

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Oct. 7. — In a veiled sarcasm of the US campaign against terror, Deputy Prime Minister Mr LK Advani today said "big powers" failed to track down any of the persons considered as a "source" of terrorism while India punished perpetrators of major terror strikes in the country.

"Big powers have declared that they would catch alive or kill all persons they consider to be a source of terrorism. But they have been unable to do so," he said. Mr Advani was addressing officers and CRPF personnel here after presenting the President's Colour to the Rapid Action Force in recognition of its services to handle communal riots "impartially and quickly". The Deputy Prime Minister also announced a sanction



**'Big powers have failed to track down any of the persons considered as a source of terror'**

of Rs 1 crore for the welfare of its personnel and their families.

Citing an example, Mr Advani said the perpetrators of major terror attacks in India like the one Parliament and Jammu and Kashmir Assembly had

been killed or sentenced by the courts. Describing Pakistan-sponsored cross-border terrorism as "more dangerous and deadly" than open war, the Deputy Prime Minister said terrorists were now not only intending to create fear through their attacks but also wishing to cause communal disturbances to destabilise India.

"Most of the terrorist attacks like the ones on Akshardham temple and Raghunath temple, massacre of Kashmiri Pandits at Nadimarg, and killing of innocent people in Rajouri and Poonch in J&K are deliberately carried out with the aim of creating communal riots," he said. "After these were foiled by our army, our neighbour resorted to terrorism and infiltration and engineered the killing of innocent people, including women and children, in an attempt to destabilise India."

# Tamil Tigers back on America's terror list

Washington, October 3

THE US has redesignated 25 groups, including the LTTE and Hamas, as Foreign Terrorist Organisations making it illegal for persons in the United States to provide material support to these groups.

"The Secretary of State redesignated 25 groups as Foreign Terrorist Organisations under US law on October 2, 2003. The initial designations of these groups in 1997 and 1999 are due to expire on October 3", US State Department spokesman, Richard Boucher said on

Thursday. "By re-certifying them as Foreign Terrorist Organisations and publishing that decision today in the Federal Register, we preserve the US Government's ability to take action against them in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended," he said. "It requires US financial institutions to block assets held by them; and it enables us to deny visas to representatives of these groups."

"The Secretary made this decision in consultation with the Attorney General and the Sec-

retary of the Treasury after a thorough review of these groups' terrorist activities over the past two years", Boucher added. With this redesignation, the number of designated Foreign Terrorist Organisations is 36.

"As we carry on the global campaign against terrorism, we hope this list will help to isolate these terrorist organisations, to choke off their sources of financial support, and to prevent their members' movement across international borders", Boucher said.

PTI

## UNCLE SAM'S TOP 25 ENEMIES

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ● Abu Nidal Organisation           | ● Mujahedin-e Khalq Organisation                       |
| ● Abu Sayyaf Group                 | ● National Liberation Army                             |
| ● Armed Islamic Group              | ● Palestinian Islamic Jihad — Shaqaqi Faction          |
| ● Aum Shinrikyo                    | ● Palestinian Liberation Front — Abu Abba              |
| ● Basque Fatherland and Liberty    | ● Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine        |
| ● Gama'a al-Islamiyya              | ● Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine -- General |
| ● Hamas                            | ● Shining Path   |
| ● Harkat ul-Mujahideen             | ● Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia               |
| ● Hizbullah                        | ● Revolutionary Nuclei                                 |
| ● al-Jihad                         | ● Revolutionary Organization 17 November               |
| ● Kahane Chai                      | ● Revolutionary People's Liberation Party              |
| ● Kurdistan Worker's Party         | ● Revolutionary People's Liberation Front              |
| ● Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam |  |



# US arms inspector finds nothing in Iraq

General

Agencies  
Washington, October 3

CHIEF US weapons searcher David Kay has reported that he has found no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, a finding that brought fresh congressional complaints about the Bush administration's pre-war assertions of an imminent threat from Saddam Hussein.

The man in charge of the \$300m hunt for Saddam's WMDs admitted on Thursday night that no such stocks had been found, and all that the three-month costly search had uncovered was a single vial containing a possible strain of biological agent.

In a report to Congress, Kay described evidence of a possible small-scale biological weapons effort and said on Thursday that searchers had substantial evi-



THE PUBLIC'S confidence in President Bush's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis has slid sharply over the past five months, the latest *New York Times/CBS News Poll* has found. The poll found that just 45 per cent of Americans now have confidence in Bush's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, down sharply from 66 per cent in April, and half now say they are uneasy about his approach.

Details on Page 15

A 10  
X 1  
BUSH POPULARITY HITS NEW LOW

ment that were not declared to the UN inspectors when they returned in November last year."

He cautioned that the search was still under way and said he should know within six to nine months if there is more to be found.

The lack of substantive findings so far brought immediate negative reactions from both Republicans and Democrats in Congress and also seemed certain to raise new questions among allies overseas about the Bush administration's justification for going to war.

"I'm not pleased by what I heard today, but we should be willing to adopt a wait-and-see attitude and that's the only alternative we really have," said Sen. Pat Roberts, the Republican chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

dence of an Iraqi push to boost the range of its ballistic missiles beyond prohibited ranges.

But his team had found only limited evidence of any chemical weapons effort, he said, and there was almost no sign that a significant nuclear weapons project was under way.

"We have not found at this point actual weapons," Kay said. "It does not mean we've concluded there are no actual weapons. In addition to intent, we have found a large body of continuing activities and equip-

# Pak army offensive against Al-Qaida, 12 killed

10/2/03  
 10/2/03  
 10/2/03

The Times, London

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 2. — Pakistani security forces killed at least 12 Al-Qaida and Taliban fighters and arrested 10 others today in their biggest offensive against the terror groups in the lawless tribal region bordering Afghanistan.

Hundreds of heavily armed special forces aided by helicopter gunships launched a pre-dawn offensive to flush out the foreign militants from their Pakistan mountain hideouts in Waziristan which they have been using as a base to attack US-led coalition forces across the border.

Two Pakistani soldiers were also killed as the guerrillas responded with heavy machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades. Heavy fighting raged throughout the day. Pakistani military helicopters strafed five large, heavily fortified compounds near the border town of Angor Adda. Hundreds of guerrillas were believed to have taken positions in the woods near by.



WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE: A Pakistani soldier walks past bodies of Al-Qaida militants, another soldier keeps watch over militants captured after an encounter in a South Waziristan tribal area on Thursday. — AFP



The military that eight more were still lying where they had fallen, some with "Central Asian" features. A large cache of arms and equipment was also found in one of the compounds seized by the troops.

Ten suspects being folded and with their hands tied behind their backs were led away from the area. Waziristan, a locally autonomous tribal region in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province, has long been used as a hideout by Al-Qaida fighters as well as other militant groups.

## Jamali seeks Bush help

Indo-Asian News Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2. — Pakistani Prime Minister Mr Zafarullah Khan Jamali has sought Washington's help in normalising ties with India during a meeting with President George W. Bush here.

"Pakistan greatly values the US role in promoting stability and peace in South Asia," Mr Jamali said at a press conference after the meeting with Mr Bush at the White House yesterday. Mr Jamali said they also discussed developments in Afghanistan and the situation in Iraq.

The two exchanged pleasantries but carefully avoided any mention of issues like US attacks from Pakistan into neighbouring Afghanistan, Taliban-Al Qaida remnants. **Armitage visit put off:** US Deputy Secretary of State Mr Richard Armitage has put off his visit to Pakistan from today to hold talks with President Pervez Musharraf on various issues due to "scheduling problems". PTI adds from Islamabad.

# Topple Musharraf, Osama deputy tells Pak troops

Press Trust of India

DUBAI, Sept. 29. — The Al-Qaida has appealed to Pakistani soldiers to "topple" President Pervez Musharraf or he will "hand them over" to Hindus.

In a new audiotape released by the terror outfit and aired by the Qatar-based *Al Jazeera* TV, Osama bin Laden's deputy Ayman al Zawahiri told Pakistani army officers and soldiers that Gen. Musharraf would "hand you over to Hindus and flee to enjoy his secret bank accounts" if India attacked their country.

Zawahiri also condemned Israeli Prime Minister Mr Ariel Sharon's recent visit to India, saying the agreements signed were "a drop in the ocean of the American-Jewish-Indian alliance against Muslims".

He said Gen. Musharraf helped the USA to topple the Taliban government in Afghanistan.

During the broadcast yesterday, the Al-Qaida leader also alleged that the Pakistani President was seeking to recognise Israel and send troops to Iraq in a bid to gain full American approval. "Gen. Musharraf... is seeking to send Pakistani forces to Iraq so that they, rather than American soldiers, are killed and so that they kill Muslims in Iraq and enable America to control Muslim lands."

Zawahiri said Washington would not reward Gen. Musharraf for his services and cited Palestinian leader Mr Yasser Arafat as "a living exam-



**'Gen. Musharraf would hand you (Pakistani army) to Hindus and flee to enjoy his secret bank accounts if India attacked Pakistan'**

ple" of what happens to "traitors". "He gave Israel and America all that they asked for. But despite this, they are now incarcerating him in his office in Ramallah... and lately decided to expel him."

Although the CIA has described the recording as "probably authentic", *Al Jazeera* TV said it did not know when the tape was recorded. But the remarks were replete with references to recent events such as Mr Sharon's recent visit to India and developments in Iraq and the Palestinian territories. Zawahiri also said Osama and Taliban's Mulla Muhammad Umar were both alive.

The outburst against Gen. Musharraf, observers said, is strikingly similar to attacks on the Pakistani leader in another Zawahiri audiotape broadcast on the eve of the second anniversary of 9/11.

Call rejected

Muslim and militant leaders in Pakistan today rejected calls attributed to the Al-Qaida's number two to overthrow Gen. Musharraf for betraying Islam. AFP adds from Islamabad.

The Islamic republic's largest Muslim party, *Jamaat-i-Islami*, which campaigns fervently against Gen. Musharraf's unelected presidency and sweeping powers, dismissed the calls attributed to Zawahiri as violent. "We do not subscribe to Zawahiri's or anyone else's views," *Ji* senator Mr Khurshid Ahmed said. "We have strong differences with Gen. Musharraf's policies and are democratically trying to influence him to bring a change. But we have our own strategy of Islamic restructuring and it is through power of the ballot and a democratic struggle."

*Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam* party leader Mr Fazlur Rehman — once openly supportive of the hardline Islamic Taliban regime that was ousted from neighbouring Afghanistan in late 2001 — also rejected the call.

"We don't need guidelines from Zawahiri or any other leaders from outside," he said.

Pakistan's radical *Jamaat-ud-Dawa* organisation, the political wing of *Lashkar-e-Taiyaba*, said the voice on the tape had to be proven. "It is not suitable to comment unless the authenticity of the audiotape is verified," spokesman Yahya Mujahid said.

30 SEP 2003

# Cop, rebels die in Saudi shootout

Riyadh, September 23

AT LEAST one Saudi policeman and three militants were killed on Tuesday in a shootout at a hospital compound in Jizan province of Saudi Arabia, the latest in a series of clashes involving suspected al-Qaida members.

An interior ministry statement said five militants were involved in the incident, in which four other policemen were slightly wounded.

"Two of the terrorists surrendered while three of them were killed," the statement said. "They were intending to carry out terrorist operations and were armed with machine guns and hand grenades. They were asked to surrender but started firing at security forces," it added.

The police have had bloody clashes with militants since Riyadh intensified its crack-down on Muslim militants following the May suicide bombings in the capital Riyadh which killed 35 people, including nine Americans.

A Saudi official had earlier said at least two policemen were killed in the clash at a residential compound at King Fahd Hospital. He said the gunmen had taken hostages but that the hostages were freed unharmed.

Another Saudi official said it was not clear whether the gunmen had forced people to stay in the hospital or whether these civilians merely took shelter

there from the gunfire. 24/9

The official said a Saudi national who was on a wanted list of 19 al-Qaida suspects was among those arrested.

The list was issued in early May shortly before the Riyadh bombings, which are blamed on the network of Osama bin Laden. More than 200 people have been arrested in the crack-down and large caches of weapons have been seized.

The poor mountainous Jizan province is a stronghold for Islamist militants and is also notorious for arms smuggling.

Jizan is home to some of the 15 Saudi hijackers in the September 11 attacks on the US.

Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Osama, is under intense pressure by the US to fight terror and destroy al Qaeda cells.

Riyadh has courted the US with oil while using a militant version of Islam to legitimise its rule. This is a 20th-century formula which cannot be indefinitely sustained: US cultivation of Saudi Arabia as a bulwark of narrow stability was tied to cold war objectives and has disastrously rebounded. The costly monopoly of conservative royal rule in a country where 60 per cent of the population is under the age of 20 is a growing anachronism. While terrorists must be caught, how to escape from this rigid past is an even bigger challenge.

Agencies

24 SEP 2003

# Blast rocks Russian security hub

Termonium  
47-15  
679

Magas, September 15

A TRUCK filled with explosives blew up on Monday outside a government security building in a southern Russian region bordering Chechnya, killing at least three people and wounding at least 22, an official said.

The explosion left the three-storey building of the Federal Security Service's Ingushetia regional headquarters severely damaged but still standing. The ITAR-Tass news agency reported that as many as 100 people were in the building at the time of the blast. Overturned cars lay crumpled in a pile near the FSB building in Ingushetia's capital, Magas.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing, but the Federal Security Service had been leading the Russian campaign against Chechen rebels. It recently handed control over to the Interior Ministry — a sign that situation in Chechnya was becoming more stable.

Muslim Dudarov, who works in a nearby building,

said the force of the blast was so great that he was thrown out of his office and into the building's lobby. Numerous people were hit by flying glass, he said.

Abukar Gostoiyev, a deputy security minister in Ingushetia, said three people were killed and 17 hospitalised with injuries. He said that preliminary information indicated that the truck was parked when it blew up and that there was nobody inside it at the time.

An Emergency Situations official, who declined to give his name, at the scene said three people died after being transported to the hospital and a fourth body was found at the site. The ITAR-Tass news agency reported that four were dead and about 40 injured.

Viktor Shkareda, a deputy chief of the Emergency Situations Ministry, put the death toll at two. According to him, 22 were injured, four in critical condition. It was not immediately possible to reconcile the conflicting death tolls.

AP

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

16 SEP 2003

# Terror hunter slain in daring attack

Fidayeen kill 4 soldiers

Rashid Ahmad  
Srinagar, September 13

KUKA PARRAY, the king of counter-insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir, was killed along with two close associates in a fierce militant attack at his hometown Hajan in Baramullah on Saturday afternoon.

In another strike, two fidayeen attackers stormed an army camp at Bangus Valley near the LoC in Kupwara, and killed four soldiers, including an officer, and injured three. One of the militants was shot dead and the other escaped.

Militants hurled grenades and fired heavily on Parray's vehicle when he was on way to a local stadium, where he had been invited to be the chief guest at a cricket match between two local teams. There were reportedly three militants, who came from nowhere and circled Parray's car before launching the assault from all three directions, giving no chance to his security guards to retaliate.

Eyewitnesses said Parray's vehicle was tossed in the air under the impact of the explosions that killed him on the spot. His two associates, secretary Mohammad Akram and village sarpanch Ali Mohammad Dar, also died on the spot. Eight people were injured in the attack, two of them severely.

After carrying out the daredevil attack in full public view,



**Kuka Parray**  
Counter-insurgency king

the militants vanished from the scene as swiftly as they had appeared. Two little-known militant groups, Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Force and al-Nasiree, have separately claimed responsibility.

Parray's killing comes only a fortnight after militants liquidated Javaid Shah, considered second only to Kuka Parray for his role in eliminating militancy in Bandipora, Hajan and Pattan belts of Baramulla. An estimated 600 people attended the funeral of Parray, who shot to limelight in 1995 when he renounced the path of violence and formed a counter-insurgent group called Ikhwan.

In Anantnag, three civilians were killed when militants hurled a grenade on an Army convoy. The grenade missed the target and exploded on the road.

Related report on Page 5

14 SEP 2003

16 SEP 2003

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

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# Advani focus on ISI link with Al-Qaida

Statesman News Service

17/9  
NEW DELHI, Sept. 11. — Asserting that terrorism in India is being promoted by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, the Deputy Prime Minister today called upon the world community not to support those aiding terrorists. "ISI is promoting terrorist organisations like Al-Qaida and Taliban. The world should stop helping any such country which aids and abets terrorism," said Mr LK Advani, while speaking at a function organised to observe Anti Terrorism Day and commemorate the martyrdom of the 1965 Indo-Pak war hero Abdul Hamid.

Mr Advani presented the family of Abdul Hamid a letter of appreciation and a cheque of Rs 1 lakh on the occasion.

"Terrorism knows no boundary and the enemy respects no border. Every citizen is a soldier and has to protect his mother country," Mr Advani said, pointing out that Pakistan handed over 500 al-Qaida terrorists to the USA while it failed to hand over 20 terrorists to India whose names were listed by Interpol.

"But I am happy that there was not a single Indian among those 500 terrorists," Mr Advani added. The Deputy Prime Minister said: "We do not want any help from the world community, but we want that the world should not help those who are sponsoring terrorism in the country," he said.

Also present on the occasion were BJP president Mr Venkaiah Naidu and Union minister for textiles Syed Shahnawaz Hussain. Mr Hussain said that relating terrorism with Islam is an insult to the religion which was based on the principle of peace.

17 SEP 2003

THE STATESMAN

# Osama sends video reminder to US

By Chidanand Rajghatta  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Washington: The broadcast of a new video tape of Osama bin Laden, the first visual of the fugitive in more than 17 months, rudely reminded Americans on the eve of the second anniversary of 9/11 that the principals of the most catastrophic terrorist attack in history are still at large while the administration is mostly focused on the war on Iraq.



Bin Laden

In an ironic reminder of this distraction, Al Jazeera television on Wednesday showed Bin Laden and his second-in-command Ayman Zawahiri looking hale and hearty and seemingly at ease with life on the run as they descended a rocky hill in an unidentified mountainous area.

They appeared to be armed with AK-47 assault rifles. Bin Laden looked in reasonably good health in contrast to the first video 17 months ago where he looked pale and ashen, leading US analysts to believe he was injured and/or sick. The Arabic network said the new images were probably filmed in late April or early May without explaining how it came to that conclusion or how it got the video tape.

In the audio track that accompanying the footage, Bin Laden praised the terrorists involved in 9/11, while Zawahiri urges jihadis to pounce on the Americans and bury them in Iraq's graveyards. US officials were still analysing the tapes and dissecting the audio overlay and its interpretation. Bin Laden's comments were generic while Zawahiri alone chose to speak on the conflict in Iraq.

"We advise the mothers of the crusade soldiers..to quickly ask their government to return them before they return to them in coffins," Zawahiri says.

The comments on Iraq come as a blessing for the Bush administration in terms of propaganda. Despite not having established any connection between the 9/11 attack and Iraq, the administration's mixing up of issues has made a majority of Americans now believe that Saddam Hussein was involved in the biggest terrorist attack in history.

In fact, the bridging of the two issues had led to a surfeit of jokes in Washington. One talks about defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld's plan to merge Iraq and Afghanistan into one nation named Iraqistan, and connecting them with a ten-lane highway (to be built by the company Halliburton) lined with American fast food outlets and motels.

Until this new video-taped reminder ahead of the second anniversary, Bin Laden had almost faded from the headlines.



# Bali bomber gets death

*Permina*  
*Gr 3*  
*11/9*  
**Bali, Sept. 10** (Reuters): An Indonesian court today sentenced a fiery militant to death for masterminding bomb attacks in Bali that it said were aimed at hurting foreigners and taking revenge on the US.

Imam Samudra responded with trademark defiance, shouting "Allah-o-Akbar" (God is greatest) and punching the air when the verdict was announced. Samudra then struggled with police holding his arms as he tried to turn and face a few survivors and others in the court.

Before being led out, he shouted: "America, Australia go to hell!" at an Australian who waved his national flag adorned with small photographs of the 88 Australians killed in last year's attacks.

Australian foreign minister Alexander Downer welcomed the verdict, branding Samudra one of the villains of the bombings. One other key suspect has already been sentenced to death over the October 12 attacks, which killed 202 people, mainly Western tourists partying in nightclubs on the resort island.

"The defendant worked behind the scenes as the coordinator so the panel of judges has an opinion that the defendant is the intellectual actor behind the bomb explosions," judge Isa



**Imam Samudra in Bali on Wednesday.** (Reuters)

Sudewi, one of the five-member panel, told the court.

"It was his purpose in order to take revenge against what the US did in Afghanistan." Defence lawyers said they would appeal.

Most Indonesians follow a moderate form of Islam, and many say Samudra's radical brand, in which Westerners are seen as enemies and legitimate targets, does their faith an injustice.

11 SEP 2003

THE TELEGRAPH

# Forget 9/11, more ahead: Al Qaida

**Dubai, Sept 7 (Reuters):** A purloined audio tape by Osama bin Laden's al Qaida group today vowed attacks on Americans "everywhere" and so devastating that Washington would forget the horror of the September 11 suicide hijackings.

The tape, dated September 3, came a few days before the second anniversary of the September 2001 attacks on US cities — blamed on al Qaida. Washington said last week it was on alert for possible attacks by the militant group.

"We announce there will be

new attacks inside and outside which would make America forget the attacks of September 11 (2001)," an al Qaida spokesperson said in the tape broadcast by the Arabic television channel Al Arabiya. He identified himself as Abu Abdel-Rahman al-Najdi. The television showed a still photo of a bearded militant wearing a head-dress as it played the tape. There was no immediate independent verification of the identity of the speaker.

"We assure the Muslims that al Qaida ranks have doubled... Our casualties are nothing com-

pared to our (good) conditions now. Our coming martyrdom operations will prove to you what we are saying," he added.

Al Qaida has issued five other audio tapes this year in an ongoing action against the US. Bin Laden and his deputies also made several video appearances in 2001.

The speaker denied any links to the killing of leading Shia cleric Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim in a car bomb attack in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf last month. Some US and Iraqi reports suggested that al Qaida

was behind the car bomb attack that killed Hakim and 82 others. "We strongly deny that al Qaida had any hand in this bombing which killed Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim. Violated the sanctity of one of God's houses and killed innocent people."

"Our highest aim is to fight the Americans and kill them everywhere on earth and drive them out of Palestine, the Arabian peninsula and Iraq."

The speaker accused Washington and Israel of orchestrating the killing because, he said, they feared the cleric's links to

Iran would boost the Islamic Republic's influence in the area.

"We have no motives. Those who killed Baqer al-Hakim are the Americans and Jews. They wanted to get rid of him because they know that his loyalty is to Iran," he added.

Another motive behind the assassination, he added, was to incite Shia-Sunni strife and turn the Shias, who form 60 per cent of Iraq's population, against the austere Sunni-dominated al Qaida.

The al Qaida spokesperson said that ousted Taliban leader

Mullah Mohammad Omar and bin Laden were alive and leading the battle against US forces in Afghanistan.

He urged Muslims to fight the jihad (holy struggle) against US forces. "God has opened the doors of Jihad in Iraq and Palestine so do not close them."

FBI and homeland security officials warned last week the US faces threat of attack from al Qaida, saying it still targets Americans and has a presence in US cities two years after the September 11 attacks that killed about 3,000 people.

# FBI alert for 4 al-Qaida operatives

Washington, September 5  
 THE FBI on Friday urged the public to be on the lookout for four men — including two the agency has been seeking for months — who may be connected to possible threats against the United States.

The FBI issued "Seeking Information" alerts on its web site for Adnan G. El Shukrijumah, Abderraouf Jdey, Karim El Mejjati and Zubayr al-Rimi. The alerts, signed by FBI Director Robert Mueller, said the men "should be considered armed and dangerous". But, he added, "We don't have a specific threat."

The warnings were issued a week before the two-year anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks and the day after the Department of Homeland Security issued an advisory warning that

al-Qaida appeared to still be planning attacks against the US.

In March, the FBI had made urgent calls for public help to find El Shukrijumah, a Saudi-born man who they said could pose a "very, very serious" threat as part of an al-Qaida plot against the US. A material witness warrant has been issued for El Shukrijumah in Virginia.

The original information leading to El Shukrijumah was based on debriefings of al-Qaida captives. An FBI official said the latest alerts were prompted by intelligence information, which pointed to renewed interest in the four men.

The FBI said El Shukrijumah carries a Guyanese passport but may attempt to enter the US with a Saudi, Canadian or Trinidadian passport.

Al-Rimi is from Saudi Arabia, and El

Mejjati was born in Morocco but has a passport issued in France. The FBI said his last known entry into the US was between 1997 and 1999. Jdey, who was born in Tunisia, may be using a passport issued in Montreal and was the subject of a previous alert, the FBI said.

Thursday's Homeland Security advisory, based on a review of intelligence ahead of the second anniversary of the September 11 attacks, said the department had no specific information on individual targets or dates of an attack but said it remained concerned about al-Qaida's plans.

## Al-Jazeera scribe held

Spain on Friday arrested a celebrated war reporter from the Arab TV network Al-Jazeera in the southern city of

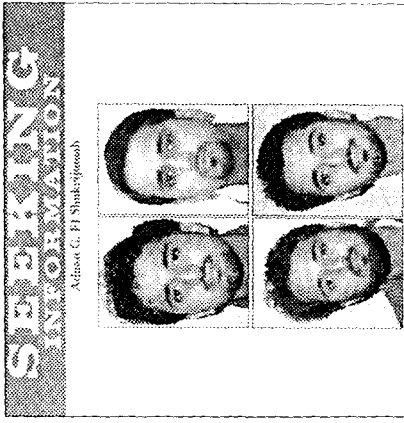
Granada on suspicion of belonging to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. His wife, in an interview with Al-Jazeera, denied the allegations.

Court sources in Madrid said Tayseer Alouni, a Syrian, was suspected of relaying secret messages to al-Qaida operatives in Europe, possibly including messages from bin Laden himself, and he was believed also to have delivered living expenses to them.

Court sources also said he was accused of belonging to the same cell as Imad Eddim Barakat Yarkas, also known as Abu Dabdah, who is being held in Spain on suspicion of playing a role in the September 11 attacks.

Alouni shot to fame in the Arab world covering the US-led war on Afghanistan and then the Iraq war.

Reuters



AP  
 The FBI bulletin announcing a hunt for Adnan G. El Shukrijumah (and three others) for threats against the US.

# Danger dawns in the east

**V**IEWED against the report that Moin Khan, a Bangladeshi national, had made the twin bombs that caused death and devastation in Mumbai on 25 August, the seizure in Kolkata, of 25,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition bound for Kashmir has underlined the gravity of the threat to our national security from the proliferating Islamic terrorist networks in Bangladesh.

Moin Khan, leader of the Harkat-ul-Jihadi-Islam, was a bomb expert in the Bangladesh army. In 1947, the Awami League government cashiered him for his *jihadi* links. Since then, he has been working for the ISI. Under the direction of his case officer, Inayat Puri alias Honda Saheb, a Dhaka-based Pakistani diplomat, Moin has trained successive batches of Ujia and other North-east insurgent groups at Dudhukurpara in Sylhet district. Last month, he visited Mumbai via Kolkata, in a clandestine manner, with six kilograms of RDX. On accomplishing his mission, he returned to Bangladesh, transiting again through Kolkata. On both occasions, an engineer and Major in the Bangladesh Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, currently posted on a cover assignment in Kolkata, arranged transit accommodation for him in a Park Circus private guest-house, provided him with railway tickets and ensured his clandestine entry and exit across the border.

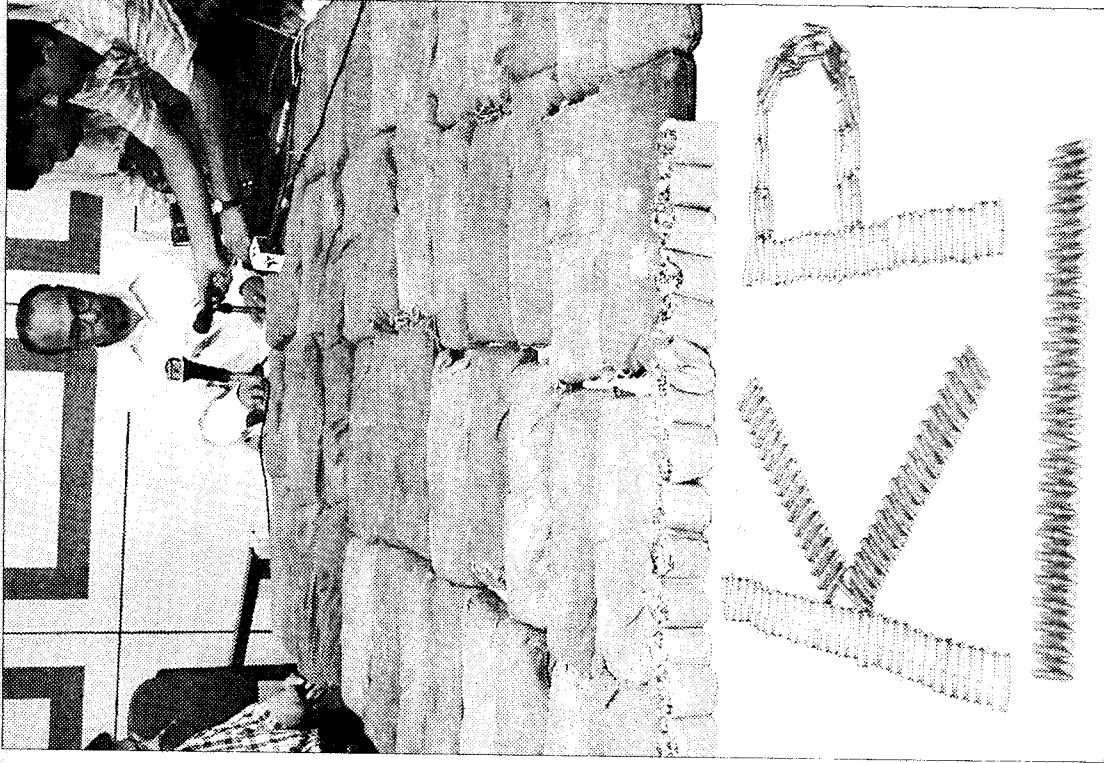
The seizure in Kolkata of ammunition from a truck that purportedly arrived from the North East, strikingly resembles the recovery in July, this year, of 1,00,000 rounds of 7.62 AK-47 ammunition and 10 kg of RDX from a truck arriving from a village in Bangladesh's Bogra district. Like the ammunition seized in Kolkata, that recovered in Bogra carried no markings, but was widely believed to have come from the Bangladesh Ordnance Factory at Jaydecpur. Later, when the involvement of a ruling BNP activist came to light, the government encouraged press reports implying that North-east insurgents were sending the ammunition to Maoist rebels in Nepal.

The last few years have witnessed a dramatic upsurge in Islamic terrorism in Bangladesh, but the BNP-Jamaat-e-Islami government of Begum Khaleda Zia has rejected all reports on the matter as a baseless "information terror campaign" designed to tarnish the image of the country. Instead of tackling the *jihadi* militants, the regime has unleashed unprecedented repression on secular intellectuals, human rights activists and foreign and local journalists who have exposed the spiralling militancy in the country.

The surfacing of two terrorist outfits — Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen and Sahadat-e-al-Hikma — at Dinajpur and Rajshahi, last February, called Dhaka's bluff. Both these organisations are bent on turning Bangladesh into an Islamic state and, to that end, have targeted secular parties and progressive socio-cultural organisations. In Dinajpur, the JuM had plotted to launch an attack a post-Id musical concert. The chance detection of three powerful bombs averted a carnage planned by the Islamists at the International Mother Language Day (21 February) function at Rajshahi.

A large number of JuM cadres and some Hikma activists have since been arrested. They were in possession of inflammatory propaganda material and firearms, ammunition and bomb-making materials from different northern districts bordering West Bengal. They are mostly students and teachers of local *madrasas*; some are muezzins of mosques. Many are members of the Jamaat-e-Islami or its

Whether we choose to acknowledge it or not, Kolkata has become an extended base for Islamic terrorists from Bangladesh, writes BIBHUTI BHUSAN NANDY



Ammunition seized by Kolkata Police on Wednesday. — AFP

fiercely militant student front — the Islami Chhatra Shibir.

The existence of the Sahadat-e-al-Hikma came to light when the police chanced upon some of its financial transactions at Rajshahi. Its top brass comprises activists of the Freedom Party which was floated in the mid-80s by the assassins of Sheikh Mujib at the instance and with the support of General Ershad. The Hikma convener, Kaisar Hossain Siddiqi, has revealed that Dawood Ibrahim, the underworld mafia don and the mastermind of the 1993 Mumbai blasts, has funded the outfit. The

government has banned the Hikma and the JuM, but that hasn't affected their organisational activities in any way.

Ever since the ISI spirited away Dawood Ibrahim, first to Dubai and thence to Karachi, this outfit has carried out a number of terrorist attacks in India. When the UAE government turned the heat on Dawood's associates and started extraditing them to India, the ISI created a new base for his gang in the form of the Al Hikma, to export terror to India via Bangladesh.

For all protests to the contrary by

the BNP-Jamaat regime to the contrary, its intelligence agencies have identified 11 terrorist organisations that are active in 48 different areas, mostly along the Indo-Bangladesh border. Besides the Hikma and JuM, these include the Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islam and the Islami Manch. The HuJI is led by B a n g l a d e s h i mujahideens who had fought against the Soviets in Afghanistan. Senior leaders of the Jel and the Islami Oikya Jote, constituents of the BNP-led ruling four-party alliance, are members of its advisory council. The HuJI, in coordination with the pro-Jamaat Chhatra Shibir and BNP cadres, has perpetrated many acts of religious cleansing since its inception in 1992.

Floated last year, the Islami Manch is an umbrella organisation of nine militant Islamic outfits. Its declared goal is to establish a transnational Islamic state comprising Bangladesh, the Muslim-majority areas of North-east India and the Arakan Hills of Myanmar. The Muslim United Liberation Tigers of Assam and Myanmar's Rohingya Solidarity Organisation, a Jamaat brainchild, are among the constituent members of the Manch.

The HuJI and the Islami Manch have provided a safe haven to Al-Qaida and Taliban fugitives and fleeing Jamiyah Islami cadres of Indonesia, in coordination with the Jel and certain elements in the DGFJ. At a seminar in Dhaka earlier this year, a cross-section of Bangladeshi intellectuals focussed on the

following aspects of the rising Islamic terrorism in Bangladesh:

- During 1984-86, between 5,000 and 6,000 Bangladeshis had joined the Lebanon war, and had fought as *mujahideens* in Afghanistan in the '80s, and for the Taliban and Al-Qaida in 2001.

- Even after liberation from Pakistan, particularly since the assassination of Sheikh Mujib, some mainstream political parties have supported the concept of an Islamic state and aligned themselves with fundamentalist politics.

- Unregulated *madrasa* education has radicalised the Muslims and the events following 11 September — the US attack on Afghanistan and the invasion of Iraq — have fuelled Islamic fundamentalism and terror in the country.

- Bomb attacks by Islamic terrorist groups on progressive, secular parties and socio-cultural groups at different places during the last four years have killed more than 100 people and injured many more in Bangladesh. The *jihadis* are chary of embarrassing the "friendly" BNP-Jamaat government by attacking foreign targets inside Bangladesh, but they have no compunctions about perpetrating terrorist operations in India. The presence of millions of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in the frontline eastern states of India and in metropolitan cities like Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai is a potent source of intelligence, logistical support and safe havens for them. Dawood Ibrahim's involvement in the explosive cocktail of Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism in Bangladesh has lent another deadly dimension to the threat, not only to the eastern region, but also to such states as Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi, with West Bengal as the inevitable launching pad.

There is no indication yet that our national security apparatus is fully geared to meet this challenge.

(The author is former Additional Secretary, Research and Analysis Wing, Cabinet Secretariat, retired Director General, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and former National Security Adviser, Government of Mauritius.)

# 43-hr J&K gunbattle ends

## Lashkar militants disappear without a trace

Arun Joshi  
Jammu, September 4

AFTER A 43-hour gunbattle between militants and security forces in the thick forests of Ghatti, a hilly belt along the Jammu-Pathankote highway, the guns fell silent on Thursday. But there was no trace of the militants.

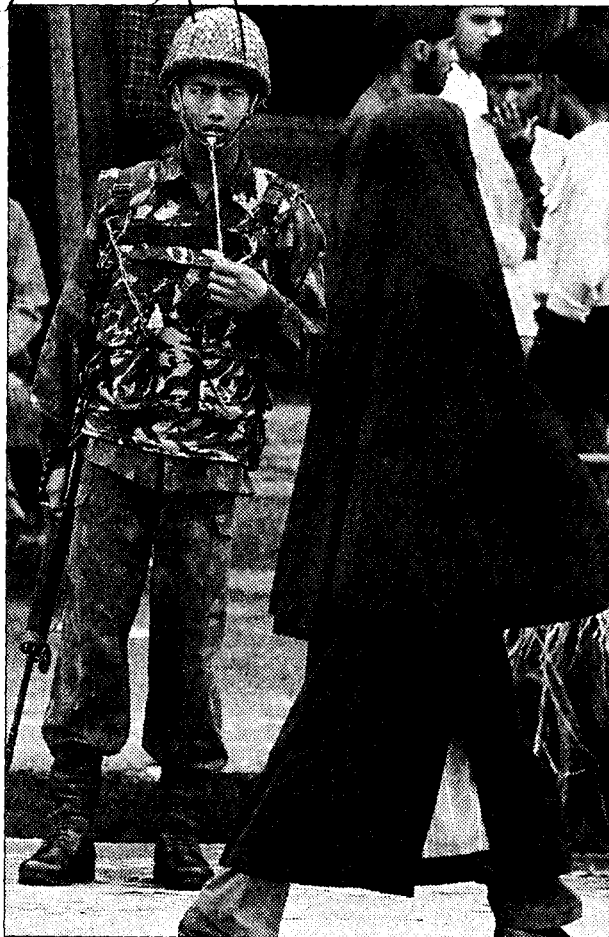
Even as the Army launched a hunt for the militants in the Ghatti jungles, it successfully thwarted a bid by militants to mount a suicide attack on its Brigade headquarters in the border town of Poonch, where two suicide attackers attempted to enter the campus and were shot by the sentries.

Major General R.K. Chhabra said the attack was part of the militants' coordinated efforts to avenge the death of Ghazi Baba, who was killed in an encounter in Srinagar last weekend. In Ghatti, the Army was making all-out efforts to ring down the curtain on one of the longest encounters in J&K.

The militants' guns were the first to fall silent at 11 a.m. on Thursday, while the security forces continued firing for another two hours to be doubly sure. It remains to be verified whether the militants did so as part of their tactics or they had really run out of ammunition or fallen to the bullets of security forces.

"That they had come with big plans is obvious from the fact that they were wearing Army uniform," Brig. Atul Gupte told reporters at the encounter site where the Army has laid a three-tier cordon to ensure that the militants don't escape after having given such a tough time to the security forces.

The officer claimed that the militants were of the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba group.



A woman walks past a paramilitary jawan in Srinagar.

The Army now faces the daunting task of scanning the whole area to find out what happened to the militants. "We have to take every step with caution because we cannot rush and risk casualties," said an Army source.

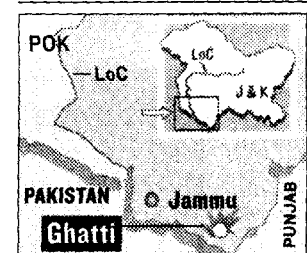
The Army has already lost one soldier, while nine policemen were wounded. "It will only be at the completion of the search that we would be able to give you the exact picture," the source said.

In the Poonch attack, a woman, Zaheeda Parveen, was killed. But there were

conflicting stories about her death. While the army said that the militants killed her and injured her three children, the local version was that the civilian casualties happened as they got caught in the crossfire.

Meanwhile, five militants were killed and several security men wounded in unabated violence in the Valley. Pro-Pakistan Hizbul Mujahideen militants killed their own colleague, Ghulam Nabi Lone alias Abduh, for his involvement in abduction of a girl from Mathund in Anantnag

### Drawn-out drama



**TERROR IN THE HILLS**  
Encounter in Ghatti hills was one of the longest in recent years

**GUNS FALL SILENT**  
Rebels' guns fell silent at 11am on Thursday

**USUAL SUSPECTS**  
Army says the militants of the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba were involved

**BIG PLANS**  
Huge ammunition cache suggests militants planned major strike

**TACTICAL RETREAT**  
Army treading cautiously; feels retreat may be a trap

**TOLL**  
One soldier killed, nine policemen injured

on Wednesday. Sources said the girl also received injuries in the shootout and has been hospitalised.

Two militants were killed in an encounter with the security forces in the Bandipora area of Baramulla district. Two AK rifles, a wireless set and three hand grenades were recovered from them. Another two were killed in a gunfight with the security forces at Inderwan forest in Srinagar. One AK rifle, a magazine and four hand grenades were recovered from the slain militants.

# 12 killed, 10 hurt in terror attacks in J&K

By M Saleem Pandit  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

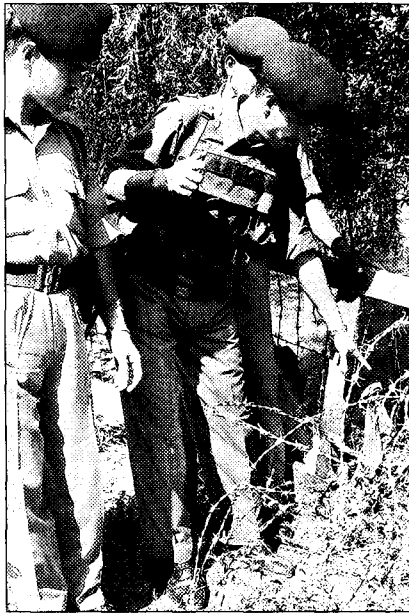
**Srinagar:** Twelve persons, including 10 civilians, were killed and 10 army jawans injured in Jammu and Kashmir in a number of incidents from Monday night.

Insurgents attacked an army convoy at Pulwama district of south Kashmir. They planted an explosive device at Chirsoo-Awantipora, 30 km from here on the Srinagar-Jammu highway which exploded when an army convoy was passing. The insurgents then opened fire. One soldier was killed and 17 others, including 10 army jawans and eight civilians, were injured in the blast. The condition of one soldier and four of the civilians is serious.

Traffic on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, the only roadlink between Kashmir and the rest of India, was suspended on Tuesday morning, after a culvert was blasted by militants at Lawlodra near Qazigund in Anantnag district, the police said.

Insurgents entered the house of sarpanch Khadim Hussain in the Banihal area of Doda district of Jammu and killed five members of the family, including a woman and a child, after hitting them with the butts of the guns. The sarpanch, his two sons and a grandson were killed. Security forces have launched a hunt. It is said that the insurgents had earlier asked Khadim Hussain to resign from his post.

At least five suspected Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) members were gunned down, while one army jawan died and two oth-



**BSF personnel inspect the spot from where militants tried to storm their battalion headquarters at Nishat in Srinagar on Tuesday.**

ers were injured when security forces clashed with a group of heavily-armed insurgents at the Sangla area in the Surankote sector of Poonch district early Tuesday morning. Police sources said that acting on specific information that militants were hiding in Sangla, the forces launched a search. The cornered militants fought back.

# Court sentences Bashir to 4 yrs

Analysts say US will not be happy with the lenient sentence

ACHMAD SUKARSONO

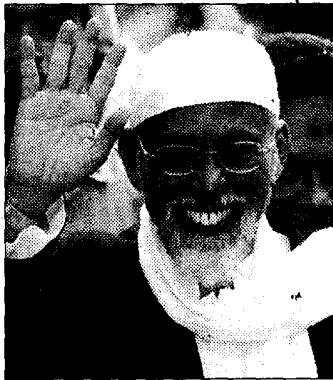
JAKARTA, SEPTEMBER 2

AN INDONESIAN court jailed Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir for four years on treason charges on Tuesday, but said the prosecution had failed to prove he led the Jemaah Islamiah network blamed for bombings in Southeast Asia.

The sentence was far less than the 15 years demanded by the prosecution in a case which has been widely seen as a test of the willingness of the world's most populous Muslim nation to crack down on radical Islam.

Risk and political analysts described the sentence as light and one predicted it would make the US think twice before handing over suspected Jemaah Islamiah operational commander Hambali for trial in Indonesia. But Bashir himself, a 65-year-old preacher who has repeatedly rejected all charges against him, said he would appeal and urged his supporters to remain calm.

"I cannot accept this, therefore I will appeal," he said soon after sentencing, his voice rising. "I ask you to remain orderly, and be careful of provocateurs from America."



Indonesian cleric Abu Bakar Bashir said that he would appeal against the sentence. Reuters

The court convicted Bashir of participating in acts of treason, but they rejected a central part of the prosecution case when they ruled he had not necessarily led a plot to topple Indonesia's secular government.

"Although the treason acts were proven, there has not been enough evidence to prove Abu Bakar Bashir was the leader of treason acts of trying to oust the lawful government," said presiding judge Muhammad Saleh. "The panel has an opinion that Abu Bakar Bashir has not been proven as the leader of Jemaah Islamiah," Saleh said earlier.

Investigators have also linked the group to last October's Bali bomb blast, which killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists, and a car bomb attack on a Jakarta hotel that killed 12 people on August 5.

Zachary Abuza, a counter-terrorism specialist at Simmons College in the US and an expert on Jemaah Islamiah, predicted Washington would not be pleased. "The Americans are going to be very angry," he said. "I think it really might make the Americans pause when they think about turning over someone like Hambali to them."

"Based on the facts, we can conclude every JI action needs the blessing of the defendant as its emir (chief)," prosecutors said when they asked for the 15-year sentence.

At no stage, however, was Bashir, who repeatedly denounced the trial as a set-up and denied all knowledge of Jemaah Islamiah, directly implicated in the Bali bombing or the Jakarta hotel blast.

Defence lawyer Mahendradatta said earlier the Defence would appeal if the verdict went against them. "Nothing has incriminated him. Too many things have been made up," he said. — Reuters

## 'Links' with Al-Qaeda: Pak. Army officers questioned

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 1. Pakistan today sought to underplay reports that over 20 of its Army personnel, including seven officers, are facing investigation in two different cases for their alleged links with Al-Qaeda and an "enemy" country. The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Masood Khan, conceded at the weekly press briefing that three or four officers were being questioned for their alleged links with "extremist outfits" but said the ISI was in no way involved with remnants of Al-Qaeda or Taliban.

"The report is totally baseless. As a partner of the U.S.-led coalition war on terrorism, the Pakistan Army and ISI are engaged in a battle against these elements. Fictitious and motivated reports are appearing in a section of the press to defame Pakistan", he said. Notwithstanding the dismissal of the report by the spokesman, the matter of detention of some of the Army personnel for their alleged proximity to Al-Qaeda should be a matter of serious concern to Pakistan.

The Pakistan Army is known as a disciplined force that obeys orders from above. However, since Pakistan was compelled to

do a U-turn on its Afghan policy in the wake of September incidents, some theorists have been talking about the challenges faced by the Pakistan military top brass in selling the line to the rank and file.

The spokesman brushed aside possibility of any re-assembling of Taliban on its soil and again suggested sharing of increased information and intelligence between Islamabad and Kabul on their activities. He rejected as "rubbish and baseless" a news report, alleging Al-Qaeda links to high Pakistani and Saudi officials.

"Our assessment is that the backbone of the Taliban has been broken and they are in splinter groups," he said. Referring to the arrest of some Taliban a few days ago, the spokesman said, Pakistan was engaged in an intense campaign against these elements.

The Pakistan English daily, *Dawn* in its report has said that over 20 Army men, including six or seven officers up to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, were facing investigation in two different cases for their alleged links with the Al-Qaeda and an "enemy" country.

Quoting well-placed Army sources, it said that two groups of Army men were taken into

custody at different times and for different reasons. One of the groups is under investigation for links with the Al-Qaeda, while the other, which is larger in size, was taken into custody for its connection with a neighbouring enemy country.

The group facing investigation for Al-Qaeda links was ar-

rested some months ago in Rawalpindi.

Commenting on a report by the U.K. publication *The Guardian* which claimed that Pakistan and the U.S. Government knew that Osama bin Laden was in Pakistan, the spokesman termed it as "rubbish and a pure fabrication".



# Two women in twin-blast arrests

ANAND SOONDAS

Mumbai, Sept. 1: After a week of investigation into the blasts of August 25, Mumbai police today claimed to have cracked the case.

Four persons, two of them women, were arrested by the police and booked under the Prevention of Terrorism Act for being "directly involved" in the twin blasts last week that killed 52 and injured over 150.

The accused have been remanded in police custody till September 15. Police sources said this is the first time the anti-terror law is being applied against a woman. One of the two women arrested is an 18-year-old called Farheen Syed.

Deputy chief minister Chhagan Bhujbal said the blasts were planned in Dubai and executed by members of the Gujarat Revenge Force that was cobbled together after the riots last year.

Bhujbal, who has all along been saying that the blasts were linked to the riots, appeared to bask in his sense of vindication, especially after deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani's rebuff. On his visit to Mumbai after the blasts, Advani had said it was "sad" that terrorist activities were being linked to Gujarat.

The other three arrested have been identified as Arshad Shafi Ahmed Ansari, 26, Fehmida Syed, 37, and Syed Mohammed Hanif Abdul Rahim, 45.

The police revealed that three of the four belonged to the same family, but did not say which three. All were described as residents of Mumbai, picked up from the suburb of Goregaon.

They said they were looking for the prime suspect in the twin blasts — Naseer — a name that has emerged during the interrogation of a member of people

picked up since the incident.

Another name has cropped up: Hanif. "This seems to be a separate module from the ones involved in some of the earlier blasts that shook Mumbai," Bhujbal said.

"The Hanif group, based in Dubai, seems to have hatched the conspiracy and used the four persons we have arrested."

A cache of materials for bomb making — 205 gelatine sticks, 20 detonators, 12 alarm clocks with timers, electric wire, a soldering machine and a clipper machine — was recovered from the accused, say the police.

Fortifying the Gujarat angle, police officers revealed that Hanif had spent a length of time in Surat. Trained by the Lashkar-e-Toiba, he is believed to have come from Dubai to Mumbai in September last year to organise "men and material".

Hanif is alleged to be responsible for some of the earlier blasts in Mumbai, though it was always the Students' Islamic Movement of India (Simi) that had been blamed for it.

Many Simi activists are facing charges under the anti-terror law for having had a hand in the five blasts that preceded the August 25 explosions. "Simi's involvement has not been found in the recent blasts," police chief R.S. Sharma said.

The statement goes against the suspicion voiced by central agencies, including Advani himself, about the hands of Simi and Lashkar-e-Toiba.

Strangely, though the accused have been arrested in connection with the twin blasts, they have been booked for the Chakrapar explosion of July 28. Two persons had died in that blast in a bus.

Separate charges will be slapped against the accused as

MUMBAI POLICE NAME GUJARAT REVENGE FORCE



One of the arrested (with head covered) is led away by police in Mumbai on Monday. (Reuters)

investigation proceeds. Sharma said, adding that the quartet appears to have been the ones directly responsible for planting the bomb in the taxi that blew up at the Gateway of India.

The arrests were made after the lead provided by Shiv Narayan Pandey, the person who drove a family of four for two days in and around Mumbai on Aug-

ust 24 and 25. Pandey told the police that the family had asked him to take a break and come back later as they wanted to stroll around the Gateway.

Moments after Pandey walked away from the taxi, the vehicle exploded, killing 12 persons on the spot. Many were flung into the Arabian Sea under the impact. The police later said

the explosives, placed in the boot of the car by one of the four, were RDX.

"We think that the RDX, used for the first time since the serial blasts of 1993, may have been smuggled in through Nepal and the jungles of Bihar, but then it could also be the leftover consignment that came 10 years ago," an officer said.

Although the arrests were made public today, the accused had been detained yesterday.

**Dubai passenger held**

A passenger was detained at the Bangalore airport tonight for suspected links with the Mumbai blasts, adds PTI. Mohammad Farheen was held shortly before he was to board a flight to Dubai.

# Dec 13 attack mastermind killed

## Ghazi Baba slain after 10-hour battle, claims BSF

Rashid Ahmad  
Srinagar, August 30

GHAZI BABA, the Jaish-e-Mohammad's chief in India, was killed after a dramatic, 10-hour encounter with the Border Security Force in Srinagar's congested Safakadal area on Saturday.

Ghazi Baba is said to have masterminded the December 13, 2001, attack on Parliament and planned the 1999 hijack of an Indian Airlines plane to Kandahar.

The BSF, which attacked a Jaish hideout (a house in downtown Srinagar) on a tip-off, claims to have also killed four other Jaish commanders though only two bodies have been found so far. The BSF is positive that one of the bodies is that of Ghazi Baba. The other body is yet to be identified.

During the attack, the militants fired back, killing two jawans and eight others. Two BSF deputy commandants and one assistant commandant were injured.

Police sources said the troops of two BSF battalions lay siege to the Dana Mazar area in old Srinagar at 3 am. As they began closing in on a particular house, militants fired from inside and injured six personnel. The entire locality was immediately cordoned off, and the BSF began firing at the house. After exchanging fire for 10 hours, the security personnel blasted the



The body of one of the militants in an armoured BSF vehicle in Srinagar on Saturday.

The Jaish-e-Mohammad, however, denied that Ghazi Baba has been killed. A spokesman for the outfit told newspaper offices on the telephone that "Indian forces can never trace or kill him."

The spokesman did admit, though, that four of its cadres, one of them an area command-

were seven militants in the house, of whom three had escaped.

Police said the owner of the house, Mohammad Shafi Dar, has been taken into custody for questioning. He reportedly told interrogators that only two militants were hiding in his house.

The BSF's source had given

behind the dressing table, BSF Assistant Commandant Beenu Chandran said. "The door to the hideout opened up after I

turned the mirror of the table," the injured Chandran said in hospital.

A General among Valley militants,

## Explosives haul in New Delhi, terrorists shot

HT Correspondent & PTI  
New Delhi, August 30

THE DELHI police foiled two terrorist plots on the capital today, seizing a huge cache of explosives at New Delhi Railway Station and later shooting two Jaish-e-Mohammad militants in the city.

The 150 gelatine sticks, weighing 21 kg, left in a bag on a platform was meant for a blast at Connaught Place. The plot was revealed after a city businessman accidentally overheard a phone conversation and alerted the police. Two voices, addressing each other as "Nusrat Ali Khan" and "Chief Commander Noor Jehan", were discussing how 11 men had entered Delhi, and how it was now up to them to do something bigger than Monday's blasts in Mumbai. Connaught Place was referred to as the target.

The lead on the Jaish terrorists came when the police stopped a fruit-laden truck, with a Jammu and Kashmir number plate, and found rocket launchers, grenades and AK-47s hidden in it. After questioning the driver, the police laid a trap near Nizamuddin Bridge. The two Pakistan-based militants, Zahir Ahmed and Habibullah, arrived in a white Maruti and were shot dead around 11.30 pm.

Nigerian held at Delhi airport, Page 5



Computer-generated picture of Ghazi (above); the man killed on Saturday (below)

### Who was this man?

- Chief of militant outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad in India
- Masterminded attack on Parliament and the suicide strike on the Kashmir Assembly in 2001
- Involved in the IC 814 hijack in 1999. He planned the operation from Kathmandu
- In the '80s, he fought with Hekmatyar's men against the Russians in Afghanistan
- Expert at guerrilla warfare and taking hostages

# Lashkar-Simi links worry sleuths

Rajnish Sharma  
New Delhi, August 26

THE POSSIBILITY of a link between the banned Students Islamic Movement of India and the Lashkar-e-Taiba for the blasts in Mumbai on Monday has intelligence agencies worried.

Sources said Simi was known to have link with the Hizbul Mujahideen, which came to light following the arrest of some Simi activists in Delhi and UP over the past few months.

In fact, it was also learnt during investigations that

Hizbul had been training Simi activists in making explosives. But these were generally low-intensity crude explosives.

However, the Mumbai explosions, in which gelatine is suspected to have been used, were of high intensity. In fact, a team of explosives experts from the Bomb Data Centre (BDC) of the National Security Guard (NSG) was rushed in late on Monday to study the twin blasts.

The BDC at the Manesar headquarters of the NSG is a state-of-the-art facility that studies and collects data re-

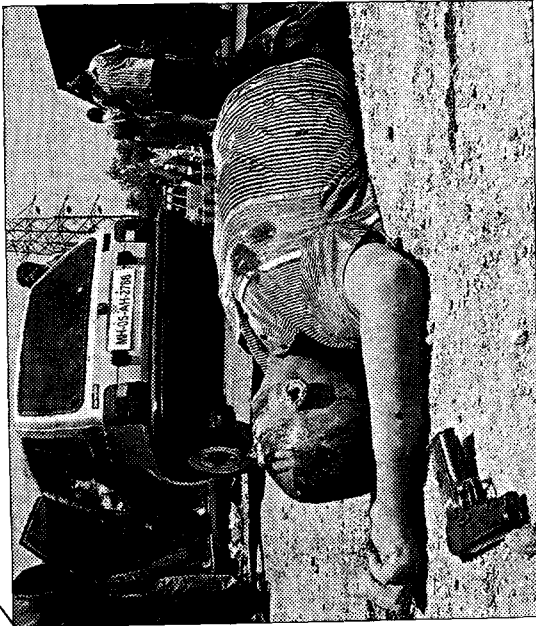
garding explosions. "The BDC has data on which militant outfit uses what kind of explosives. While outfits like the LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammed use high-intensity RDX and plastic-based TNT explosives, Hizbul normally has crude devices," a senior NSG official said.

The NSG unit dashed to Mumbai will study the explosions and then try and establish the outfits that could be behind them. But even NSG officials here claim that prima facie it appeared that either the LeT or Jaish could be responsible for the blasts.

## Cops gather clues

MUMBAI POLICE on Tuesday claimed to have gathered clues about the blasts and sent teams to Gujarat and Bihar to trace the suspects. The driver of the taxi in which a bomb was placed said a couple had hired his vehicle from Andheri. Based on his details, sketches of the suspects have been drawn.

HTC, Mumbai



FILE PHOTO

A Lashkar militant killed in a Mumbai encounter on March 29.

# Terrorism Mourning after

## Post-Mumbai blast, remember Pakistan

The horrific Mumbai blasts of 2003 must be seen in the context of the Mumbai blasts of 1993. No one has been convicted in the past ten years, not even in absentia. That fact would have been a great boost to the terrorists who set off Monday's blast — even if they are caught, justice will not catch up with them for quite a while. Add to indefensible judicial sloth, incomprehensible police failures. The Mumbai Police has a better reputation than elsewhere. It is also a veteran combatant of organised crime, the boundaries of which overlap considerably with Islamic extremism. But Monday's taxi bombs were preceded by five blasts spread over a period of nine months in the city. Here is surely enough time to get some sort of an investigation going. True, if terrorists target people in a densely populated city and use anything from cannisters to cars to hide their bombs, only lucky breaks can prevent a tragedy. But luck tends to favour the capable. The Mumbai Police and the Maharashtra government have not qualified. Questions hover over Central intelligence agencies also. Groups such as SIMI and LeT, have been named. If these are suspects, what is the extent of their penetration by official agencies, what is the degree of human and technological surveillance, how come home ministry officials can come up with a list of "whomighthavcdunits" but have no idea of this before the terrible act. As 9/11 investigations have shown, intelligence gaps can be so large and inter-agency functioning so inefficient that obvious clues are missed and perpetrators get away when they should be sweating it out in interrogation rooms. A review of Indian intelligence operations shouldn't have to wait for a cataclysm. Tragedies like Mumbai's are enough. But the political class won't react.

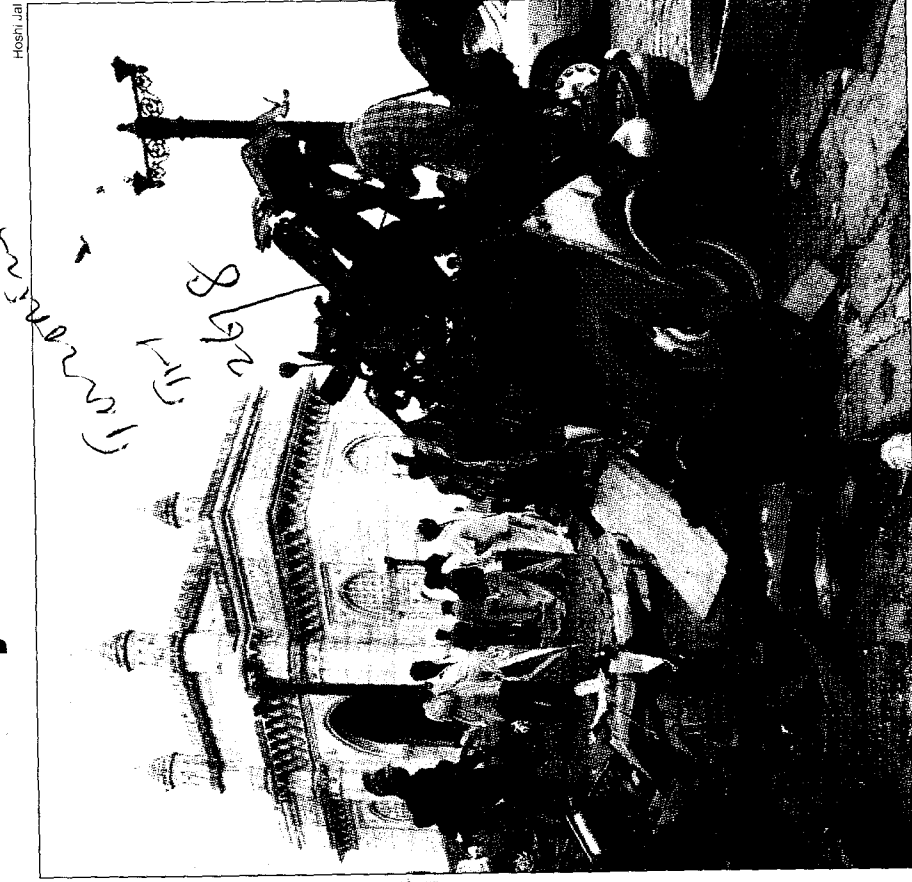
As we, perhaps inevitably, wait for the terrorists to kill more innocents it is useful to turn our attention to the ministry of external affairs. MEA has been steadfastly refusing to name Pakistan in any of the recent attacks. This is being lauded as maturity. Perhaps it is to the extent that the terrorists want to turn the subcontinental heat up. But keeping Pakistan out of the list of terror mongers makes sense only if Pakistan stops aiding and abetting terrorists. No one is suggesting that is the case. Indeed, the man behind the 1993 Mumbai blasts, Dawood Ibrahim, still finds Pakistan a congenial host. As India's most vibrant city is targeted again 10 years later, government must not forget that its first duty is to protect its citizens not be nice to unlovely neighbours. Check the proposition. Even when Pakistan's hand has been proven beyond reasonable doubt, we have only had protests of innocence from Islamabad.

THE STATESMAN

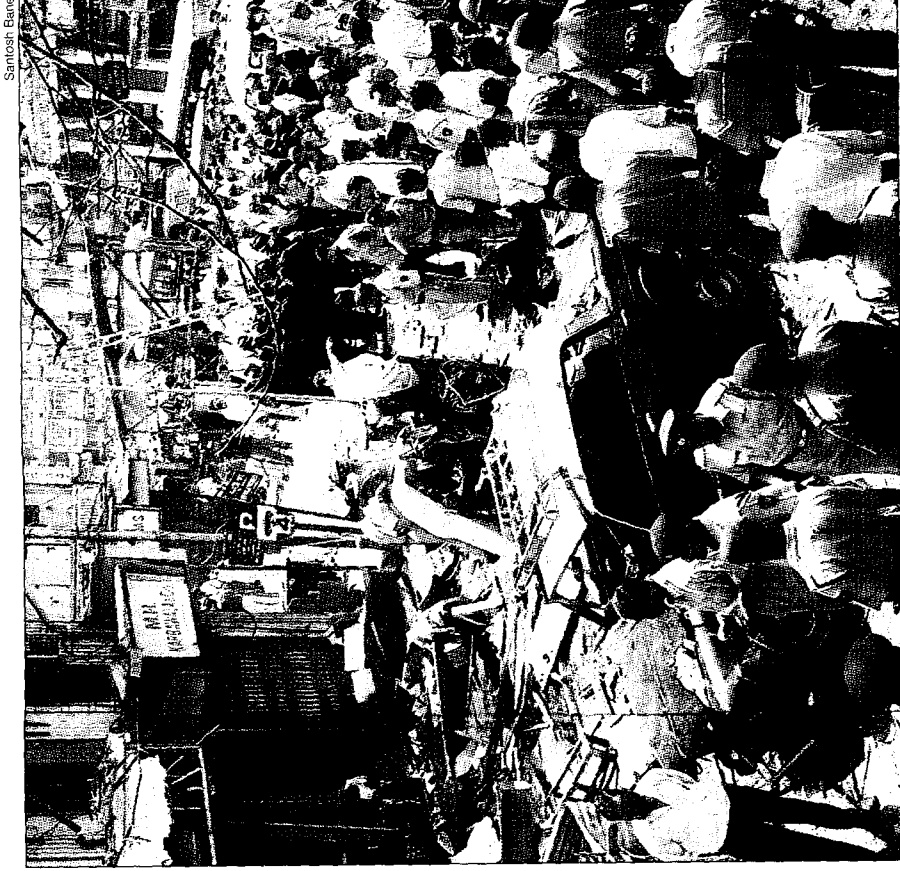
27 AUG 2003

# Twin explosions kill 44 in city

## 178 injured in car bomb blasts at Gateway, Zaveri Bazaar



Hoshji Jali



Santosh Bane

**BODY-BLOWS TO MUMBAI'S HEAD AND HEART:** The mangled remains of a taxi (left) lie in a car park near the Gateway of India in Mumbai on Monday. (Right) Volunteers and onlookers through the site of the Mumbadevi blast.

## Impact felt more than a km away

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Two loud bangs, and India's busiest megacity began its working week on Monday covered with blood, ripped metal and shards of glass.

It seemed like a close replay of the March 12, 1993 nightmare as two powerful car bombs tore through Mumbai's favourite tourist hotspot and a temple-site-cum-hyperactive trade hub, killing 44 people and injuring 178. Among the dead were two women and a little girl.

The first explosion occurred at 12.50 p.m. in a crowded lane near Mumbadevi temple in Mumbai's jewellery district, Zaveri Bazaar, while the second took place at the pay-and-park lot near the Gate-

way of India at about 1.05 p.m.

Both bombs were planted in the boot of cabs abandoned in a taxi stand and at the parking lot. Police sources said the explosives contained huge quantities of ammonium nitrate and nitroglycerine. The impact was so great that the taxis were, in both cases, thrown into the air and parts of the vehicles flew as far as 300 metres. The reverberations were felt in buildings more than a kilometre away.

The police have detained ten people, including a couple of taxi drivers, for interrogation. Unlike earlier occasions, no political party has so far called for a bandh.

Although the police officially declined to comment on the possible culprits, sources in the crime branch said they suspected the

Pakistan-sponsored terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and the Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), which was banned two years ago. The two groups have been named as suspects in five recent Mumbai blasts—at Chhatkopar (December 2, 2002, and July 28, 2003), Mumbai Central (December 6, 2002), Vile Parle (January 27, 2003) and Mulund (March 13, '03). Intelligence sources said they were exploring the possibility of the Monday blasts being a retaliation for the explosions in a Karachi shopping centre believed to be aimed at the Pakistan-based underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.

CM sounds red alert, Page 5

See Edit: Murderous Monday, Page 12

## Salaam, Mumbai

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Rizwana was in her office near Mohammad Ali Road on Monday afternoon when she heard the deafening sound of the blast at Zaveri Bazaar. Even as news trickled in, she left office with four of her colleagues for J.J. Hospital to donate blood.

Rizwana was one among many Mumbaiers who stopped their work not simply to express shock and grief, but to volunteer to help blast victims.

Several people called up this newspaper to find out where they could go to donate blood. Students of Grant Medical College quit studying for their exam, to be held on Tuesday, to donate blood. Said Sunita Bahore, a third-year student of medicine, who was awaiting her turn patiently at the blood bank, "We were studying in our hostel rooms when a colleague came and told us about the number of patients in need of blood. My entire class is here."

Asked if they were not worried about their test, Beena, a student, said, "This is more important." Utkarsh Shah, another student, went ahead and started distributing the blood donation forms. "I have given out over a hundred forms in less than half an hour. It is an overwhelming response, that too with no formal notice," he said.

Even as the entire staff of J.J. Hospital volunteered to donate blood, people left the comfort of their homes to help.

Disciplined citizens keep the peace, Page 5

## Ganesh mandals in city begin round-the-clock vigil

By Ambarish Mishra  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Alarmed by the explosions on Monday, the 8,000-odd Ganesh mandals across the city are ready with elaborate security measures for Mumbai's most popular festival, which is scheduled to take off on August 31.

The mandals plan to rope in more volunteers to man the venue and frisk the devotees whose turnout at some mandaps—Lalbaugcha Raja, for instance—is close to a lakh every day.

The Lalbaug sarvajanik mandal, which hosts the fabled 'Lalbaugcha Raja', has asked members of its 'jagran' samiti to start their round-the-clock vigil from Monday midnight. "We don't want to take any risks. The entire area will be floodlit. We may set up a door-frame metal detector at the main entry gate if the local police station advises us to do so," said mandal secretary Sudhir Salvi. Fifty volunteers will close in on the mandap, while an equal number of activists, drawn from local gyms, will screen the visitors and their bags. Several mandals will draft volunteers to keep a vigil on cars parked in the area.

Mandals to meet tomorrow, Page 5



# Cooperating against terror

By P. S. Suryanarayana

HD-10 23/8

**R**IDUAN ISAMUDDIN, the Indonesian better known as Hambali, is at the centre of a diplomatic battle of wits that Jakarta is waging with Washington. On the surface, the issue at stake is quite simple: a demand by Jakarta for "a quick access" to Hambali, who is in American custody as a terrorist-suspect. However, the collateral implications of this demand run deep and, in fact, impinge on Washington's undisguised agenda as a self-styled supercop in the "global war against terrorism."

Four inter-related aspects define the growing anti-terror sentiment along the Asiatic Rim of the Pacific Ocean in general, and South East Asia in particular. First, there is no doubt about the existence of a general and broad anti-terror consensus among the countries of South East Asia. In a sense, the terrorist carnage in Bali in October last year has strengthened such a pan-regional outlook. Second, the consensus is overshadowed by the manner in which the U.S. seeks to breathe down the necks of the South East Asian states in its own 'interests.'

The third feature is that the pan-regional consensus itself is nuanced, if not also fragmented, by the differing policies being adopted by the major South East Asian powers. On balance, the inter-state anti-terror consensus in the region does not unravel though. The fourth dimension is that of the attempt by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to cooperate with its various dialogue-partners ranging from China to Australia and even India, which, in a geopolitical sense, is not part of the East Asian spectrum or the Asia Pacific rubric.

Hambali, dubbed the Osama bin Laden of South East Asia, was captured at a small town in Thailand in an operation led by the U.S. secret services with help from the local security agencies. His capture, at an unspecified time, was announced by the U.S. President, George W. Bush, on August 14, as an important development in the "international war on terrorism." Not only that, Hambali was by then in the 'safe' custodial jurisdiction of the U.S., with Thailand, a long-time American ally in South East Asia, having obviously acquiesced. The buzz within the intelli-

## *The ASEAN-U.S. Joint Declaration on combating international terrorism will be put to the test by Washington's stand on Jakarta's request regarding Hambali.*

gence communities of South East Asia and the U.S. is that Hambali is the "operations chief" of Jemaah Islamiyah, the suspected regional arm of Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda.

What upset Indonesia is that one of its own nationals has been dealt with, virtually behind its back, by two other countries, one of which is a fellow-member of the ASEAN. It is common knowledge, of course, that Indonesia's equation with the U.S. is not in the same category of closeness as Thailand's. Nonetheless, Jakarta does not actually dispute the rights of either the U.S. or Thailand to nab a terror-suspect, whatever his or her nationality. In a sense, Jakarta's claims of jurisdiction over Hambali go beyond his identity as an Indonesian national. He is wanted in connection with the Bali outrage as also the recent bombing of a luxury hotel in Jakarta besides several other acts of religious violence in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority state. This explains Indonesia's scale of preferences in Hambali's case — immediate access to him, while still in U.S. custody, for interrogation and his eventual handover to Jakarta itself. In Indonesia's view, the absence of a bilateral extradition treaty with the U.S. should not be an insurmountable problem.

In comparison, the U.S. is eager to make the most of Hambali's capture, given his suspected connections with an alleged accomplice of the hijacker-terrorists who was caught in Pakistan some time ago. Quite apart from Hambali's suspected link to the terrorist strikes in the U.S. on September 11, 2001, Washington is also seized of his alleged preparations, at the time of his capture, for carrying out a major terrorist attack in Thailand itself, to coincide with the prospective summit of the forum for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) there later this year. Mr. Bush might attend the APEC summit.

Given such competing claims of jurisdiction over a top terrorist-suspect, Indonesia's diplomatic tussle

with the U.S. in this case brings into sharp focus how Washington tends to treat the South East Asian countries as either junior partners in or as players peripheral to its own 'interests' in the ongoing "multilateral war on terrorism." The interplay of the ASEAN's anti-terror consensus and the U.S.' priorities is the real stuff of this campaign in East Asia.

A Joint Declaration signed between the ASEAN and the U.S. in Brunei on August 1, 2002, spelt out some specific areas of anti-terror cooperation. These broadly covered (1) the implementation of all relevant resolutions of the United Nations, (2) an improvement of the modalities of sharing intelligence including that on terrorist-finances, (3) the enhancement of "liaison relationships amongst the law-enforcement agencies (of the participating countries) to engender practical counter-terrorism regimes," (4) a concerted move to "strengthen [the] capacity-building efforts" of one another in toning up anti-terror techniques, and (5) mutual assistance to "stem effectively the flow of terrorist-related material, money, and people." This checklist of 'dos' does not explicitly cover the kind of request that Indonesia has made to the U.S. about Hambali soon after his capture. However, the initial response to Indonesia from the U.S. is one of some willingness to share information. In a critical sense, therefore, the "ASEAN-U.S. Joint Declaration for Cooperation to combat international terrorism" will be put to the test by Washington's final stand on Jakarta's request regarding Hambali.

"Domestic laws and their specific circumstances" continue to define the anti-terror strategies of the ASEAN countries ever since Singapore detected the Jemaah Islamiyah's existence in South East Asia as a regional affiliate of the Al-Qaeda shortly after 9/11. This practice has led to differences in approach among the ASEAN states — a fact that might prove as critical to any specific epi-

sode of anti-terror cooperation among them as the gaps in the ASEAN-U.S. Joint Declaration have now proved to be in the Hambali case for Indonesia.

Indonesia has taken the path of enacting rigorous anti-terror laws, and a lower court recently imposed the death penalty on Amrozi, who has since appealed against this verdict in the first of the Bali terrorism cases. The overwhelming view of the lower court is that terrorist violence is "a crime against humanity" and should be dealt with accordingly. The bottom line in the anti-terror debate in Indonesia is that the country, already in search of a democratic destiny, should stay in sync with the general international opinion that terrorism cannot be countenanced as an instrument of any political or religious 'cause'. The secular tradition, which has traditionally remained strong in Indonesia, is now under challenge from a section of Islamic radicals. Abubakar Basyir (Bashir), billed as the "spiritual leader" of the Jemaah Islamiyah, is on trial for alleged treasonable offences against Indonesia. He denies any wrongdoing and also the authorship of or connections with the Jemaah Islamiyah 'movement'.

Singapore has not only publicised the details of its findings on the Jemaah Islamiyah but also intensified its anti-terror vigil. Asked how the city-state had zeroed in on the Jemaah Islamiyah, the Singapore Prime Minister, Goh Chok Tong, said that "it is fortuitous" although "we have always been quite careful about security." He said: "(A) Muslim reporter told our security agency that (a) certain Muslim was going to Afghanistan. Then you stumbled on the network in Singapore."

The Philippines draws heavily upon the U.S. military's training skills in fighting the assorted groups of domestic terrorists with some suspected international links. Malaysia, on the other hand, relies heavily on its Internal Security Act while insisting that the "root causes" of international terrorism be ascertained and defined. In East Asia, the general perception of terrorism corresponds to Paul Wilkinson's definition about the "systematic use of coercive intimidation" and also "violence" usually in pursuit of "political ends."

## ■ Suspects captured on camera at Gateway, say police

# Blast trail leads to Jaish camp

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai\New Delhi:** The Mumbai police suspect that the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad could be behind Monday's twin blasts in the city, which has claimed 52 lives besides injuring 178.

Sources in the crime branch said on Tuesday that the police were zeroing in on three suspects—two men and a woman—on the basis of sketches based on eye-witness accounts and

the pictures clicked by a photographer at the Gateway of India before the blast. The pictures showed the taxi in which the bomb was hidden and a few men standing near it.

The police claim the blast suspects are associates of Jaish members arrested in Thane last year. The Thane police had recovered documents showing maps of vital installations and tourist spots, including the Gateway of India, where Jaish members were planning to carry out major blasts.

Police teams have been sent to Gujarat, Bihar and several parts of Maharashtra to hunt for the suspects.

However, the police have no clue about the passengers of the taxi involved in the Mumbai blast as the driver was killed in the explosion.

The crime branch is also probing the possibility of the Jaish—headed by Masood Azhar, one of the three militants released during the Kandahar hostage swap in 1999—being as-

sisted by the Lashkar-e-Toiba to carry out the twin blasts, which involved the use of tri-nitro toluene (TNT) and electronic timers.

"The two are Pakistan-sponsored terrorist groups and they share a common objective of destabilising India's economy and causing panic," an IPS officer said.

External affairs minister Yashwant Sinha also said that Mumbai was targeted "because what these terrorists and their sponsors envy the

most is India's success in the economic field". He was speaking at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies in Singapore.

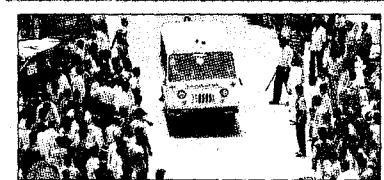
Meanwhile, an MEA spokesperson said in New Delhi on Tuesday that the "scale and frequency"

of terrorist attacks like Monday's twin blasts "no doubt make the task of sincere and well-intentioned initiatives" by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee towards Pakistan "more difficult".

"Action to eliminate terrorism cannot but have a positive bearing on the normalisation process (with Pakistan). That is why we are emphasising again and again that the dossier of terrorism cannot be overlooked," the spokesperson said in a restrained reaction.

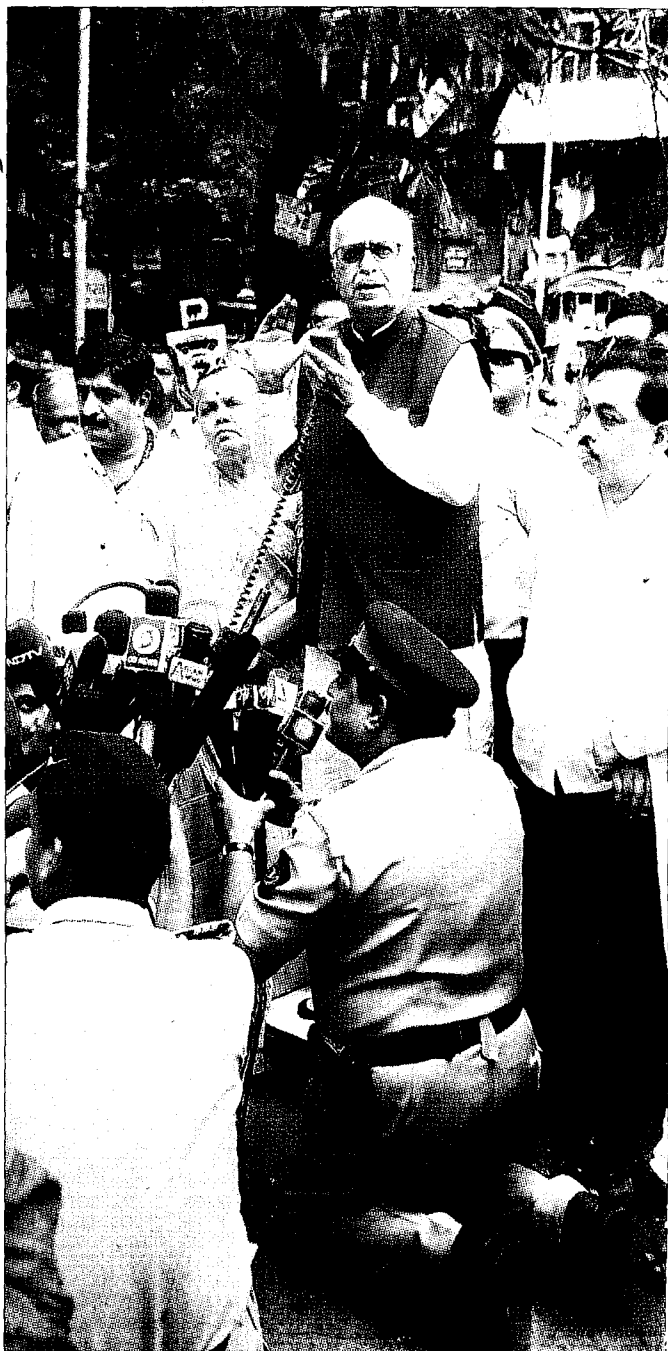
Incidentally, the civil aviation technical-level meeting to discuss the resumption of air links and overflight facilities between India and Pakistan is scheduled to take place in Islamabad on Wednesday and Thursday.

### Bloody Monday



DEAD  
**52**

INJURED  
**178**



A police officer holds a cluster of mikes for the electronic media as deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani addresses the press at the bomb blast site at Kalbadevi in Mumbai on Tuesday.

## Visiting politicians get the stick

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** The barrage of letters that poured into this newspaper office on Tuesday reflected more than just anguish—they reeked of unexpected disgust. "It's bad enough that citizens of Mumbai have to face periodic bomb blasts. What's worse is to listen to 'chota-mota' politicians shooting off their big mouths," wrote Homai Elavia, who had clearly worked herself into a lather over the BJP's demand that the ruling government resign. "If this is all they have to say at this time, shut up."

Ms Elavia seems to reflect the widespread mood in a city clearly unwilling to serve as an atmospheric backdrop for posturing politicians. When he made his mandatory 'chakkar' of bomb-battered Zaveri Bazaar on Monday afternoon, deputy CM Chhagan Bhujbal was greeted with angry 'hai, hais' and forced to beat a hasty exit. Similarly, deputy PM L.K. Advani met with catcalls on Tuesday. "Why aren't netas ever hurt in these blasts?" demanded an individual who, like many of his neigh-



Congress president Sonia Gandhi with CM Sushilkumar Shinde at the Gateway of India on Tuesday.

bours in the Mumbai area, was upset that 200 shops were forced to remain shut on the day after the blast, so that various VIPs could indulge in 'crocodile-tears' tourism.

Not that this indignation stopped ministers, MLAs and MPs. At J.J.

Hospital, harried doctors complained that the steady stream of VIPs—most of whom were more interested in the cameras than in the victims—seriously hampered their functioning. At G.T. Hospital, distraught friends and relatives were kept outside because the likes of Mr Advani, state health minister Digvijay Khanvilkar and Governor Mohammed Fazal were streaming in to pay courtesy calls.

Nawaz Mody, head of the politics department at Mumbai University, blames it on the television age. "Increasingly, politicians view these tragedies as photo-ops and literally jostle to get into the frame. What they don't realise is that the public can see just how shameless they are."

This realisation comes through in the many letters exhorting politicians not to use the blasts to score political points. Concur supercop Julio Ribeiro, who has noticed the spiralling anger against politicians and their self-serving shenanigans, "Politicians have always divided people along religious lines. I'm glad that people are finally standing up and saying 'enough'."

# UN grapples with hot-spot questions

## Survivor to never work in Iraq, Annan defiant

us?" He added: "This is another blow at the neutrality and the impartiality of the UN flag. Not since Count Bernadotte has a UN operation and its chief been targeted in this way."

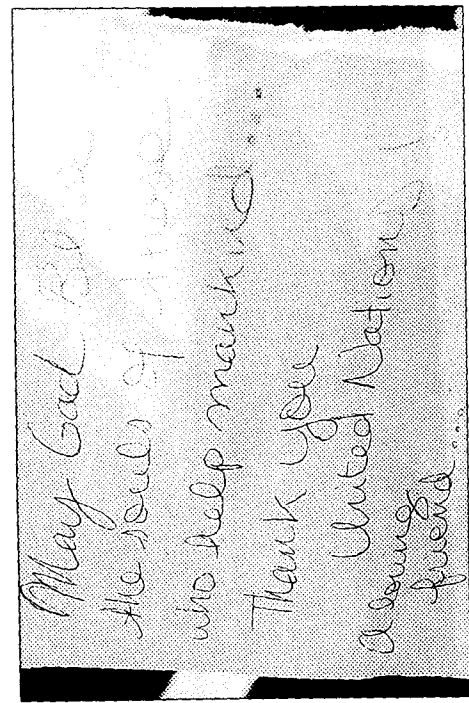
He was referring to the 1948 assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte, a Swedish nobleman trying to mediate between Israelis and Arabs, who was killed by Jewish radicals.

The existence of murderous opposition, Malloch Brown said, leaves UN officials with a bitter choice: increase security markedly, and decrease the ease of interaction between UN personnel and the Iraqis they are pledged to help, or continue a policy of openness, with an unacceptable risk of casualties.

"Even before this, there was concern" about security, he said. "But there was also a desire to operate as normally as possible, not live within a perimeter of guns and barbed wire."

The UN is a people organisation. If we lose that thread, if that gets cut it's more than an umbilical cord. It's at the core of the trust and legitimacy and moral authority of the blue flag."

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE



A message left at a temporary memorial in front of the UN headquarters in New York. (AFP)

**FELICITY BARRINGER**  
**United Nations, Aug. 20:** As grief at the devastating destruction of the UN compound in Baghdad cascaded through the organisation's headquarters yesterday, a few officials and diplomats began to raise troubling questions about the incident.

Was the UN trying to do too much with too little support — and particularly, too little security? And why has what one official called its "moral shield" become so porous?

Excluding peacekeepers, about 240 civilian UN workers have died in the line of duty since 1992 in places from Rwanda and East Timor to Somalia and Kosovo.

But there were more questions than easy answers. And there was a strong public reaction to continue the humanitarian and political crusade of Sergio Vieira de Mello, one of the civilian UN workers who died in the blast.

"Clearly, what has happened is going to oblige us to take stock," Shashi Tharoor, the undersecretary-general for public information, said. "We have to review our presence in Iraq. But

turn to work in Iraq. More than 100 people were wounded and rescuers were still scrabbling through the rubble for bodies late today.

Thomas Fuentes, a senior FBI agent investigating the blast, said it was caused by the detonation of at least 450 kg of military grade explosives.

At least 20 other wounded were lying bandaged at the Shahid Adnan hospital, most of them Iraqis who worked as support staff at the UN building. Doctors complained about shortages of medicines, power and water. At another hospital, some 40 wounded were being treated and doctors said two had died of their injuries.

James Haveman, a senior US adviser to the Iraqi ministry of health, said many of the injured would have to be evacuated to specialist clinics.

dinator, had called a meeting yesterday to discuss reconstruction when the powerful truck bomb ripped through the UN headquarters.

One moment she saw an Iraqi employee coming down the corridor carrying a cup of coffee, the next moment he had disappeared in a cloud of dust as the floor fell away.

She said a Unicef official at her meeting had died in the explosion, which also claimed the life of UN special envoy to Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello.

"There was a very big blast, and when the dust settled I saw many people lying around on the floor," she said. "Everybody was hurt, some of them very seriously. It was so sudden. The flying glass and the blast did so much damage." Bolduc, a Canadian who has worked for the UN for 18 years, said she would never re-

turn to work in Iraq. More than 100 people were wounded and rescuers were still scrabbling through the rubble for bodies late today.



# 'Army munitions were used'

**BAGHDAD, AUG. 20.** Military weapons, including a Soviet-built 500-pound bomb, were used to blow up part of the United Nations headquarters here on Tuesday, the FBI's special agent in Iraq said today. The blast killed 24 people, including the top U.N. official in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and injured over 100.

The explosives also included artillery shells, mortar rounds and grenades, although not all them went off, the agent, Thomas V. Fuentes, said. "It's not a homemade device... It was from military munitions."

Mr. Fuentes, who is in charge of the FBI's investigation of the blast, added that it was now believed that the truck used in the attack was not a cement mixer, because no part of a metal mixing bowl had been found. But he said body parts had been found in the truck's wreckage, confirm-

ing that the vehicle was driven by a suicide bomber. Rescue workers were still digging through the rubble of the compound today, in the belief that more bodies might be found.

There were increased security concerns amid signs of strain between the United States and the Iraqi Governing Council. At issue is the role of the American-appointed council and its desire to take a bigger role in running the country. While the U.S. says it wants the Iraqis to be more prominent in that regard, council members apparently feel that the real power still rests with L. Paul Bremer, Washington's top civilian administrator here. One of the council's 25 members, Ahmad Chalabi, today said supporters of the ousted Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein, were behind the compound blast. — *New York Times*

**"U.N. won't be intimidated": Page 14**

**THE HIND**

**THE HIND**

21 AUG 2003

# Libya accepts responsibility for Lockerbie bombing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNHQ, Aug. 16. — In a move paving the way for lifting of UN sanctions on Libya, Tripoli has accepted responsibility for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, renounced terrorism and pledged to pay compensation amounting to \$2.7 billion to the victims.

Libya made the commitments in a three-page letter delivered to the UN Security Council yesterday.

In the letter, Libyan envoy Mr Ahmed Own said it accepts the responsibility for the "action of its officials" in the destruction of the Pan Am airliner.

Shortly after the letter was delivered, the USA and Britain informed the UN that Libya has met the conditions for permanent lifting of sanctions.

However, the White House said the USA would maintain its own embargo, or even intensify it, till Tripoli ends the "threatening elements" of its policy.

In a strongly worded statement, White House spokesman Mr Scott McClellan Libya castigated Libya for its "poor" human rights record, lack of democratic institutions, "destructive" role in "perpetuating" regional conflicts in Africa and "worrisome" pursuit of weapons of mass destruction.

"The USA will intensify its efforts to end threatening elements of Libyan behaviour and US bilateral sanctions on Libya will remain in force until Libya addresses these concerns," he said.

Two Libyans were indicted in connection with the bombing that killed 270 people, including 11 on the ground.

**THE STATESMAN**

17 AUG 2003

# Top Asian brain of Al Qaida held in Thailand

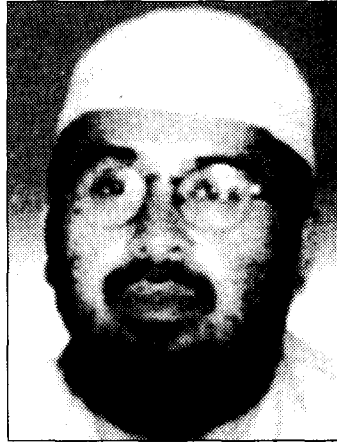
*Terrmins  
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16/8*

**Bangkok:** Asia's most-wanted man Hambali, the alleged mastermind of the Bali bombings and a top ally of Al Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, has been captured in Thailand, the government said on Friday.

World leaders hailed the arrest of the 36-year-old Islamic militant who has been on the run since the September 11 attacks on the United States, and who is also linked to last week's deadly blast at the JW Marriott hotel in Jakarta.

"He is a known killer," President George W. Bush said after the announcement Hambali was in US custody. "He is a close associate of September 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. He is one of the world's most lethal terrorists." There was confusion over Hambali's whereabouts, with Indonesian officials denying Thai defence minister Thamarak Issarangkun Na Ayutthaya's statement that he had been flown to Indonesia. Mr Thamarak told reporters that Hambali and his wife were arrested on Monday and extradited to Indonesia on Wednesday in an operation conducted "with the cooperation of many countries."

However, Indonesian police chief General Dai Bachtiar insisted Hambali was still "in another country." Asked by reporters if he would be brought to Indonesia, he replied: "Not yet. Not yet." Indonesian foreign minister Hassan Wirayuda said he expected Hambali to be handed over to Jakarta in due course "so we can investigate and bring him to justice." A senior Thai immigration police official told AFP that Hambali crossed into Thailand from Laos over the weekend, travelling on a



Hambali

fake Spanish passport and disguised by shaving his heavy beard. After being taken to the immigration department in Bangkok, he was "handed over to US authorities and taken on a special US flight," he said.

A source at the military's Supreme Command security operations centre said Hambali was arrested in the central city of Ayuthaya "without any resistance" and with the knowledge of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra said Hambali was arrested after a tip-off from local residents prompted authorities to check his passport.

"Intelligence officials then found that he was the one who the whole world was looking for," he said from Sri Lanka where he is on an official visit. Hambali, a top leader of regional terror network Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), is wanted in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines in connection with a series of bomb attacks. AFP

# S-E. Asia fears retaliation by terror outfit

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, AUG. 15. The capture of Hambali, a top Asian terror suspect, has been welcomed in the Asia-Pacific region with a note of caution about the possibility of reprisals by his associates.

According to the authorities in this region, Hambali, an Indonesian national by the name of Riduan Isamuddin, was nabbed at Ayutthaya in Thailand, with the U.S. counter-terror agencies playing a prominent role.

Even as the President, George W. Bush, announced Hambali's capture to signal its importance to the ongoing "war on terrorism", regional leaders underlined the challenges ahead.

Several Governments and security analysts in the region identify Hambali as the chief organiser of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the suspected South East Asian affiliate of the Al-Qaeda. The JI's presumed head, Abubakar Baasyir (Bashir), is now on trial for alleged treasonable offences against Indonesia.

The Indonesian Foreign Minister, Hassan Wirajuda, indicated his country would want the U.S. to hand over Hambali to Jakarta.

Hambali is a prime suspect in the terrorist attacks in Bali last year and the recent bombing at a hotel in Jakarta. However, Mr. Hassan said Indonesians "fully understand that terrorism is an international threat to peace and security". Moreover, he said, Hambali "is also on the 'wanted lists' (of) others". Jakarta might be willing to wait for his hand-over by the U.S.

At the same time, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Akbar Tandjung, wanted Hambali to be tried in Indonesia. In a separate but related development, the Indonesian President,

Megawati Sukarnoputri, told Parliament today that her administration was "making utmost efforts to uncover the network of barbaric acts".

The Thai authorities, while not saying much on the circumstances of Hambali's capture, let an impression gain currency that he was, at the time of his arrest, plotting a terrorist strike in Thailand during the upcoming summit of the forum for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in October.

The authorities in the Philippines, a key "ally" of the U.S. in the anti-terror war, said the arrest would deliver a "very decisive blow" against international terrorism, especially in South East Asia.

One Filipino official described Hambali as "the spark plug of the JI". It was necessary, therefore, to guard against any repercussions, it was stressed. The apprehensions about "counter-action" by JI activists and pleas for greater vigil were part of the general refrain in the region today.

Reacting to the capture, the Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, whose 86 compatriots were among those killed in the Bali bombings, said, "It is a huge breakthrough. This man is a very big fish. He is the main link between (the) Al-Qaeda and (the) JI. He was almost certainly the ultimate mastermind of the Bali attack. I congratulate the Americans and I am sure that, psychologically, his capture will inflict a very heavy blow on the worldwide terrorist network".

In related developments, Indonesia began weighing the pros and cons of revising its anti-terror laws to give more powers to security agencies, while Thailand's legislation against terrorism came up for judicial scrutiny.

# Lockerbie kin, Libya reach deal

Washington, Aug. 14 (Reuters): Libya and families of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing victims agreed today to set up a \$2.7 billion compensation account in a key step toward closing the book on the mid-air airliner explosion that killed 270 people and further poisoned Libya's relations with the West.

Lawyers for the families said they and Libyan officials signed the agreement in London after an 11-hour meeting. Libya was expected to follow up by sending

a letter to the UN Security Council taking responsibility for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The Libyan admission of guilt — long demanded by the US and Britain — and the actual payment of the \$2.7 billion were expected to be followed by moves to lift UN sanctions against Libya, possibly as early as next week. Diplomats stressed the matter will not be settled until Libya admits responsibility in writing — something it has long

been loathe to do — and pays the compensation, which could ultimately reach \$10 million per victim.

US sanctions will stay in place for now despite US oil companies' eagerness to do business with Tripoli again, US officials said.

Some US sanctions predate Lockerbie and reflect Washington's long-standing anger at what it views as Libyan support for acts like the 1986 bombing of a Berlin disco that triggered US airstrikes on Libya.

"Libya and the lawyers representing families of the victims have signed an agreement to cre-

ate the escrow account at the Bank for International Settlements," British-based Algerian lawyer Saad Djebbar, who has followed the case since 1992, said.

"I expect that by the middle of next week UN sanctions will have been finally removed on Libya," Djebbar said.

Jim Kreindler, a US attorney for many families, wrote in a letter to his clients: "Great news. After an 11-hour session in London today, we signed an Escrow agreement with the Libyan delegation and the Bank (for) International Settlements." He said he expected the \$2.7 billion to be deposited "soon."

In a brief telephone interview, Kreindler said Libya would probably wire the money into the account next week.

Some relatives of the 259 people who were killed aboard the Boeing jumbo jet and the 11 people who died on the ground reacted bitterly at what they described as the first step toward Libya being welcomed back into the world community.

"Obviously we're not happy. We feel this may be the first step in the rehabilitation of (Libyan leader) Muammar Gaddafi," said Dan Cohen of New Jersey, whose 20-year-old daughter Theodora died in the bombing.

1578  
Tennison

# FBI nets India-born man in arms sting

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Washington:** American federal authorities on Tuesday arrested a Briton of Indian origin who was attempting to sell a surface-to-air missile to undercover FBI agents posing as terrorist sympathisers wanting to attack targets in the US.

The British man, whose name is said to be Hemad Lakhani, was taken into custody at a hotel near Newark International Airport in New Jersey following an elaborate multi-country sting operation involving authorities in the US, Russia and Britain.

Also arrested were two New

York gem dealers who transferred money overseas to the suspect through hawala transactions in connection with the deal. Their identities were not disclosed.

There are many persons of Indian origin in New York's diamond district, but according to one wire service account, the dealers are of Pakistani and Afghan origin.

US officials said the men did not seem to be associated with any terrorist organisation and appeared to be driven by money. But the key suspect, Lakhani, produced a dummy Russian-made shoulder-fired SA-18 missile for

undercover FBI agents and promised more later—despite being led to believe the arms were meant for Al Qaida operatives who wanted to mount an attack against the US.

In taped conversations with the decoys, Lakhani is said to have spoken favourably of Osama bin Laden and praised the 9/11 attacks as “a good thing”. In another tape, he tells his buyer that Americans are “bastards”.

US officials are expected to produce the tapes as evidence after producing Lakhani, who is said to be middle-aged and born in India, in a federal court in Newark later

on Wednesday. He is likely to face charges of weapons smuggling and material support of terrorism.

TNN adds from Mumbai: The city crime branch is checking records of illegal arms suppliers from the Dawood Ibrahim and Amar Naik gangs to ascertain whether they include the name of Hemad Lakhani.

A senior crime branch officer said, “We have not found any crime record on Lakhani so far.”

A team of three inspectors has been assigned the task of checking into police records, both manual and computerised.

# US sees al-Qaida link in embassy blast

9/15  
9/18  
FANON 72

Baghdad, August 8

A GROUP linked to al-Qaida, Ansar al-Islam, may have been behind the Jordan embassy blast in Baghdad, which killed 17 people, American officials said on Friday.

In the latest attack on American forces, a US soldier was shot and killed in western Baghdad, the military reported on Friday. Also, US snipers killed two men unloading weapons for sale in a market in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

American troops in Iraq have been plagued by guerrilla-style

shootings and roadside bombs blamed on Saddam loyalists and other opponents of the US occupation. But Thursday's embassy bombing, in contrast, was a classic terrorist operation — and could signal a new entrant onto the scene: terror groups and foreign fighters.

Ansar al-Islam's headquarters in northeastern Iraq near the Iranian border was wiped out in American bombing early in the war. It has been reconstructed in Iraq, with members who survived the American attack filtering back into the country from Iran, L. Paul Bremer,

the US administrator of occupied Iraq, said at a recent news conference.

US-run Radio Sawa, which broadcasts to West Asia, quoted American Lt. Gen. Norton Schwartz on Friday as saying American authorities were looking at Ansar al-Islam as a potential sponsor of the bombing.

Officials on Friday raised the death toll from the blast to 17. After initially reporting 11 deaths, more than 50 people were wounded in the powerful explosion at the Jordanian Embassy. On Friday, the Jordanian flag flew at half-mast as US and

Iraqi investigators looked through the debris for clues.

"What this shows is that in fact we have some terrorists that are operating here," Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of US-led forces in Iraq, said at a news conference. "It shows we are still in a conflict zone."

Schwartz said US officials didn't have any specific information linking Ansar al-Islam to the bombing but were looking for any possible link. "That is an al Qaida-related organisation and one that we are focusing attention on," Schwartz said at the Pentagon. He added, "They

had, before the war, infrastructure in Iraq, and some of that remains, and our effort is focused on eliminating that."

The American soldier whose death was announced Friday was attacked Thursday night in the upscale al-Mansour neighbourhood, the third American soldier reported slain in the capital in the past two days. There were no other details of the death and his name was withheld until relatives are notified.

Since President Bush announced an end to major combat in Iraq on May 1, 56 soldiers have died in combat. The total

combat casualties in the war has climbed to 170, 23 more than in the 1991 Gulf War.

In the Tikrit weapons market on Friday, witnesses and military officials said the US snipers killed two men and wounded two others. Women ran screaming as they heard the shots and saw a man who was unloading AK-47 assault rifles from the trunk of a red sedan fall to the ground. US forces had positioned snipers around the market after hearing that weapons and ammunition were sold there every Friday, said Lt. Col. Steve Russell.

AP

# Truck bomb rocks Baghdad embassy

Baghdad, August 7 (AP) —

A TRUCK bomb exploded outside the Jordanian embassy compound in Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least 11 people and strewing gutted cars, body parts and a severed head across the street outside.

The blast came a week after Jordan announced it had granted asylum to Saddam Hussein's elder daughters Raghda and Rana and their children. Many of Saddam's supporters are also angry at

Amman, regarding Jordan as an ally of Washington. No group has claimed responsibility for the blast.

Iraqi police Captain Ahmad Suleiman said six civilians were killed in a car caught in the blast and five policemen outside the complex also died. At least 65 people were wounded, including seven in the embassy.

Jordan condemned the attack and pledged to bring the perpetrators to justice, whoever they were.

"This is a cowardly terrorist attack that we condemn in the strongest terms. It will not divert us from our path of support and aid to the Iraqi people or the process of stabilization," Information Minister Nabil al-Sharif said in Amman.

He said there were no reports that any embassy staff members had been killed, but some might have been wounded.

Captain Robert Ramsey of the US 1st Armored Divi-

sion said a truck had exploded outside the building at around 11 am local time. One of the outer walls of the compound collapsed.

Elsewhere in the capital, a US Humvee vehicle was in flames after it was attacked. Troops at the scene exchanged fire with people in nearby buildings and at least one Iraqi bystander was killed as bullets sprayed the streets.

The US military said that in an earlier gunbattle in central Baghdad on

Wednesday night, guerrillas killed two American soldiers and wounded another, along with an Iraqi interpreter. The deaths brought to 55 the number of US troops killed in hostile action since May 1.

In Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, the commander of the 4th Infantry Division said raids over the past day had captured four high-level suspects, including a leader of Saddam's Fedayeen militia, captured in Tikrit, and two associates of Saddam's

son Uday seized in Kirkuk. Major General Ray Odierno, commander of the US 4th Infantry Division which has mounted multiple raids around Tikrit to hunt for Saddam and his top lieutenants, said the fugitive dictator was keeping on the move to evade capture.

"He's on the run. He's moving every three to four hours," Odierno told a news conference.

"Every day we get four or five reports that he could be

anywhere from Kirkuk to Baquba to Tikrit."

Citing intelligence data, Odierno said: "He is clearly moving three to four times every single day... On some of the raids we've done there are indications that somebody's been moving through there. And somebody extremely important."

Asked how Saddam was eluding capture, he said: "My guess is he's moving around in unassuming clothes and vehicles."

Reuters



# Bali accused gets death sentence

The Star/ ANN & AP

BALI, Aug. 7. — In the first verdict over last year's Bali bombings, an Indonesian court today sentenced to death Amrozi bin Nurhasyim, a key player in the attack that killed 202 people.

Amrozi was found guilty of planning and helping execute the bombings. "The accused is found guilty in a legal and convincing manner of carrying out an act of terrorism," Mr Justice I Made Karna.

After the verdict was read, Amrozi took off his skull cap, raised his arms and gave his lawyers the thumbs-up sign. Hundreds of people, including survivors of the bombings, cheered when the judge read the sentence.

The judge said Amrozi has seven days to appeal his sentence.

The verdict came two days after another bomb exploded at the JW Marriott Hotel in Jakarta, killing at least 14 people and wounding nearly 150. Both attacks have been linked with Jemaah Islamiyah, which is linked to the Al-Qaida.



LAUGHTER, AND NO TEARS: Amrozi smiles after receiving the death sentence in a Bali court on Thursday. — AFP

Indonesia's government, which was accused of being soft on terrorists before the Bali explosions, has been eager to show the world that it is committed to bringing the perpetrators to justice.

As he was led out of the courtroom, Amrozi smiled broadly at Australian survivors, some of whom shouted back angrily. Amrozi's was first of at least three dozen cases to come to trial.

Three other defendants are currently facing trials in Denpasar, the capital of Bali island. At least 30 other suspects, apprehended after

a massive manhunt, are expected to face justice in coming months.

Maj. Gen. Made Pastika, who led the Bali investigation, said only six suspects in the Bali attacks remain on the loose.

**Verdict hailed:** In Canberra, Australian Prime Minister Mr John Howard welcomed the verdict and said it would offer some comfort to the bereaved.

"I'm sure I speak for all Australians in welcoming the guilty verdict," Mr Howard told reporters.

More than 80 Australians were killed in the Bali explosions.

# Iran rules out al-Qaida swap

Tehran, August 4

IRAN SAID on Monday it would not hand over any detained members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida to Washington and denied trying to strike a prisoner exchange deal with the US.

Iran publicly acknowledged for the first time last month that it was holding some senior al-Qaida figures and said it planned to extradite some of them to "friendly countries".

On Saturday, *The New York Times* quoted a US official as saying Washington had approached Tehran with a request to hand over al-Qaida men in Iranian custody, including Saif al-Adel, an Egyptian thought to be al-Qaida's security chief.

The paper said Iran wanted the US to hand over members of the People's Mujahideen Iranian opposition group, currently under US control in Iraq, in return. But Iran's government spokesman Abdollah Ramazanzadeh told a news conference on Monday that Tehran was not interested in such a deal.

"Iran has never asked for such a swap. We never make deals or act selectively regarding terrorism," he said.

He said al-Qaida members could only be handed over to countries with which Iran had extradition agreements.

"Since last year, identified

(al-Qaida) suspects have been extradited to friendly countries with which we have an agreement for extraditing criminals," Ramazanzadeh said. "But we do not have such an agreement with America."

Ramazanzadeh declined to reveal the identity of the al-Qaida members in Iran's custody for "security reasons". He said members of al-Qaida who had committed crimes in Iran would be prosecuted by Iranian courts.

## Iran close to nuke power

Iran appears to be in the late stages of developing the capacity to build a nuclear bomb with the help of scientists from several countries, including Pakistan, the *Los Angeles Times* said on Monday.

A three-month investigation by the daily revealed proof that Iran's commercial programme masks a plan to become the world's next nuclear power. "Scientists from Pakistan, Russia, China and North Korea have propelled Iran's nuclear programme much closer to producing a bomb than Iraq ever was."

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will decide whether Tehran agrees to tougher UN inspections of its nuclear facilities, a government spokesman said on Monday.

Agencies

# Classified U.S. report opens Pandora's box

140-12  
14/8

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, AUG. 2. More information is starting to come out about the still classified 28-page section of the Congressional Inquiry on the terror attacks of September 11, 2001; and the focus of the investigators has been on some prominent nationals from Saudi Arabia, including the Royal family to see if they have knowingly or just unwittingly assisted the Al-Qaeda terrorists.

Media reports, based on people who have supposedly read the classified section, say that an imam in the U.S. could have been a facilitator for the hijackers. Unnamed officials have been quoted in reports that the most sensitive aspect of the 9/11 inquiry had to do with the current efforts of American enforcement and intelligence agencies in investigating the Saudi Arabia linkage as it pertained to persons and organisations.

What is being pointed out at this stage is that investigators are trying to determine if there was indeed a deliberate intent on the part of some in Saudi Arabia or they were just giving away money as they are supposed to in a cultural context and not knowing or aware of where it all ended up.

Saudi Arabia has expressed outrage and anger at the allegation that the Kingdom may have been a direct participant in the attacks of 9/11; and it made a direct call on the President, George W. Bush, to release the now classified Congressional Report. Mr. Bush has flatly rejected the appeal saying that it made "no sense" to do so at a time of ongoing investigations.

## Saudi man a mole?

The attention now focuses for a good part on a Saudi national, Omar al Bayoumi, who befriended two of the hijackers but left the U. S. two

months before the 9/11 attacks and settled in Britain. American and British intelligence had quizzed Mr. Bayoumi but he was released.

Mr. Bayoumi was at one time said to be a member of the Saudi Aviation agency, but now questions are being posed if he was an intelligence agent. And it is being said that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has now expressed serious interest in obtaining several videotapes from Mr. Bayoumi including the welcoming party he is supposed to have had for the two hijackers.

According to reports, Congressional officials in the classified report questioned the kind of work Mr. Bayoumi did and why his funds were stopped after he started befriending the two hijackers.

Interest is also being evinced in the intelligence and investigative committees on the donations that the Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the U.S.

and his wife have given to a Saudi national, Osama Basnan and his wife, Magda Ibrahim Dweikat. The problem is not in the Saudi Ambassador or his wife giving away donations, but in the fact that two or three cheques written to Ms. Dweikat were signed over to Mr. Bayoumi's wife. Saudi officials have found no evidence of Mr. Bayoumi turning over the this money to the hijackers or that he even used this money to assist the hijackers.

According to those who have seen the classified report, a lot of interest had been expressed by the intelligence agencies and Congressional investigators on Mr. Basnan who was charged with visa violations in the aftermath of 9/11 and sent back to Saudi Arabia.

But apparently the FBI had clearly indicated that Mr. Basnan was an 'extremist' and a supporter of Osama bin Laden. And Congressional investigators, in the classified section of the re-

port, had tried to trace the movement of Mr. Basnan after 9/11 — one of the possibilities pursued was of him going to Houston to meet with a Saudi national with ties to the country's intelligence and one who had come down with the Royal family when they visited Mr. Bush in Texas.

The Congressional report also to some extent supposedly focuses on an Imam who had been on the FBI's watch-list.

The unnamed imam is seen as a spiritual advisor for two of the hijackers and his mosques may have been facilitation centres for the hijackers in both the Coasts.

The classified report is making the point that for some reason the FBI dropped pre 9/11 enquiries about the imam in spite of his contacts with "subjects of counter-terrorism interest and reports concerning the Imam's connections to suspect organisations".

summary?

us@

# America, Iran spar over al-Qaida No. 3

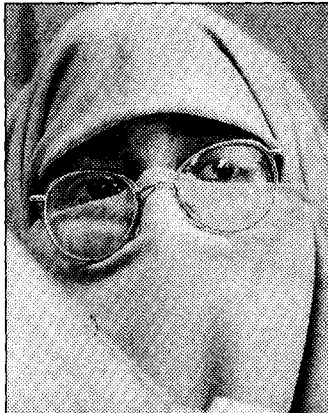
Washington, August 2

IRAN HAS taken into custody the third-ranking member of al-Qaida — Saif al-Adel — but has rebuffed an initial American effort to have him and other top al-Qaida figures handed over to Washington, US officials said on Saturday.

American and West Asian officials said Iran had signalled that any surrender of al-Qaida members to the US should be matched by a surrender to Tehran of members of the Mujahedeen Khalq, an Iranian opposition group that is on the State Department's list of terrorist outfits. Many of that group's members are in camps under US military supervision in Iraq.

An American official said the US had made "a recent approach" to Iran through a third party to ask that Adel and other al-Qaida members be handed over. But that offer did not include any proposed swap, and the US "did not receive a positive response", the American official said.

Published reports in recent weeks have identified various members of al-Qaida, including Adel, said to be in Iranian cus-



Azra Ahsan, wife of Ahsan Aziz, holds a press conference in Rawalpindi on Saturday. Aziz alleged that her husband was kidnapped by Pakistani forces on the orders of the FBI and demanded that authorities give her husband a fair trial.

today. But the American and West Asian officials who discussed the matter on Saturday said they were certain that Adel and other figures were in Iranian hands, and they provided the first details of the failed American effort to win custody of the al-Qaida figures and

about Iran's interest in arranging a swap of terrorist suspects.

A US official said the American approach that was rebuffed by Iran had been relayed through the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, which handles American interests there. Iran's Intelligence Minister Ali Yunesi acknowledged publicly for the first time last week that Tehran was holding "elements of al-Qaida", but his government has refused to identify those it says are in custody. An Iranian spokesman, Hamiz-Reza Asefi, said on Monday that Iran was "completing the files" on the al-Qaida members before deciding their fate.

The Bush administration has likewise refused to say who it believes may be in Iranian hands. But the State Department has called on Iran "to deport these people either to jurisdictions where they're wanted or to their home countries".

Officials who identified Adel as being among those in Iranian custody spoke on condition of anonymity. They believed that other al-Qaida members in Iran included Saad bin Laden, one of Osama bin Laden's sons, and Suleiman Abu Geith.

The New York Times

# 9/11 attack account trail leads FBI to Pakistan

Washington, Aug. 1 (Agencies): Investigators have traced the funding for the September 11 attacks to al Qaeda accounts in Pakistan, a top FBI counter-terrorism official told a US Senate panel.

But the official did little to clarify alleged Saudi Arabian role in the funding.

John S. Pistole, deputy assistant director of the FBI's counter-terrorism division, said yesterday that investigators have traced the origin of the funding of 9/11 back to financial accounts in Pakistan, where high-ranking and well-known al Qaeda operatives played a major role in moving the money forward, eventually into the hands of the hijackers located in the US.

Pistole did not specify in his testimony to the Senate government affairs committee how those accounts in Pakistan were funded.

The FBI has estimated the cost of the September 11 attacks between \$175,000 and \$250,000. That money, which paid for flight training, travel and other expenses, flowed to the hijackers through associates in Germany and the United Arab Emirates.

Those associates reported to Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, who managed much of the planning for the attacks from Pakistan, US officials said.

Pistole did not discuss reports that some support for the September 11 hijackers came from Saudi Arabia. Fifteen of the hijackers were Saudis.

Senators sought details on the Bush administration's efforts to crack down on Saudi charities accused of terrorism ties.

Richard Newcomb, the director of the treasury department's office of foreign assets control, said some Saudi organisations provide considerable support for terrorism.

"The extent to which that takes place is not completely clear, but I would characterise it as considerable," he said.

Newcomb's office is one that recommends freezing foreign bank accounts tied to terrorists. Under questioning, Newcomb said other federal agencies had at times quashed his office's recommendations to freeze funding for certain organisations. He

would not name those organisations.

Senator Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican, said he worried that Saudi Arabia "was being shielded for foreign policy reasons".

The hearing came against the backdrop of questions about Saudi connections to terror, particularly to the September 11 attacks.

Some are calling for the declassification of 28 secret pages in the recent September 11 report that officials say describe a web of connections between prominent businessmen, members of the Saudi royal family and the charities they support.

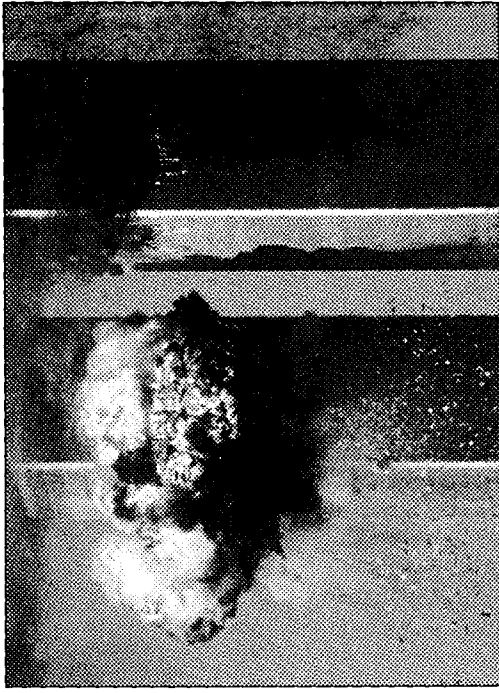
Nothing new: India  
India described the FBI claim as "nothing new" and said it un-

derpinned the importance of credibly eradicating terrorist networks.

"Information disclosed by the FBI concerning September 11 funding being linked to accounts in Pakistan is not new," the external affairs ministry's spokesman said in New Delhi.

"It being stated in a senate hearing underlines the importance of ensuring that networks linked with terrorism are credibly eradicated," the spokesman added.

India has conveyed to its interlocutors from the US and other countries that Pakistan continues to be the focal point of terrorism in the region and they should not overlook this in the war against the scourge, he said.



The twin towers of the World Trade Center on fire after the hijacked planes crashed into them.

# Saudi Minister rushes to U.S.

30/7

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

**NEW YORK, JULY 29.** Outraged and furious at the manner in which Saudi Arabia is being portrayed over its alleged involvement in the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, the Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Faisal, has rushed to Washington for a meeting with the United States President, George W. Bush.

The meeting will take place later on Tuesday after Mr. Bush meets the Prime Minister of Israel, Ariel Sharon.

But it is being pointed out that the fact that Prince Faisal was able to see the President at such short notice is itself reflective of not only the political clout it has but also the determination of the Kingdom to counter the charges and accusations in a direct manner.

The Saudi Ambassador, Prince Bandan bin Sultan, will also be present at the meeting.

According to reports, Prince Faisal will ask Mr. Bush to declassify the 28 pages of a 900-page Congressional Inquiry — the section relating to “foreign support” as it pertains to the attacks of 9/11.

Saudi Arabia is outraged at suggestions that the country could have been a willing participant in the attacks.

Saudi Arabia has been pointing out that the argument that the country helps outfits such as

Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda is patently wrong for the simple reason that the terrorist outfit is as opposed to Saudi Arabia as it is to the U.S.; and persisting with such allegations will only further the objectives of Osama.

Portions of the Congressional Inquiry remain classified as Washington does not want to hurt the sensitivities of countries that may have been named in the report.

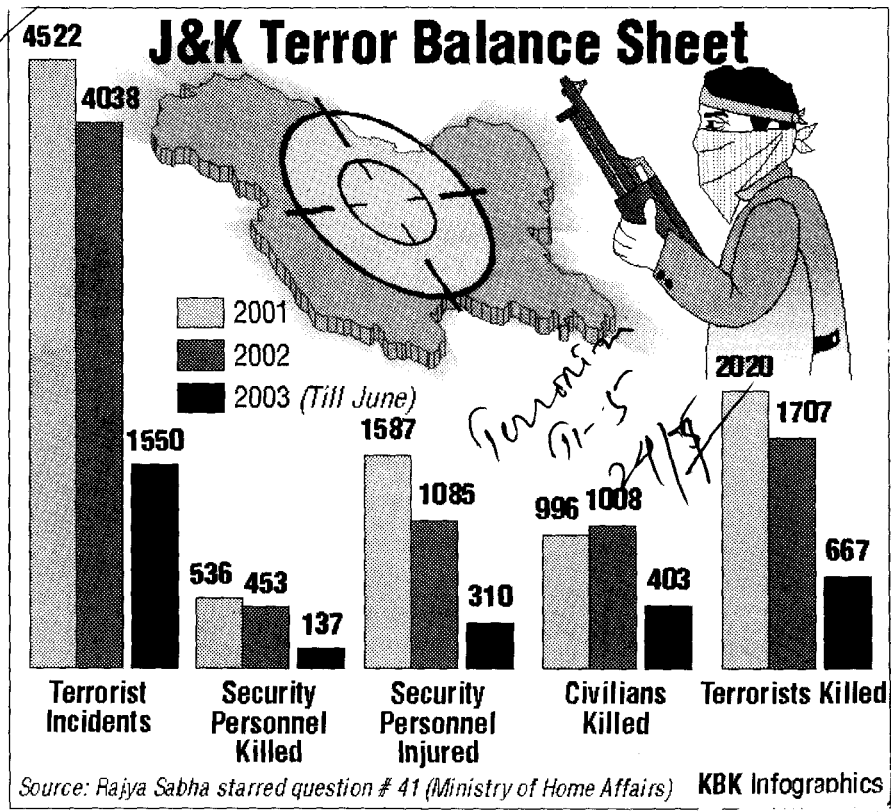
Further, agencies have made the point that revealing all could jeopardise the mechanics and sources of intelligence gathering.

But one of the co-chairs of the inquiry panel, Senator Bob Graham, has written to the President asking for the classified section be made public. Mr. Graham, a Democratic hopeful for 2004 presidential poll, has argued that coming out in public will permit the Government of Saudi Arabia to “deal with any questions” as also allow the American people to “make their own judgement”.

Last week, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia reacted to the Congressional report and flatly rejected the suggestion that his country was involved in the events of 9/11.

“The idea that the Saudi Government funded, organised or even knew about September 11 is maliciously and blatantly false”, he said in a statement.

30 JUL 2003



# Rebels strike J&K army camp, kill 8

## Security lapse costs Brigadier's life

TIMES NEWS NETWORK AND AGENCIES

**Jammu\New Delhi:** In a major strike, militants attacked an army camp in Akhnoor in Jammu on Tuesday, killing eight army personnel, including a brigadier, and injuring eight others, including Northern Army commander Lt Gen Hari Prasad and three other top officers.

Three terrorists were also killed in the suicide mission, which came close on the heels of an attack at Kathra that killed seven pilgrims en route to the Vaishno Devi shrine on Monday night. A hunt was on for a possible fourth terrorist involved in the attack.

Hurling grenades and firing indiscriminately, the terrorists barged into the camp at about 5.30 a.m., killing a security guard and six others, including two junior commissioned officers, and triggering an intense gun battle that lasted for at least seven hours, sources said. As the army retaliated, two terrorists were killed.

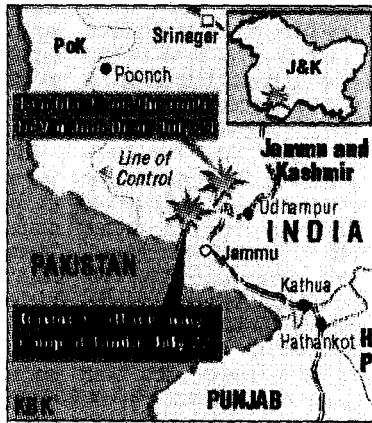
About six hours after the attack, a third terrorist, who had managed to hide inside the camp, blew himself up, exposing a major security lapse.

Brig V.K. Govil of the EME was seriously injured and died soon after. Those injured in the attack included Lt Gen Prasad, Nagrota-based 16 Corps commander Lt Gen T.P.S. Brar and Maj Generals D. Khanna and T.K. Sapru. They were inspecting the camp after the attack but the area had apparently not been sanitised before their visit.

The injured were shifted to the army hospital in Srinagar. Without naming the injured officers, the defence ministry said they received "superficial injuries".

Lt Gen Prasad, a Maratha Light Infantry officer, had taken charge of the crucial Udhampur-based Northern Command on June 1. The Northern Command, responsible for the volatile Line of Control and counter-insurgency operations in the hinterland, has three corps under it—the 14 Corps at Leh, the 15 Corps at Srinagar and the 16 Corps at Nagrota.

Security agencies claimed that the



Lashkar-e-Toiba was behind the attack and that a little-known militant outfit, Al-Shuda Brigade, which has claimed responsibility for the assault, was a shadow group of the outfit formed to avoid international criticism.

The Al-Shuda Brigade said the attack was carried out to protest visiting Pakistani opposition leader Fazal-ur Rahman's remarks that the Line of Control should be converted into a permanent border and that the Kashmir issue should be resolved within the framework of the Simla Agreement.

Defence minister George Fernandes is rushing to Jammu on Wednesday to take stock of the situation.

This was the second major attack on an army camp in a month. A suicide squad had struck at an army camp at Sunjawan on June 28, killing 12 soldiers and injuring seven others.

Meanwhile, the Lok Sabha strongly deplored the "barbaric" attacks on the army camp and on the Vaishno Devi pilgrims, with deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani asserting that there would be no complacency in the fight against terrorism.

"The house strongly deplores this barbaric and inhuman act by the militants. These attacks are indicative of their desperation at the ongoing process to restore peace in the state," said a resolution adopted by the house after a two-hour impromptu debate during question hour.

● Army learnt few lessons, Page 5

23 JUL 2003



# Morality and 'new terrorism'

By Mukund Padmanabhan

40-10  
12/7

**E**VER SINCE September 11, George W. Bush and Tony Blair have never tired of telling us that all forms of terrorism are equally reprehensible. They speak of terrorism as if it were a completely homogenous phenomenon that admits of no internal differences, of no moral differentiation. Such talk may be politically handy in the context of the so-called ongoing global war against terrorism. But the bald truth is that virtually everyone — including those who genuinely abhor all forms of terrorism — makes significant moral distinctions between one kind of terrorist activity and another.

Such distinctions are often reflected in the very use of language. The term 'terrorism' has its origins in the French Revolution, during which it had a positive connotation, being associated with virtue and democracy. But in contemporary usage, terrorism — just as its sister expression, 'extremism' — has invariably pejorative connotations. A relatively neutral term for those who use violence and intimidation for political ends is 'militant.' In political usage, militancy is a morally ambiguous or ethically detached term for kinds of terrorist activity, the emotive force of the term being usually vague or indeterminate. Finally, of course, there are normatively loaded terms such as 'revolutionaries' and 'freedom fighters,' which have clearly positive overtones and imply that the methods used by those such labels are applied to are justified or appropriate in the circumstances.

The ethical distinctions we make, either consciously or sub-consciously, between terrorists or between forms of terrorism, are responsible for certain kinds of questions that crop up from time to time. For instance, when two films extolling Bhagat Singh were released almost simultaneously last year, at a time when the world was obsessed with Osama bin Laden, the question was asked: was Bhagat Singh not a terrorist? Did he not, just as Osama did (and probably still does), resort to violence and intimidation to achieve his ends?

Are we not victims of our own political prejudices when we acclaim Bhagat Singh or Chandrashekar Azad, on the one hand, and denigrate Osama bin Laden or Mullah Omar, on the other? Does this not imply that those who claim to abjure political violence are hypocrites who actually subscribe

*One of the defining elements of "new terrorism" as opposed to the more conventional forms is the random nature of the violence that it wreaks... It is largely unmoved by the extent of bloodshed or collateral damage.*

to it in one form or the other?

Such questions are sometimes cultivated to affect a position of total moral relativism. A position that is expressed every so often by the saying that at the end of the day one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter. The rescue from such extreme subjectivity, one that assumes that our moral assessment of terrorism is a result of our political prejudices and biases, is effected by two means. First, by arguing that an important basis for using different moral yardsticks to assess political violence lies in the circumstances in which such activity emerges.

Hardly anyone will deny that our attitudes to the Umkhonto We Sizwe, the military wing of the African National Congress, were shaped by the fact it was waging its battle in a political environment of officially sanctioned racism and segregation. The armed organisation, which was born in 1960 as a reaction to the Sharpeville massacres, was locked in guerrilla warfare for three decades against South Africa's apartheid regime. Conditions of occupation, apartheid, oppression, and tyranny are routinely invoked to justify, tacitly or otherwise, the recourse to political violence.

Distinctions are made between forms of political violence also on another and related basis — namely, why such violence is resorted to. The difference between freedom fighters and terrorists is invariably made on the basis of the political legitimacy of what they are fighting for. The Chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), Yasser Arafat, directly addressed this issue in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly in 1974. "The difference between the revolutionary and terrorist," he said, "lies in the reason for which each fights. For whoever stands by a just cause and fights for the freedom and liberation of his land from the invaders, the settlers and the colonialists, cannot be possibly called terrorist..." (quoted in Bruce Hoffman's *Inside Terrorism*, Indigo, 1999).

A thoroughgoing relativist may, of course, still maintain that assessments of just causes are subjectively determined, but that, as it were, is the nature of the beast. However, there is a third way of morally distinguishing between forms of terrorist activity — one that goes beyond either the circumstance in which such activity arises and the legitimacy or illegitimacy of its cause. This differentiation is based on the very nature of the acts of the terrorist activity itself.

One of the defining elements of "new terrorism," as opposed to the more conventional forms, is the random nature of the violence that it wreaks. It is typified by 'jehadi' groups such as the Al-Qaeda and the Lakshar-e-Taiba, though, it is by no means confined to Islamic organisations. It is characterised by a Messianism as opposed to a clear political objective, it legitimises killing as an act of worship but above all, it is marked by violent acts against civilians that are totally random and indiscriminate. This kind of terrorism may be distinguished from its more conventional forms represented by such groups as the IRA, the Red Brigades or the Basque ETA.

The September 11 attack is the most widely talked about manifestation of the new terrorism but gory instances occur periodically in Jammu and Kashmir, where groups such as the LeT and the Jaish-e-Mohammed periodically target innocent and unarmed villagers, often women and children. It is no accident that there is a vast difference in the actual pattern of militant activity practised by foreign 'jehadi' groups such as the LeT and the JeM, which are motivated by millenarian visions, and the indigenous Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, which functions more or less like a conventional militant group.

Every terrorist group may not neatly fit into either category (new and conventional), but generally acts of terrorism perpetrated by the latter are related to specific political purposes. The best illustration of relating act to purpose was possibly exemplified by the Narodnaya Volya, which

challenged the Tsarist rule in the late 19th century. This group of Russian extremists chose its targets with extreme care and was averse to spilling any more blood than what it believed was necessary. A successor organisation was so influenced by this code that it aborted the attempt on the life of the Grand Duke, Serge Alexandrovich, in 1905. The assassins who had prepared to ambush the Duke's coach found that he was accompanied by his children and called off the act rather than risk hurting his family. Compare this with September 11 or the Lockerbie bomb blast. The new terrorism is largely unmoved by the extent of bloodshed or collateral damage.

Judging a group by its professed aims alone can be deceptive. For instance, it took the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi for many Indians to see the true nature of the LTTE, an organisation that (in the 1980s) mouthed 'socialism' and professed to stand for liberating the Tamils. But the Tigers' intolerant and tyrannical nature would have been evident much earlier if more attention had been paid to what they were actually doing. In the mid-1980s, the LTTE brutally decimated other Tamil groups, including militant rivals such as PLOTE and TELO; if enough attention was not paid to this savagery, it was because people did not care to square the LTTE's actions with its professed cause or purpose.

The new terrorism, characterised as it is by random killing, is of course neither new nor exclusively Islamic. Millenarian Jewish sects used terror as a strategy to fight the Roman Empire in the first century. The so-called Thugs in India engaged in routine acts of ritual murder in the name of Kali. More recently, the sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway system in 1995 was carried out by an obscure Japanese religious cult. In the same year, the bombing of the Oklahoma city federal office by the Christian Patriots was inspired by similar ideas of divine duty.

Not every religious terrorist group falls in the new terrorism category — the IRA, for instance, is Catholic but perceives the legitimising force for violence in relation with defined political aims. In today's context, what sets terrorism apart is the willingness to carry out extremely destructive types of terrorist operations and include just about anybody as a legitimate target.

# Jaish-e-Mohammed splits

Statesman News Service and PTI

NEW DELHI, July 6. — The Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), re-named Khuddam-ul-Islam (KuI), has split with one faction of the outfit rejecting the leadership of Maulana Masood Azhar, one of the three militants released in exchange for hostages of the hijacked Indian Airline plane IC-814 in 1999.

A Pakistani weekly, *The Friday Times*, said the JEM split after the Maulana expelled 12 leaders including Ameer Abdullah Shah Mazhar. The Maulana made his decision public about two weeks ago and this led to serious conflict between the two groups and was followed by occupying of prestigious Masjid-e-Bataha in Karachi by the rival group.

"Masood Azhar was made the chief of JEM by religious scholars who later deprived him of that position," Mr Mazhar said, claiming that the religious scholars did not

want him to continue as the head now. "Maulana Umer Farooq who is (heading militant activities) in Kashmir now is our Ameer and I am the secretary general... Masood has nothing to do with the organisation," he said.

The breakaway leader said their "main difference with Masood Azhar is that he deviated from the cause of *jihad*... our party was created for doing *jihad* and we are not ready to compromise on that."

Quoting sources, the weekly said the home department of Punjab government was going to take action against the breakaway group by arresting its leaders. The two groups were, meanwhile, clashing with each other to gain control



Maulana Masood Azhar

vey carried out in Rawalakote district of PoK, over 95 per cent of people favoured independence rather than accession to Pakistan.

APNA, an amalgam of various political in PoK, had earlier announced that it would be holding a phased survey in all the districts in PoK including areas like Gilgit and Balistan forcibly annexed by Pakistan. The amalgam along with

over the assets of the outfit.

Meanwhile, over 95 per cent of people in a district of Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir have opted for independence from Pakistani regime, claims an alliance of political parties formed in that region.

According to All Parties National Alliance

(APNA), in a survey carried out in Rawalakote district of PoK, over 95 per cent of people favoured independence rather than accession to Pakistan.

APNA, an amalgam of various political in PoK, had earlier announced that it would be holding a phased survey in all the districts in PoK including areas like Gilgit and Balistan forcibly annexed by Pakistan. The amalgam along with

Gilgit-Balistan National Alliance (GBNA), an amalgam of political parties in Northern Areas, has been demanding its inclusion in the talks between India and Pakistan when the issue of final disposition of Kashmir issue came.

APNA, which has been carrying out the survey with GBNA, criticised the "puppet" rulers of PoK for coming out with a formula to confuse the Kashmir issue further. "We reject the Chenab or any other formula which went against the identity, re-unification and independence of Kashmir," the release said.

The Chenab formula was proposed by the so-called Prime Minister of PoK whereby the area North of Chenab would go to Pakistan while the rest would remain with India. The release said the Indian government should allow them to visit J&K so that an intra-Kashmir dialogue was held with all sections of the people which would in turn help in reaching a solution.

# Moscow bomb attack kills 16

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MOSCOW, July 5. — At least 16 people were killed and over 20 wounded today in a suicide bomb attack by two women in the close vicinity of a rock concert where tens of thousands had gathered, the interior minister said, attributing the attack to Chechen separatists.

The toll would have been much higher if the suicide bombers managed to sneak into the concert site where over 40,000 youths had gathered, Mr Boris Gрызlov said.

According to the minister, the attack was linked to Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin's decree calling elections in Chechnya. The polls are scheduled for 5 October.

"Today the President signed a decree on elections in Chechnya, and one can think that these attacks are linked to this event," he was quoted as saying by Russian state TV.

Earlier reports had put the death toll as 20. A Chechen passport was found on one of the women who blew herself up at the outdoor concert in the Tushino airfield in northwestern Moscow, the minister added.

The bombers were prevented by police from entering the annual rock concert "The Wings", a major attraction for the youth. Later around 4.30 p.m. IST they retreated to a nearby market and blew themselves up.

The minister added that the explosive belt tied on one of the suicide bombers did not go off fully, or else the market casualties could have been much higher.



Investigators examine the site of the blast near Tushino airfield in which at least 16 people were killed on Saturday. — AFP

One of the bombers has been identified by the police from the recovered identity card issued in Chechnya, he said.

Mr Putin, who was immediately informed of the terror attack, is coordinating the relief effort, the city hall said.

# Militants raid J&K Terrorism Brief 29/6 army camp, kill 14

TIMES NEWS NETWORK AND AGENCIES

**Jammu:** In the first major strike since Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's fresh peace initiative, two militants entered an army camp in the city and killed 14 defence personnel. Nine other army men were injured.

The two militants, dressed in army uniform, were later gunned down by a quick reaction team of the army.

The militants entered the camp, which houses staff quarters and a training centre, at about 4.30 a.m. taking advantage of the darkness and using the cover of "high sarkanda grass" in the vicinity of the camp, said an army spokesman.

They stormed the cantonment by exploding grenades and firing indiscriminately at the guards at the main gate. Two security personnel were killed in this initial assault. After that, the militants, believed to be Pakistanis, went straight to 'Barrack-A' and opened fire on sleeping army men, killing 12 and injuring seven, including an officer, brigade commander J.S. Thind told media persons.

Some reports said a heavy exchange of fire continued inside the complex till about 8.30 a.m.

The injured were shifted to Satwari Military Hospital. The condition of three of them was stated to be critical.

A bomb disposal squad later exten-

sively combed the area near the barracks and defused three grenades.

Two AK-47 rifles (with Pakistani markings and carrying Lashkar-e-Toiba symbols), 13 magazines, 470 rounds, 23 grenades, some explosive material and some Pakistani currency were recovered from the militants.

Apprehending more suicide attacks, army on Saturday put all its units in Jammu and Kashmir on a high alert and announced that anti-militancy sweeps throughout the state would be stepped up.

Army sources in New Delhi said that according to preliminary reports, the two terrorists involved in Saturday's attack had crossed the border in the last 48 hours with specific instructions to carry out big 'fidayeen' strikes. Army spokesman Brig Shruti Kant said "leads on the terrorists and their linkages are being followed up".

The two terrorists followed the pattern of the attack on army barracks at Kaluchak on May 14, 2001, in which 34 family members of army personnel were killed, sources said.

Although intelligence reports had warned of such attacks, sources said the tall sarkanda grass around the Sunjiwan camp prevented the detection of the militants. The army has now ordered cutting of all such growth near cantonment areas and army border camps.

29 JUN 2003

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# Mastermind in Saudi blasts surrenders

JEDDAH (SAUDI ARABIA), JUNE 27. Saudi authorities will keep tightening the noose around militants at large in the kingdom following the surrender of the suspected mastermind of last month's Riyadh suicide bombings, officials and newspapers said on Friday.

An Interior Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said on Thursday's surrender of Ali Abd al-Rahman al-Faqasi al-Ghamdi to Saudi authorities was a result of the crackdown launched following the May 12 bombings that killed 34 people and the June 14 raid on a terror cell that was allegedly planning attacks in Mecca, Islam's holiest city.

"The noose was tightened. There are checkpoints every-



where, arrests of suspects on a regular basis. He (al-Ghamdi) had very little

choice," said the official. The official said al-Ghamdi turned himself into police in Jeddah on the condition that Deputy Interior Minister, Prince Nayef bin Mohammed, was personally involved in the surrender.

The Saudi *Okaz* newspaper quoted the Deputy Minister's father, Interior Minister, Prince Nayef, as saying al-Ghamdi surrendered at his son's home following dawn prayers. — AP

## 44 held over Riyadh bombings

RIYADH, JUNE 22. Saudi authorities have detained 44 suspected terrorists linked to last month's fatal Riyadh bombings and other suspected terrorist cells in the country, said the Interior Minister, Prince Nayef, in remarks published on Sunday.

Prince Nayef told the Saudi daily *Okaz* that among the 44 were four women arrested on Friday in relation to a terror cell's alleged plans to launch attacks in the holy city of Mecca.

Police found weapons on the women but their alleged roles in any plots were unclear, he said.

Saudi newspapers reported on Saturday the women were arrested during a raid on a flat leased by one of 12 men arrested over alleged plans to attack sites in Mecca.

Authorities have said the plots were foiled in a June 14 raid on a Mecca apartment that killed five terror suspects.

The Saudi government has been cracking down on militants since the May 12 attacks in Riyadh that killed 35 people and the Mecca raid.

Last week in Washington, a Saudi official said police have questioned 1,000 people and detained 300 since the Riyadh bombings. The difference in Nayef's tally and the official's could not be immediately reconciled.

Prince Nayef said the authorities were seeking / suspects, including suspected May 12

bombings mastermind Ali Abd al-Rahman al-Faqasi al-Ghamdi and Turki Nasser al-Dandani.

The three simultaneous attacks on Western residential compounds in Riyadh killed 35 people, including nine Americans and nine suicide bombers.

Saudi and U.S. officials said the attacks bore the hallmarks of Al-Qaeda, the terror network led by the Saudi-born dissident, Osama bin Laden.

Prince Nayef said Saudi Arabia was also closely coordinating with Yemen on security issues.

Saudi authorities believe that some of the wanted suspects might have fled into neighbouring Yemen, a hotbed of Islamic militancy and scene of the 2000 USS Cole attack, which killed 17 American sailors and was also blamed on Al-Qaeda.

Saudi authorities have also nearly finished an investigation with eight suspects wanted by Yemen in connection with terrorist plots there. The eight — believed to be linked to Al-Qaeda — will be handed over to Yemen soon.

On the financing of terrorist groups, Prince Nayef said groups 'possibly' raise funds for their activities through charity organisations.

The Government is taking steps to establish a new national authority to monitor and control almsgiving to control financing terror through charity organisations, he said. — AP

# Qaeda link's profile worries US

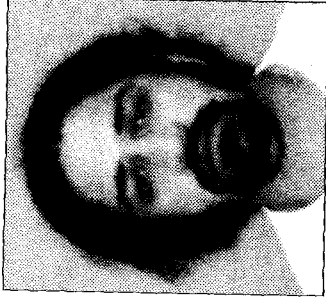
R. JEFFREY SMITH & AMY DEPAUL  
WASHINGTON | JUNE 21

**I**YMAN Farris, the naturalised American unmasked as a scout for Al Qaeda, has an unassuming profile that worries authorities trying to stem the threat of new attacks within the US. A resident of Columbus, Ohio, who had reason to travel widely in his job as a free-lance truck driver, Farris was in some ways an ideal agent for Al Qaeda planners who needed information they could feed to others willing to undertake such attacks, the officials said. Farris, 34, was "a scout and a facilitator" within Al Qaeda's organisation, collecting information about the

feasibility of destroying the Brooklyn Bridge in New York and derailling trains in or near Washington, DC, an official said on Thursday.

The fact that Farris was working with Al Qaeda as recently as March confirms the organisation's persistent desire to go after targets in the same two cities struck in September 2001, the officials said. He "was an Al Qaeda agent in place," albeit a place far from these sites, said James Turgal, a supervisory special agent for FBI.

That was no accident, Turgal said. "If you wanted to assist Al Qaeda, would you live in DC or New York" where security officials are on high alert, Turgal asked. "Why not live in the heartland? This is



the perfect place to be." A native of Kashmir who became friendly with an Afghanistan war veteran who later joined Al Qaeda, Farris — aka Mohammad Rauf — entered the US in 1994 and became a citizen in 1999.

According to the FBI affidavit, Farris was in contact with Al Qaeda officials from at least 2000 until his capture.

During this period, he operated an unincorporated firm from his Columbus home, Kashmir Transport Service, hauling general freight, metal, building materials, coal, machinery, mail and agricultural products across state lines.

Farris "described his trucking routes and deliveries for airport cargo planes" with an Al Qaeda official in early 2002, it said. The official said he was interested in such planes because they hold "more weight and more fuel" than other aircraft — raising the possibility of another orchestrated airplane disaster. Columbus is the North American hub for Emery, a worldwide cargo and freight forwarding company. — LAT/JP

## Farris confession may shadow Gen's visit

**■ ISLAMABAD:** The US announcement that it had uncovered a plot to blow up New York's Brooklyn Bridge and other targets by a Kashmir-born US citizen may cast a shadow on President Musharraf's high-profile visit to the country beginning on Saturday and would increase pressure on Islamabad to crack down on Kashmiri groups.

Iyman Farris, 34, whose real name is Mohammed Rauf and who hails from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK), confessed to casing targets in the US with the intention to destroy them. Farris pleaded guilty to two felony charges. Attorney General John Ashcroft said on

Thursday, Farris based in Columbus acknowledged that he met Osama bin Laden in 2000 at an Al Qaeda training camp in Afghanistan and provided operatives there with sleeping bags, cell phones and other assistance.

According to the prosecution, he was linked to Al-Qaeda and involved in plots to derail trains and sabotage the Brooklyn Bridge. Ashcroft said Farris "led a double life" — as a truck driver and as one who

travelled to Pakistan and Afghanistan and met with bin Laden and joined Al Qaeda against America, scouring sites for acts of terrorism in the US.

Pakistani diplomats fear that the President may have to face embarrassing questions on the links between Al Qaeda and Kashmiri groups during his engagements in the US, Pakistan daily Dawn said in a report on Saturday.

— PTI

# Sniper ambush sparks Baghdad sweep

**Baghdad, June 17 (Reuters):** A US soldier died today after being shot in the back by a sniper while on patrol in the lawless streets of Baghdad, the latest in a series of deadly ambushes that have plagued US troops trying to police Iraq.

After the shooting and two mysterious explosions in the city, scores of heavily armed US troops swept through central Baghdad, sealing off roads and searching houses. At least 41 soldiers have been killed by hostile action since May 1, when President George W. Bush declared major combat operations over in Iraq. The US military blames the attacks on guerrillas loyal to ousted leader Saddam Hussein.

"The soldier, who was taking part in a patrol, was sitting in a

military vehicle when he was struck in the back by a small calibre bullet," a US army statement said. It said he was given urgent medical treatment but died early today.

In a separate incident overnight, a car exploded in western Baghdad, and residents said a woman and young girl had been killed. They said the blast happened at an intersection where US troops were manning a checkpoint earlier in the day.

There was no explanation for what caused the blast but one US officer said it was a suspected car bomb and that two soldiers had been hurt. A military spokesperson said the reports were being checked but could not yet be confirmed.

The red Volkswagen Passat

was torn apart by the explosion, with its roof sheared off and its interior shredded.

Earlier yesterday, a car was destroyed in a blast as it drove through a tunnel in central Baghdad. Two Iraqis were wounded. US troops and Iraqi police said the explosion was probably caused by a landmine planted there. US convoys pass through the tunnel several times a day.

At dawn today, troops blocked streets with armoured vehicles and searched houses in Baghdad across the Tigris river from the sprawling Republican Guard palace complex, which once housed some of Saddam's elite forces and is now home to the US-led administration.

One woman told soldiers that several people in the district

were former supporters of Saddam's Baath party. "Six or seven houses in my street are inhabited by Baathists. They have machineguns and other weapons," she said. "They shoot in the air at night and we can't sleep."

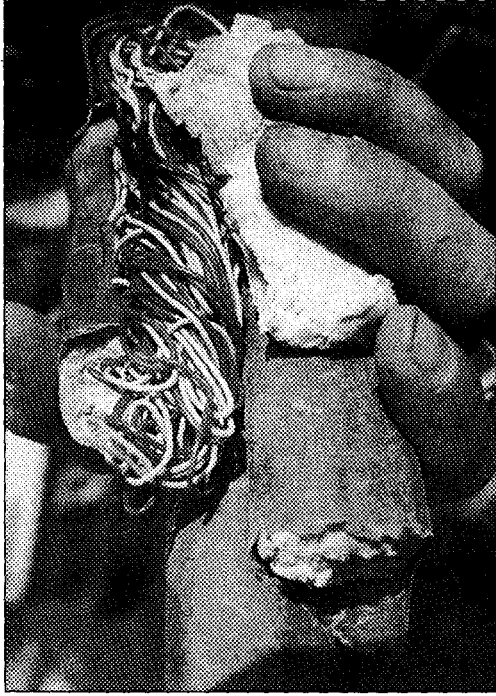
Soldiers said they had seized several weapons during house-to-house searches. A two-week amnesty for Iraqis to hand in heavy weapons ended on Sunday. Anyone caught with illegal firearms now faces a fine and up to a year in jail.

US forces launched a new mission on Sunday, Operation Desert Scorpion, to hunt for pro-Saddam guerrillas. By late yesterday, 156 people had been arrested in Baghdad, where troops seized scores of weapons, and 215 more in Kirkuk and Sad-

dam's home town of Tikrit, US Central Command said. Troops also performed "humanitarian fuel escort missions".

The US military says Operation Desert Scorpion aims to win hearts and minds as well as hunt die-hard Saddam loyalists. The mission involves humanitarian aid as well as raids. But many Iraqis say US raids have been heavy-handed, with houses ransacked and civilians assaulted. Many say they want occupying forces to leave Iraq as soon as possible.

There has been no word on the fate of Saddam since the war, but a team of animal welfare experts said 16 of his thoroughbred Arabian racehorses had been rescued and returned to an equestrian club where they could be properly cared for.



A US military policeman holds explosives found in a dawn raid in Khalidiya, 80 km west of Baghdad. (Reuters)

18 JUN 2003

THE TELEGRAPH



# Blair shares India's views on Pak terror

17/6 By Rashmee Z. Ahmed  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

London: Barely hours before he meets Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, British Prime Minister Tony Blair has told deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani he appreciates India's assessment that an Indo-Pak dialogue could not be meaningful so long as cross-border terrorism continues and the infrastructure of terrorism stays in place.

Mr Blair told Mr Advani that he would be meeting Mr Musharraf and planned to share these sentiments and assessments with him, Indian high commissioner Ronen Sen said.

The Blair-Advani talks came within hours of Mr Advani ratcheting up the pressure on Islamabad, accusing it of bringing about "no change" in the "export" of "terrorism", in the months since the December 13 attack on the Indian parliament.

In blisteringly frank remarks Mr Advani told an attentive audience of expat Indians that "If there has been any change (in the issue of cross-border terrorism) it is because we have got better at protecting ourselves; it is not because of Pakistan".

Mr Blair's soothing words and warm sympathy came as his sched-

uled 30-minute meeting with Mr Advani at 10, Downing Street overran significantly. In an indication of the warm atmosphere and congenial atmospherics, Mr Sen said, the two men sat outside in Mr Blair's garden, rather than round a table, in order to enjoy an unexpectedly sunny day of blue skies and perfect weather in London.

Significantly, Mr Blair did not raise the issue of India sending troops to Iraq. But Mr Advani and Mr Blair did generally discuss the shared desire for a stable Iraq, Mr Sen said.

Mr Advani was later treated to lunch by his home ministerial counterpart David Blunkett.

Mr Advani later expressed "satisfaction" at his talks with Mr Blair.

Earlier, Mr Advani had said, the only real change in Pakistan's attitude to terrorism has been in Mr Musharraf's publicly-expressed views.

"Now they no longer say it is not terrorism (in J&K); they say we are not responsible for it".

At the failed Agra summit, Mr Musharraf "was unwilling to accept there was any terrorism in J&K", he recalled.

Observers said Mr Advani's bleak assessment appeared flatly to contradict London and Washington's milder report card on Pakistan's efforts to crack down on terrorism.



Tony Blair



L.K. Advani

# 7 militants arrested for Mecca shootout

Riyadh, June 16 (Reuters): Saudi police have arrested seven suspected Islamic militants in Mecca where five other militants were earlier killed in a police raid, security sources said today.

The sources said seven men suspected of involvement in Saturday's shootout in Mecca, which is off-limits to non-Muslims, were arrested around the city yesterday. Saudi officials declined to say if the militants were linked to Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al Qaida group, which has been blamed for suicide bombings in Riyadh in May against foreigners.

Stung by US charges of not doing enough to prevent the bombings which killed 35 people, Saudi Arabia has boosted security and cracked down on militancy in the oil-rich kingdom. King Fahd, heading a Cabinet meeting today, said the kingdom, the birthplace of Islam, was "facing fierce attacks which harm the (Muslim) faith and threaten national unity", the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

It said the king called on citizens to combat any attempt to harm the country's security, stability and interests.

The Saudi-owned pan-Arab daily *Asharq al-Awsat* reported on its website that the latest arrests took place after an exchange of fire with police on the outskirts of Mecca yesterday. It described the men as "an armed cell" and said they were wounded.

Saudi officials would not confirm the incident.

Saudi Arabia yesterday said police had foiled an "imminent terrorist attack" when they raided an apartment in Mecca that had been rigged with explosives on Saturday night.

Saudi television said five "terrorists" and two policemen were killed in clashes after police raided the building in the middle class al-Khalidiya district on Saturday evening.

Saudi Arabia, which implements strict Islamic sharia law, beheaded a Pakistani man today for smuggling heroin into the conservative kingdom, the interior ministry said in a statement. The execution raised the number of people reported to have been put to death in the country this year to at least 13.

Saudi Arabia executes murderers, rapists and drug smugglers, usually by public beheading. At least 45 people were executed last year, 75 in 2001 and 121 in 2000.

Tens of thousands of Muslim preachers in Saudi Arabia are undergoing a rehabilitation programme to help them deal effectively with terrorism and social issues, a newspaper reported today.

17 JUN 2003

THE TELEGRAPH

# Police foil terror attack in Mecca

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**DUBAI, JUNE 15.** In a major operation, security forces in Saudi Arabia raided a group of terrorists preparing for an "imminent terror attack", killing five of them and arresting several others in the holy city of Mecca overnight.

Two security personnel were also killed in the operation carried out at an apartment which was booby-trapped by the terrorists, the Saudi Interior Ministry said in a statement today.

Five security men and four civilians were injured. The arrested include two from Chad, an Egyptian and a Saudi, the Ministry said.

"Security forces raided a group of terrorists ... who were preparing for an imminent terror attack," the statement said, adding the apartment where they were living was "booby-trapped and ready to blow up."

## Raid on apartment

Police seized 72 locally-made bombs of various sizes, in addition to several automatic rifles, guns, ammunition, communication devices, chemicals for use to manufacture bombs and masks, said the statement.

The Saudi Arabic daily *Okaz* said the fighting started when a group of men in a car ignored police orders to stop and took refuge in a building in Khalidiya district, adding that one of the arrested persons was wearing a suicide bomber's belt.

It was not clear whether the suspects were linked to the May 12 suicide bomb attacks on residential compounds in Riyadh which left 35 people dead.

U.S. and Saudi officials working together in the investigation have linked the Riyadh bombings to Al-Qaeda.

A Saudi Interior Ministry official said security agents raided an apartment in Khalidiya district about 5 km from the main Mecca mosque at 9:30 p.m. local time where "a group of ter-

rorists ... were preparing an imminent terrorist act". He did not say what the intended target was and gave no other details on the suspected plot.

Security was unusually tight in Mecca on Sunday, with troops stopping cars for searches and to check drivers' identification on the outskirts and at checkpoints scattered throughout the city.

## Security tightened

A number of police patrolled inside and outside Mecca's Al-Nur hospital, where those wounded on Saturday were taken.

Abdul Khaliq Reheem Sheik, a 50-year-old Indian driver, who was being treated for cuts at Al-Nur, said three masked men holding guns had approached him as he washed his employer's car in Khalidiya district on Saturday night.

He said the men demanded he drive them away from the area. When he refused, they shot at the car's windows, apparently to frighten him, and he was injured by flying glass.

The three then drove away in the car, leaving Sheik behind. It was not clear if the three were still being sought or were among those killed or arrested on Saturday night.

Residents said helicopters hovered over Khalidiya into the early hours of Sunday.

On Sunday afternoon, dozens of police and special forces troops armed with rifles could be seen around the three-storey apartment building, whose facade was pocked with bullet holes.

Residents who had been kept out overnight were being allowed back in the area, after first stopping at a check point to have their identities checked and cars searched. — AP

19-12 416  
EGYPT SUMMIT / ARAB LEADERS EMBRACE 'ROAD MAP' <sup>in Asia</sup>

# Terror must be defeated, says Bush

**SHARM EL-SHEIK (EGYPT), JUNE 3.** Arab leaders, meeting the U.S. President, George W. Bush, as he plunged into the labyrinth of the West Asia peace talks, pledged on Tuesday to fight terror and violence and called on Israel to "rebuild trust and restore normal Palestinian life."  
"We shall continue to work for a Middle East (West Asia) that is free of strife and violence, living in harmony without the threat of terrorism or dangers of weapons of mass destruction," said the Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, reading a statement on behalf of the leaders of Jordan, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Bush called on the Arab leaders to fight terror at every turn on the road to peace.  
"We meet in Sinai at a moment of promise for the cause of peace in the Middle East," said Mr. Bush, standing at the edge of the Red Sea, with Mr. Mubarak at his side.

He said that terror threatens the United States, Israel and the emergence of a Palestinian state.  
"Terror must be opposed and it must be defeated," said Mr. Bush.

Tuesday's meeting served as a prelude to face-to-face talks Wednesday between Mr. Bush, the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, and his counterpart, the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, in Jordan.  
The Arab leaders embraced

the internationally crafted "road map" for peace, which calls for an independent Palestinian state by 2005.

"We support the determination of the Palestinian Authority to fulfill its responsibilities to end violence and to restore law and order," said Mr. Mubarak as Mr. Abbas looked on.

At the same time, Mr. Mubarak added: "Israel must fulfill its own responsibilities to rebuild trust and restore normal Palestinian life, and carry out other obligations under the road map."

Mr. Bush, making his first major foray into the West Asia peacemaking, made clear that both sides must make concessions to build a lasting peace.

"If all sides fulfill their obligations, we can make steady progress on the road towards Palestinian statehood, a secure Israel and a just and comprehensive peace," said Mr. Bush.  
"We seek true peace, not just a pause between more wars and *intifada*, but a permanent reconciliation among the peoples of the Middle East."

The Arab leaders firmly rejected terrorism "in any form or shape, from whatever source or place, regardless of justifications or motives," Mr. Mubarak said.

"We will use all the power of the law to prevent support reaching illegal organisations including terrorist groups," Mr. Bush, who initiated the



**The Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak (second left), the Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, the Palestinian Prime Minister, Mahmud Abbas and the U.S. President, George W. Bush, at Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, on Tuesday. — AFP**

summit here, was in the driver's seat — literally. He took the wheel of a large golf cart to ferry the leaders to their joint appearance at podiums set up with the sea as their backdrop.  
Mubarak, his eyes hidden by sunglasses, was his co-pilot.

"Achieving these goals will require courage and moral vision from every side from every leader," Bush said.  
"America is committed and I am committed in helping all the parties to reach the hard and heroic decisions that will lead to peace." Also attending were the Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Jordan's King Abdullah II.  
Egypt and Jordan have peace treaties with Israel. —AP

INTERNATIONAL

MONEY MATTERS MARK SECOND DAY OF SUMMIT

# G-8 action plan against terror

AP & AFP

EVIAN, June 2. — World leaders projected confidence today that they will turn around their weak economies and pledged joint cooperation on a host of global issues from terrorism to the need for a coordinated effort to rebuild Iraq. The leaders at the annual G-8 summit said they saw a number of hopeful signs that the current economic troubles — including a sluggish rebound in the USA and threats of new recessions in Europe and Japan — would soon be replaced by stronger growth worldwide.

They issued a number of joint statements on the summit's second day, including pledges to work together to resolve a number of roadblocks that are threatening to derail the current round of global trade talks.

The G-8 leaders pledged to promote good corporate business practices in their own countries in response to a wave of corporate scandals over the past year. "We commit to pursue with strong resolve our fight to further improve the integrity of the international economy," the leaders said in one of the joint declarations.

On terrorism, the group



HEADS OF STATES: The faces of Canadian Prime Minister Mr Jean Chretien (left) and German Chancellor Mr Gerhard Schroeder are reflected in the glass-top tables on the terrace at the Royal Parc Hotel in Evian on Monday. — AFP

issued an action plan aimed at keeping portable surface-to-air missiles capable of bringing down commercial jetliners out of the hands of terrorists and also pledged greater efforts to halt the spread of nuclear, chemical and other weapons of mass destruction.

The leaders also warned Iran and North Korea to comply with international nuclear safeguards as they unveiled a wide-ranging plan to combat weapons proliferation. In a strongly-worded statement, the leaders of the world's most powerful nations called the

uncurbed spread of armaments and international terrorism "the pre-eminent threat to international security".

To this end a G8-wide Counter-Terrorism Action Group would be formed to share information and coordinate responses, they said.

Among other specific measures announced at the gathering in the French lakeside resort of Evian, the leaders pledged to crack down on the spread of low-level radioactive sources which could be used to make so-called "dirty bombs".

THE HINDU

# Five-nation pact to counter terrorism

**PENANG (MALAYSIA), JUNE 2.** Defence Ministers from Australia, Britain, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore agreed on Monday to examine ways to adapt their 32-year-old security pact to counter a "new generation" threat — international terrorism.

Putting aside differences about Australia's pledge to make pre-emptive strikes overseas if it perceives a threat, members of a military alliance

of Britain and its former colonies in Southeast Asia and the Pacific agreed that terrorism and other transnational crimes were replacing nation-to-nation threats such as those of the Cold War era. Renewing previous warnings, Singapore said more terrorist attacks were likely in Southeast Asia unless countries were vigilant about regional security. The Defence Ministers met on Monday for biennial talks on the Five-Power Defence

Agreement, a pact signed in 1971 chiefly to strengthen Singapore and Malaysia's defences by linking them to those of Britain and its regional allies.

The Ministers approved a military pact to include the fight against terrorism and other cross-border crimes. "The prospect of any form of conventional threat has greatly diminished," Malaysia's Defence Minister, Najib Razak,

told a joint news conference after the talks. "The Ministers agreed that we should look at the relevance of activities to look at non-conventional forms of threat, in particular piracy, illegal immigrants and the threat of global terrorism," he said.

A consultative committee would be assigned to examine ways to incorporate such issues into the military agreement, and would report back to the member Governments. — AP

# Pak influences terrorists, <sup>11/11</sup> <sup>3/6</sup> admits Kasuri

**But foreign minister says there is no magic lamp to stop 'cross-border martyrdom'**

By Rashmee Z. Ahmed  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

London: Pakistan has acknowledged having 'influence' over terrorists who go across its border into India, compared them to desperate Palestinian suicide bombers, but pleaded its inability to "rub an Alladin's lamp and stop cross-border martyrdom".



K.M. Kasuri

In order to stop the terror, Pakistan's foreign minister Kurshid Mehmood Kasuri said, India must be prepared for tripartite talks that would include the "Kashmiri people".

Mr Kasuri, in his frank remarks to the BBC, compared Gen Pervez Musharraf's predicament over suicide bombers to that of Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority. However, repeatedly calling for talks to bring hope and peace in the region, he said Islamabad had banned violent, anti-India organisations in Pakistan.

Observers here, including Kashmiri activists, have described the minister's comments as perhaps the first overt attempt by a high-ranking member of the Pakistani establishment to make a direct and emotive link with the Israeli-Palestinian impasse.

Kashmiri activists told TNN that Mr Kasuri's remarks explicitly stated that there was a "dangerously violent link" between Kashmir and Palestine.

"This, while some, including the Hurriyat, had been wanting a political comparison," remarked one.

Mr Kasuri's comments came even as Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said at Lausanne, Switzerland, on Monday that he was heartened by global support for India's demand that cross-border terrorism must end before talks with Pakistan could begin.

But Mr Kasuri, who called for a constant and continuous process of "all-weather dialogue" between India and Pakistan, scotched all hopes of that. He said there was little Islamabad could do to stop the violence because "the Kashmiri people, those who are fighting, are not our slaves. Yes, we have influence as we have been giving them moral and diplomatic support for 50 years".

Warning to the so-called Islamabad-Ramallah axis, Mr Kasuri scoffed at the suggestion "that those who go to fight" tell Gen Musharraf that "they are going to die, or, for that matter, tell Yasser Arafat that they are going for martyrdom".

Pointing out that the US, too, could not seal its border with Mexico, he said, "If some people endanger their lives and if the Indian army, which is present in lakhs and is also along the LoC, cannot stop them, then which Alladin's lamp do we have that we rub it and all this stops. We are trying. Let us try together."

Observers said Mr Kasuri's remarks could be read in many ways, but might not possibly be an answer to Indian foreign minister Yashwant Sinha's recent offer of "joint, anti-terrorism operations".

# Iran not doing enough to curb Al Qaida: US

Washington: As the Bush administration debated new steps to pressure Teheran, it said on Tuesday that the arrests of suspected Al Qaida members in Iran fell short of US demands for a crackdown on the terror group.

However, the administration put off a high-level meeting on Iran policy amid signs of internal differences. Secretary of State Colin Powell said contacts with Iran would continue, but other sources said the Pentagon wants to suspend all contact.

"Our policies are well-known and I'm not aware of any changes in policy (on Iran). We have contacts with them. They will continue," Mr Powell told reporters.

Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, in a New York speech, reiterated the current policy of avoiding contact with "the top two layers" of Iranian government. Low-level contacts have been held over issues, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr Rumsfeld cited the speed of the 1979 Islamic revolution and said, "maybe we'll be favourably surprised some day" by a more democratic govern-

ment. US officials said intelligence suggests senior Al Qaida members hiding in Iran had prior knowledge of the May 12 suicide bombings in Saudi Arabia that killed 34 people, including eight Americans.

Iran's leaders on Wednesday lashed out at US allegations that it was harbouring Al Qaida members and developing nuclear weapons. Iran accused Washington of unilateralism and undermining global efforts to combat terrorism and weapons proliferation.

"Any concern over countries' non-compliance with weapons of mass destruction instruments needs to be dealt with through international cooperation," foreign minister Kamal Kharazi said at an Organisation of Islamic Conference meeting in Teheran. Mr Kharazi said the International Atomic Energy Agency was the "only competent authority" on the matter.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the arrests of several suspected Al Qaida members, announced by Iran on Monday, did not quell concerns that group leaders were in the country. "The steps that the Iranians claim to have taken in terms of capturing Al Qaida are insufficient," Mr Fleischer said.



G. W. Bush



# US cuts off contact with Iran, says report

**Washington:** The Bush administration has cut off contact with Iran, and Pentagon officials are pushing for action they believe could destabilise the government of the Islamic republic, *The Washington Post* reported in its Sunday edition.

The move follows intelligence reports suggesting Al Qaida operatives in Iran played a role in the May 12 suicide bombings in Saudi Arabia, according to the newspaper.

Citing administration officials, the newspaper said the White House "appears ready to embrace an aggressive policy of trying to destabilize the Iranian government."

Officials will meet on Tuesday at the White House to discuss the Iran strategy, with Pentagon officials pressing for action that could lead to the toppling of

the government through a popular uprising, the *Post* said.

A White House spokeswoman declined comment on Saturday.

The United States severed ties with Iran following the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Last year, President Bush branded Iran as part of an "axis of evil" that was trying to develop banned nuclear weapons.

The United States also has accused Iran of harboring members of Osama bin Laden's Al Qaida network, which Washington blames for the September

11, 2001, attacks.

But since the US campaign to topple the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Iranian and US officials have met from time to time to discuss a variety of issues.

After this month's suicide bombings in Riyadh, the Bush administration cancelled the next planned meeting, according to the *Post*.

The newspaper said "very troubling intercepts" before and after the Saudi Arabia bombing played a major role in the administration's new stance toward Iran. The intelligence suggested Al Qaida operatives in Iran were involved in the planning of the bombings, which killed 34 people, the *Post* reported.

On Thursday, the official IRNA news agency of Iran said US allegation that the Islamic nation harboured Al Qaida

members were based on faulty intelligence, but officials vowed to arrest any militants who might have slipped into the country.

On Saturday, Iran's top diplomat told the London-based Arabic daily *Al-Hayat* that Iran sees no need to immediately revive a dialogue with the United States following talks on who should govern post-war Iraq.

"This dialogue has stopped now and we see no reason to revive it for the time being," Iranian foreign minister Kamal Kharrazi told the daily.

"We entered into an honest dialogue with the Americans to create a government in Iraq that has popular support, but they kept on changing their minds and also changing their representatives in Iraq," he said without giving additional details. Reuters



**George W. Bush**

11-19 28/5

**TERRORISM / DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE BY U.K.**

410. 1/1 237 5

# Blair warns Iran against sheltering Al-Qaeda

By Hasan Suroor

**LONDON, MAY 22.** The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, today warned Iran against harbouring Al-Qaeda suspects saying this was 'unacceptable'.

Mr. Blair's remarks at his monthly press conference this morning followed a similar warning from Washington.

He said the issue was being raised with Teheran and if it was true that it had been sheltering terrorists it should give them up.

Mr. Blair said he would not be drawn into a speculation over "what we might or might not do" if Iran did not oblige, but for any country to give refuge to terrorists was unacceptable. Unlike the U.S., Britain has diplomatic relations with Iran and Mr. Blair made clear that his Government would be 'pursuing' the issue



through diplomatic channels.

He emphasised that terrorism and weapons of mass destruction posed a real threat, and said whether it was Iran or North Korea they had to be brought on board in tackling

these two issues.

He did not agree that the invasion of Iraq had led to an upsurge in terrorist activity, and insisted that he was sure that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction would be found. Mr. Blair sounded defensive when grilled over reports that the Attorney-General, Lord Goldsmith, had advised against post-war occupation of Iraq without a U.N. mandate saying such a course would be illegal.

Mr. Blair said he would not like to comment on the specific nature of the Attorney-General's advice, but denied that his Government ever acted against his legal opinion.

He said in any case a new U.N. resolution, authorising reconstruction of Iraq, was to be passed later in the day so there should be no more controversies.

23 MAY 2003

THE HINDOO

## Al-Qaeda plot to crash plane into Jeddah building foiled

DUBAI, MAY 21. Saudi Arabian authorities have foiled an attempt by the Al-Qaeda to hijack a passenger plane and crash it into a building in Jeddah, by arresting three suspects, even as the U.S., Germany, Canada and Britain closed their embassies in the kingdom for the public from today fearing fresh terror strikes.

The three were arrested on Monday at the Jeddah airport before they boarded a Saudia flight, the kingdom's national carrier, to Sudan, CNN quoting Saudi security sources reported today.

The men had knives and last testaments, or wills, on them when they were arrested, they said.

The sources said the men were members of the Al-Qaeda cell that carried out last week's

suicide bombings at three residential compounds in Riyadh that left 34 persons, including eight Americans dead.

However, they said the arrested trio were not believed to be perpetrators of the suicide attacks. One of them was on the Saudi most-wanted list. — PTI

### 'Imitate Sept. 11 attacks'

AP reports from Cairo

Qatar television Al-Jazeera today aired excerpts of what it said was an audiotape on which Ayman al-Zawahri, top lieutenant of the Al-Qaeda chief, Osama bin Laden, called on Muslims to imitate the September 11, 2001, attacks.

"Consider your 19 brothers who attacked Washington and New York with their planes as an example," a strong voice could be heard saying as the

station showed a file photo of a white-turbaned al-Zawahri.

The voice was similar to al-Zawahri's, judging from previous audiotapes and videotapes attributed to the Egyptian militant.

Al-Jazeera did not immediately say when or how it had obtained the tape.

The speaker lashed out at Arab leaders for offering "airports and the facilities" to the allied troops, an apparent reference to the U.S.-led war on Iraq.

"Here is Saudi Arabia, where planes are launched from their airports, from its lands. Here is Kuwait, where the heavy armies march from its lands. Here is Qatar, where the command of the campaign is based there. Here is Bahrain, the command of the (U.S. Navy) fifth fleet remains inside it."

22 MAY 2003

THE HINDU

## Diplomatic Offices Shut Down

# US fears more attacks in Saudi Arabia

Donna Abu-Nasr  
RIYADH 20 MAY

US diplomats said on Tuesday more attacks in Saudi Arabia were "imminent" and closed their embassy and consulates for a few days in response. A Saudi official said investigators believed hard-core Muslim militants were ready to volunteer for suicide strikes like the ones that targeted westerners in the capital last week.

"The embassy continues to receive credible information that further terrorist attacks are being planned against unspecified targets in Saudi Arabia," Americans were warned in a statement posted on US embassy and consulate websites.

"In response to information that some strikes may be imminent, the embassy in Riyadh and the consulates in Jeddah and Dhahran will be closed on Wednesday," it said.

The statement said diplomatic offices would reopen on Sunday after the Saudi Thursday-Friday weekend and a previously scheduled holiday for Memorial Day. Earlier, the Saudi official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Saudis were aware of about 50 Muslim militants, some now dead, believed to belong to three cells, including the one that carried out the suicide car bombings

in Riyadh last week. Another cell has fled Saudi Arabia and the third is at large in the kingdom with members ready to volunteer for suicide attacks.

The official indicated that the militants were linked to al-Qaeda, the group US and other Saudi officials have linked to the Riyadh bombings. On Monday, Saudi and US official said they had new intelligence pointing to Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda group possibly launching fresh attacks in the US or against American interests overseas.

The Saudi official said on Tuesday the militants preparing to attack had hard-core sympathisers numbering "in the low hundreds."

Near-simultaneous suicide attacks on three residential compounds on the outskirts of Riyadh on May 12 killed 34 people, including nine attackers, and wounded almost 200.

Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, told reporters in Riyadh that "there is chatter, a high level of chatter regionally and in other international spots" about possible new attacks in Saudi Arabia or America. The FBI is warning that al-Qaeda could mount new attacks in the US as well as target American and western interests overseas. —AP



BUSH: LIVING ON THE EDGE

# Bush's case bombs

Give An illegal war encourages terror n/s

**O**sama bin Laden and/or his lieutenants have expressed themselves — a series of bomb attacks in the Middle East and North Africa — on Operation Iraqi Freedom. No one should be surprised, least of all the US administration. The Iraqi misadventure, apart from violating international law and creating for Iraqis a situation where they exchanged autocracy under Saddam for mobocracy under ineffectual American colonialists, has also, as expected, given radical Islam a wonderful new context to ply its deadly trade. If the terrorists shift from Western targets in the Middle East and North Africa to Western countries, particularly the members of the coalition of the willing, the tragic absurdity of the Bush doctrine will become sharper. But, and such has been the conduct of this White House, if jihadis succeed in hitting US mainland again, George Bush may launch his third war against terror, which will no doubt spawn new enmities.

The Middle East roadmap risks being used for terrorism if Israel's belligerent Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, cannot be prevailed upon to withdraw from what Tel Aviv calls settlements. Israeli anger and frustration at radical Palestinian and Islamic terrorism is understandable. Bush can, however, use America's enormous clout — Israel is heavily dependent on US aid — and force Sharon to withdraw from the settlements. That will give Abu Mazen, the new Palestinian premier, a stick to beat Hamas with. Also, it will address somewhat popular Palestinian grievances against Israel. But while regime change is okay for other countries, even policy change is deemed too much for Israel, specially with the US getting into the presidential electoral cycle. Sharon's stubbornness and, in the face of it, Bush's ineffectualness re-emphasises Brajesh Mishra's folly. We have already said his thesis of identifying India's security interests with those of America and Israel, is innocent of fairly basic understanding of this country's interests and constraints. We had argued that a close alliance of the kind proposed by Mishra will bring Palestinian and Al Qaida terrorists to India. The recent bombings are proof. Pakistan, considered a US lackey, was a bombing target and is reportedly on a list of six countries that bin Laden want punished. India is not in the picture and won't be unless it makes the mistake of giving up its tactical and policy independence.

THE STATESMAN

21 MAY 2003

# Now, Pakistan puts curbs on Hizbul

HT Correspondents

Islamabad/Srinagar, May 20

PAKISTAN ON Tuesday imposed "restrictions" on the Hizbul Mujahideen by preventing the outfit from "regrouping", a move seen as a step to create a conducive atmosphere for resumption of Indo-Pak dialogue.

Announcing the restrictions, Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat said: "They are not being allowed to regroup as a militant force. We won't allow the use of militancy." Denying reports in the local media that Hizb has been banned, he said: "For the moment, it's not a ban. But there are certainly restrictions on their activities."

But Hizbul refused to accept the restrictions and vowed to defy any ban on its leaders from entering PoK. "The Pakistani government cannot impose any restrictions or ban on Hizb. Pakistan is a party to the Kashmir dispute and therefore has no right to place any restriction on us. Nor can it stop militants from crossing the LoC. We'll defy the ban," Hizb spokesman Saleem Hashmi told *Hindustan Times*.

Making it clear that activities of the Lashkar-e-Tayeeba had been curbed as well, Hayat maintained that Pakistan would not allow Hizbul "to use our soil for damaging propaganda or physical activity that can pose a security threat to Pakistan or any of its neighbours... As far as crossing the borders is concerned, it is as much the responsibility of the Indian government as it's of the Pakistani government."

21 MAY 2003

HINDUSTAN TIMES

E.U. / PROGRESS DESPITE DIVISIONS

## New force to be centrepiece of 'European army'

HD 14  
20/5

**BRUSSELS, MAY 19.** The European Union Defence Ministers declared on Monday that their new, 60,000-strong rapid-reaction force was ready for a "full range" of peacekeeping operations, but conceded that hardware shortfalls would make it hard to send and protect the troops.

Gaps in Europe's military arsenal "limited and constrained" the force's ability to deploy quickly, defend itself if a conflict intensifies or handle more than one mission simultaneously, the Ministers said in a statement.

At a meeting here, they pledged to intensify efforts to acquire new equipment ranging from transport planes and air-to-air refuelling to precision weapons and protection against germ warfare or poison gas at-

tacks. "A lot more remains to be done," said Javier Solana, the E.U.'s foreign and security policy representative. "It needs to be done as a matter of urgency."

The force is the centrepiece of the E.U.'s plans launched four years ago to develop a military wing to tackle peacekeeping, humanitarian operations and regional crises, like those that tore the Balkans apart in the 1990s. Progress on the reaction force puts the E.U. on track to make good on an offer to take over NATO's 17,000-strong peacekeeping mission in Bosnia at the start of 2004.

The E.U. officials also stressed the advances in defence cooperation, despite deep divisions within the bloc over the Iraq war and plans backed by France and Germany to create a separate European mili-

tary headquarters, which have been rejected by most other E.U. nations as a threat to NATO unity.

The Ministers said that the E.U. was coordinating its defence plans with NATO, where the European nations are also working to boost a similar range of capabilities.

But with the E.U. economy hovering on the edge of recession, they are being held back by spending restraints. France, Italy and Germany suggested that the E.U. restrictions on government deficits should be relaxed to allow more defence spending.

Seeking to minimise costs, the Europeans are considering leasing equipment such as the big military cargo planes from commercial airlines or from the former Soviet republics. — AP

20 MAY 2003

THE HINDU

# Morocco turns spotlight on Al-Qaida

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, May 18. — Some of the top Al-Qaida leaders are in Iran and Pakistan and are likely to unleash a spate of terror attacks to prove that the terror network is still a viable force, media reports here said today. This follows speculation that the suicide attacks in Morocco's commercial centre of Casablanca were orchestrated by Al-Qaida.

One of Al-Qaida's top leaders hiding in Iran, Saif Adel, is also suspected of helping to organise the bombings in Saudi Arabia last week. US terrorism experts believe that he may be trying to unleash as many strikes as possible in a short period of time. Intelligence officials believe he has assumed the role of the network's military commander. He is believed to have given the go-ahead for the Riyadh bombings that killed 34, officials told *The Washington Post*.

Adel, along with al-Qaida's head of training Abu Mohammed Masri, son of Osama bin Laden Saad bin Laden, and Abu Musab Zarqawi are believed to be in Iran. They represent one of the two key command groups. "There are some senior Al-Qaida members in Iran who may have had a hand in this," an official said, referring to the Riyadh bombings. The FBI is assembling a team to help Moroccan authorities investigate the attacks.

## Pakistan on Osama's hit list

Al-Qaida has singled out Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Morocco among six countries as targets for "martyrdom operations", according to an audio-tape released three months ago, adds PTI from London.

19 MAY 2003

THE STATESMAN



# Raids on ultra hideouts in Morocco

Associated Press QSA

CASABLANCA (Morocco), May 18. — Police raided Islamic militant strongholds across the country today, searching for suspects linked to the suicide bombings in Casablanca. Agents detained "several dozen" militants in the city, Fez and Tangiers on suspicions that at least two Moroccan groups, Salafia Jihadia and Attakfir wal Hira, were behind the blasts. An official said US and French anti-terror experts had arrived in the city to help the probe.

Twenty-eight people and 13 of the attackers were killed in the blasts that ripped through a Spanish restaurant, the Belgian consulate, a Jewish community centre and cemetery, and a hotel late on Friday night. Morocco's justice minister Mohammed Bouzoubaa denied that there were any foreigners among the 14 suicide bombers, one of whom survived and was being questioned by police. He said eight of the bombers had been identified.

The country remained in shock. "This is the same thing as the attack on the World Trade Center in the USA,"

said Ahmed Chakir, a taxi-driver. There was heavy military presence in the bombed areas. Riot police patrolled the city streets.

Morocco did not directly implicate the Al-Qaida for the bombings but laid the blame on international terrorism. Security officers suspect around 300 Moroccans have been trained in Al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan. In an audiotape released in February, Osama bin Laden had described Morocco as an US ally "ready for liberation".

Another report on page 2

17 4 MAY 1993  
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# Bhutan, Nepal want India for talks on refugees

*Thun Wala*  
*14/5/03*  
*9:45 am*  
**Sudeshna Sarkar**  
in Kathmandu

MAY 18. — On the eve of parleys between Bhutan and Nepal on the repatriation of Bhutanese refugees in Nepal, the participants feel that India should be party to the talks.

Bhutanese leaders from the seven UN refugee camps in Jhapa and Morang districts said the refugee problem — created in the 1990s when the Bhutan government began an ethnic cleansing to create a one-language and one-culture nation — is not restricted to Bhutan and Nepal alone.

"There are over 30,000 Bhutanese living in India as refugees who are not getting any aid from any inter-

national donor," Dr Dev Narayan Sharma Dhakal, a Bhutanese economist who teaches at Harvard in summer, said. "The problem cannot be resolved by simply repatriating those who are in Nepal. For a lasting solution, the Indian government has to be involved."

The 14th round of ministerial talks are scheduled to take place in Kathmandu tomorrow to discuss the repatriation of over 100,000 Bhutanese refugees who have been living in camps in eastern Nepal for over a decade.

Since India is the biggest country in the Saarec and Bhutan's largest donor, the Bhutanese in Nepal felt the situation could be resolved soon if Delhi intervenes. They also said they have written to Mr Atal Behari

Vajpayee and approached other Indian ministers and bureaucrats. So far, there has been no result.

A case for Indian intervention is also being made by the Nepalese. Dr Prakash Chandra Lohani, former foreign minister of Nepal and a leader of Rastriya Prajatantra Party, said the first stream of Bhutanese refugees went to India, from where they were diverted to Nepal.

"We have frequently asked the Indian government to show some initiation in solving the problem, in advising the two countries, but Delhi has refused to show any kind of involvement," he said. "They always say it is a bilateral issue and should be resolved between Nepal and Bhutan."

19 MAY 2003

49-10 19/5

# THE SPREADING TENTACLES

terrorism

THE SERIES OF terrorist strikes in the past week, all carrying the imprint of the Al-Qaeda network in terms of their degree of sophistication and required level of coordination, have shaken the Western world, prompting precautionary measures on an unprecedented scale. The bomb attacks in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, have been followed by explosions at petrol stations in the Pakistani port city of Karachi and in Chechnya, the Russian province, and on Friday by an even more devastating strike on Western targets in the Moroccan city of Casablanca. These have come even as a host of countries, including the U.S., the U.K., Germany, Australia and New Zealand, have moved to protect their citizens by urging them not to travel to tourist spots that may come under attack by the terrorist outfit. From Kenya in east Africa, a favourite of British tourists, to the Middle East to countries in South East Asia, the declared danger zone covers a vast stretch of land. With memories of the Bali bombing refreshed by the start of the trial in Jakarta of the main accused in that attack, no country can be accused of motivated over-reaction.

Clearly, no precaution can be deemed excessive. The summer has thus suddenly become hotter as counter-terror agencies have spoken of a resurgent Al-Qaeda preparing to strike further. After remaining dormant for a while waiting for the dust to settle in a post-Saddam Hussein Iraq, Al-Qaeda is letting the world know that it might have been wounded by the operations of the U.S in Afghanistan but it is far from defeated. With Osama bin Laden alive and free, the terrorist organisation is thought to have begun recruiting new adherents and reorganising bases of operation in many countries, including Sudan and the Chechen province. The Saudi operation perhaps signalled the resurgence. It was perhaps also meant to

send out the signal that while the U.S. might have overthrown Saddam Hussein, the war had won for Al-Qaeda thousands more of supporters in the Arab world who were witness to the devastation caused by the bombing campaign in Iraq. Two of the outfit's masterminds, Abu Zubaydah and Khalid Mohammed, and more than 2,000 suspected terrorists may be in U.S. custody but the organisation is far from weakened. Security agencies report that it is now thought to have operatives in several countries ready to activate their cells and send out their foot soldiers to perform predefined tasks. "Softer high value targets" such as a plane full of tourists will be their aim, not spectacular targets similar to September 11. This should explain the British decision to suspend air services to Kenya, one of the countries where Al-Qaeda is said to have become active again. Shoe-bomber Richard Reid had in December 2001 demonstrated one possible mode of achieving the objective.

It is well-established that Al-Qaeda, like all terrorist organisations such as the LTTE and the Irish Republican Army, chooses its targets with diabolical precision, its victims, the extent of the damage inflicted and the place of action all intended to send out messages. It is for this reason that the terrorist attacks of the past week are a cause of especial concern. Western Governments have vowed to take counter-measures. But one inescapable reality is that the celebrations in the U.S. and the U.K. to mark the "victory" in Iraq may be premature. As Washington prepares to install a friendly regime in Baghdad, it is receiving awesome reminders of its incomplete work in Afghanistan and Iraq. Clearly, as it draws up the balance sheet in the 30-month-old war on terror, the U.S. will find as many entries on the debit side as on the credit.

19 MAY 2003

THE HINDU

# Morocco serial blasts leave 40 dead, 100 hurt

**Casablanca:** A series of blasts in Casablanca, Morocco's biggest city, early on Saturday left 40 people dead and about 100 wounded.

This was the second biggest terror strike against Western targets—after the blasts in the Saudi capital of Riyadh on Monday—since the war on Iraq.

Saturday's blasts were targeted at a Jewish community centre, an old Jewish cemetery and the Casa de Espana Spanish social club, Morocco's interior minister Al-Mustapha Sahel said. Hotel Safir, in the old heart of the city, also came under attack.

"International terrorism struck Casablanca tonight," the minister said, adding that three Moroccan suspects, one of them alleged to have been a would-be suicide bomber who was injured, had been arrested.

He charged that the terrorists' goal was to disrupt Morocco's democratic process and its political pluralism. "Morocco will not be intimidated by those who choose to kill innocent people," he vowed.

In Madrid, a Spanish diplomat quoted colleagues in Morocco as saying that three people with explosives entered the Spanish restaurant in the club.

"There are body parts all over the place," Moroccan journalist Aboubakr Jamaï told the BBC, describing an eyewitness account from the restaurant, where one report said a

young attacker had blown himself up with a grenade in his belt.

Diplomats from Spain— which was one of the most vocal supporters of the US-led war on Iraq—said one of the explosions hit either the office or the residence of the American consul, which is close to the Belgian mission. But in Washington, a State Department spokesman said no US government facility was hit.

US deputy defence secretary Paul Wolfowitz blamed the bombings on "terrorists" who, he said, wanted to block progress in the Arab world.

The Belgian embassy in Rabat said two policemen outside its Casablanca consulate were killed and a security guard wounded. The five-storey building, which stands across the street from a Jewish-owned Italian restaurant, was badly damaged.

A police officer outside the Jewish centre said that the attack there was "apparently carried out by suicide bombers who were wearing explosives around their belts". He had no information on casualties. The single-storey building was severely damaged, with blood stains visible on the facade up to five metres high. Broken glass, bricks and rubble littered the street.

This is the first major attack of its kind in Morocco in recent years. Agencies

5 MAY 2003

# Regrouped al-Qaida ready for terror attacks

David Johnston  
& Don Van Natta Jr  
*Washington, May 17*

LEADERS AND operatives of al-Qaida have re-organised bases of operation in at least a half-dozen locations, including Kenya, Sudan, Pakistan and Chechnya, senior counter-terrorism officials said this week.

The leaders have begun to recruit new members and plan attacks on Western targets, according to senior counter-terrorism officials in Washington, Europe and West Asia.

As evidence of this, senior government officials pointed to

the secret arrests in the US in the last two months of two Arabs suspected of having been sent by senior al-Qaida leaders to scout targets for new terror attacks.

The two recently apprehended men, whom the officials would not identify, were said to be conducting "pre-surveillance" activities. They were part of a larger group of about six al-Qaida followers, arrested in recent months, prompting officials to conclude that the outfit remains determined to carry out attacks on American soil, officials said.

The previously undisclosed arrests, along with the deadly bombings in Morocco on Satur-

day and Saudi Arabia this week provided what officials in the US and overseas said were strong indications that Osama bin Laden's network remained a potent threat, despite setbacks like the capture in March of Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the network's senior operational commander. "Definitely, their capability has been eroded," said a senior government official. "But they are still a threat, they are still fighting and they are still trying to strike in the US."

Although al-Qaida's role in the Riyadh bombings on Monday night has not yet been confirmed, senior counter-terror-

ism officials interviewed this week in the US and Europe said they suspected the Saudi attacks marked a resurgence from a period of dormancy that began with the US-led invasion of Iraq two months ago.

The officials cited troubling signs that the al-Qaida had opened new training outposts in East Africa and energised its recruitment efforts.

They also said there was new intelligence indicating that al-Qaida was in the final planning stages of new attacks, possibly involving aircraft. Britain and the US issued stark warnings this week about possible terror-

ist strikes in Saudi Arabia and East Africa.

A senior counter-terrorism official estimated that al-Qaida had 3,000 members, far fewer than in the late 1990s, when as many as 20,000 people trained at al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan. Other officials said numbers were not precise because the outfit had no clear membership standards.

Some of the half-dozen or so recently arrested in the US were said to have been studying possible locations for attacks on gaso-line tanker trucks or suspension bridges. Others were in the US awaiting future orders as "possible sleepers" or had transferred

funds to other suspects. Officials said some of the men had been operating under the direction of Khalid Mohammed — who, after his arrest in Pakistan, is said to have confirmed their presence in the US inspecting possible sites for terrorist attacks.

In the past, Mohammed was known to have sent other al-Qaida operatives to the US to undertake terrorist missions. Officials suspect that one of them was José Padilla, who in May 2002 was arrested in Chicago. He was accused of involvement in a plot to build a "dirty" bomb.

The targets of the scouts in the recent cases was not clear, but Mo-

ammed has told interrogators that landmarks in New York and Washington, selected by bin Laden, remain on al-Qaida's target list, along with buildings like the Sears Tower in Chicago.

Several counter-terrorism officials said al-Qaida was trying to develop harder-to-detect explosives, to be placed in shoes or luggage that would be used to blow up planes. It is unlikely that a terrorist team would follow the example of the September 11 hijackers, spending months in the US before a new attack, they said, adding, they would remain overseas until it was time to strike.

The New York Times

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

19 MAY 2003

the coastal town...

MOROCCO BLASTS / 'OSAMA' PROVES STILL A FORCE

# Al-Qaeda launches global offensive

By Atul Aneja

**MANAMA, MAY 17.** In carrying out a terrorist attack in Casablanca even while the dust on the Riyadh bombings was yet to settle, the Al-Qaeda terrorist organisation appears to have launched an international terror offensive after the war in Iraq.

The Casablanca blasts have resulted in nearly 40 deaths while around 100 people have been injured. The serial bombings targeted a Jewish community centre and synagogue, the Belgium embassy, the Al Safir hotel, a Spanish cultural centre and a restaurant opposite the Spanish centre. It is not the first time Jewish symbols have been targeted in Africa. Al-Qaeda had killed 21 people when it targeted the Jerba synagogue in Tunisia in April 2002. It had also attacked a hotel frequented by Israelis in Mombassa, Kenya, in November last. Fourteen Israelis were killed in that attack.

U.S. officials now admit that the Riyadh bombings were personally ordered by Osama bin Laden.

In yet another indication that the Al-Qaeda leadership chain has not been disrupted, Abdullah Mohammad Fazul, the alleged Egyptian head of Al-Qaeda's East Africa wing since 1995, was spotted in Somalia's capital Mogadishu on Thursday.

Fazul has been blamed for masterminding three high profile attacks: the Mombassa hotel bombing, the blasts at the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and a 1996 attack on an Ethiopian airliner in which Israeli aviation specialists were killed.

In fact, alarmed by Fazul's presence, British Airways decided to suspend its operations to Kenya. Why did terrorists choose to target Morocco? According to reports, Morocco has evolved into Washington's premier base in North Africa. Besides, some of the high-ranking Iraqi officials captured by the U.S. during the war in Iraq are being interrogated there. Diplomatic sources point out that the war against terrorism has still not seriously disrupted the African

wing of Al-Qaeda. Operatives from Al-Qaeda and the Egyptian Jihad Islami appear to have concentrated in the fishing villages along the eastern coast of Somalia between Kismayo port and Ras Kaambooni, not far from the Kenyan border.

AP reports:

Al-Qaeda is out to prove it is still a force, U.S. counter-terrorism officials said, suggesting the bombings in Morocco and Saudi Arabia and terrorist threats in Africa and Asia are part of a coordinated effort to strike lightly defended targets.

At this point, those targets do not appear to include places within the United States, officials said on Friday. The Casablanca attacks are likely to reinforce intelligence reports pointing toward attacks overseas, although there were no warnings about potential attacks in Morocco or any other North African countries. U.S. and British authorities have warned of threats in East Africa, particularly Kenya, and in Southeast Asia, particularly Malaysia.



The exterior of a hotel damaged in a suicide bomb attack in Casablanca, Morocco, on Friday. — Reuters

## 40 killed in Morocco blasts

**CASABLANCA, MAY 17.** A series of bomb attacks rocked Morocco's economic capital of Casablanca overnight, killing at least 40 people and injuring 60 at sites frequented by foreigners, including the Belgian consulate, a Jewish community centre and cemetery, an international hotel and a bustling Spanish restaurant.

An official said two Spaniards were among the foreigners killed in the attacks just after 2200 GMT (3.30 a.m. IST). Investigations had shown that all the attacks were suicide bombings, and that car bombs had not been used.

The Moroccan Government did not directly implicate Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network in the nearly simultaneous explosions, but the attack con-

firmed fears that terrorists had plans to strike lightly-defended sites. The planning and coordination of the attacks threw suspicion on the Al-Qaeda, though no group has claimed responsibility.

Officials had originally reported that at least three of the explosions were from car bombs, and a fourth was detonated by a suicide bomber wearing an explosive belt in a Spanish restaurant. Residents had reported a fifth explosion.

Casablanca was thrown into chaos. Police and rescue workers rushed to the sites to care for the dazed, blood-splattered survivors. The shattered bodies of victims were scattered on the wreckage-strewn streets.

The bombers struck the Hotel Safir in the heart of the old city,

a Jewish community centre, a Jewish-owned Italian restaurant and the Casa de Espana social club. A bomb seemingly destined for an old Jewish cemetery appeared to have gone off early. The bulk of the dead were at the club, popular with Spanish business people and diplomats.

"The doorman, poor thing, they cut his head off, with a big knife...then they left one, two bombs. And there were Spaniards. I saw the doorman's chair; it was covered in blood," the secretary of the Casa de Espana Spanish social club told Spain's state radio. Three Moroccans had been arrested in connection with the blasts, among them one suspected of attempting a suicide bombing and wounded. — AP, Reuters

**Al-Qaeda strikes?: Page 14**

18 MAY 2003

THE HINDU

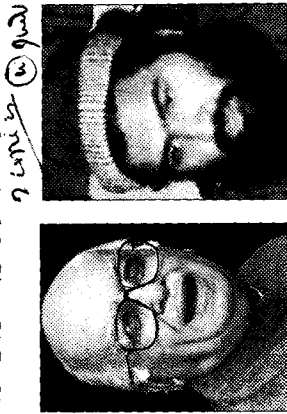
# Advani welcomes ban on Masood Azhar

By Bisheshwar Mishra  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mangalore:** Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani on Thursday welcomed the ban imposed by Pakistan on Maulana Masood Azhar's entry into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). He is the leader of the Jaish-e-Mohammad. Masood Azhar, released after the hijacking of Indian Airlines' IC-814 to Kandahar in December 1999, is on the list of 20 terrorists and criminals now in Pakistan and wanted by India.

"If the ban on Masood Azhar's entry into PoK is any index of a beginning of a change in their (Pakistan's) attitude, it is welcome," Mr Advani said. But he cautioned that it should not be read as a change in Pakistan's approach to the Kashmir issue.

He pointed out that Pakistan's PM Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali had himself stated recently that there is no change in his country's attitude to-



L.K. Advani

Masood Azhar

wards Jammu and Kashmir. Mr Advani added: "India is not bothered about this. Our interest over the last several years is that cross-border terrorism has to be abandoned by Pakistan as an instrument of state policy." This, he said, is the least Pakistan can do as a sincere gesture towards India.

Mr Advani, who was speaking to journalists on a flight to Mangalore, said: "Even the Simla Agreement could not be utilised to bring about an agreement on time."

changing Pakistan's attitude on Kashmir. The only thing the Simla Agreement achieved was that the two countries agreed to try and resolve their differences on this issue bilaterally and not to raise it in any international forum."

Asked if Pakistan was making a gesture to India by banning Azhar's entry into PoK, Mr Advani said: "Today, Pakistan is conscious that the international community is extremely enraged over terrorism."

A senior government official accompanying him said: "Pakistan's announcement could also be related to the recent bombing incident carried out by the Al Qaida at Riyadh."

Regarding the recent US statement that infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir had come down significantly, Mr Advani said: "Washington's foreign policy requires that Pakistan should be its steady ally and, hence, it keeps giving certificates to Islamabad from time to time."



BLAST-MASTERMIND TOOK DIRECT ORDERS FROM OSAMA, SAYS RIYADH

# Saudis admit to security lapses

## The Times, London & AP

RIYADH, May 15. — Saudi foreign minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said yesterday that 15 Saudis had carried out the deadly car bomb attacks in Riyadh and acknowledged that there were gaps in security. Saudi security chiefs also said that the 29-year-old mastermind of the attacks took his orders directly from Osama bin Laden.

According to Prince Saud, those behind this week's attack wanted to drive foreigners from the kingdom. However, he also maintained that his country was as safe now as before. Some foreigners however went ahead with plans to leave Saudi Arabia.

The attacks came at a time when US-Saudi relations are at a low point and when the US is pulling out most of its troops in Saudi Arabia, a presence that the Al-Qaida used as a pretext for their attacks against the kingdom and USA.

Saudi officials named Mohammed al-Juhani as the mastermind behind the attacks, describing him as the leader of an Al-Qaida cell who had slipped into the kingdom two months ago us-

ing fake documents with orders to target Westerners living here.

Prince Nayef, the interior minister, said yesterday that the men were believed to have taken orders from the Al-Qaida leader. He did not rule out the possibility of more attacks.

The FBI is believed to have in its possession a film of al-Juhani found in the bombed-out home of a top deputy of bin Laden in Afghanistan.

## US alert

WASHINGTON, May 15.

— The USA yesterday warned of future terrorist attacks targeting US citizens and interests throughout East Africa, particularly Kenya, after this week's triple suicide bombing in Saudi Arabia which was blamed on Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaida network. — AFP

119-1  
EARMARKS OF AL-QAEDA'

# Americans among 29 killed in Saudi suicide blasts

14/5  
**RIYADH, MAY 13.** Attackers shot their way into three housing compounds in synchronised strikes in the Saudi capital and then set off multiple suicide car bombs, killing at least 29, including the nine attackers, officials reported on Tuesday.

Seven Americans were believed to be among the victims. Earlier, a U.S. State Department official had said the attack killed 91 people.

The authorities found nine charred bodies believed to be those of the suicide attackers, according to a Saudi Interior Ministry official who earlier had put the toll at seven Americans, seven Saudis, two Jordanians, two Filipinos, one Lebanese and one Swiss. The official Saudi Press Agency quoted the unidentified Saudi official as saying the attackers also wounded 194, most of them slightly.

The bombings constituted the deadliest terror attack on Americans since September 11, 2001, and the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, said the coordinated strike had "the earmarks of al-Qaeda."

There was no claim of responsibility. If the al-Qaeda connection is confirmed, it would show that Osama bin Laden's network is still capable of mounting coordinated attacks, even in one of the world's most tightly policed countries.

The Riyadh attack came as the United States is pulling out most of the 5,000 troops it had based in Saudi Arabia, whose presence fuelled anti-American sentiment.

The Interior Ministry official was quoted as saying that the



This video grab from the official Saudi television shows footage broadcast on Tuesday of the scene of an overnight blast in the Saudi capital Riyadh. — AFP

attackers used cars packed with explosives in "suicide operations".

The attacks were followed by a smaller bombing on Tuesday near the headquarters of a Saudi-U.S. company. No casualties were reported in that bombing.

A guard at one of the housing compounds in the north-eastern section of Riyadh was quoted by the Saudi paper *al-Watan* as saying that seven cars exploded there, all apparently carrying suicide bombers. At least three bodies could be seen lying on the ground at the compound on Tuesday morning.

Witnesses reported hearing gunfire moments before the explosions.

The force of the blasts ripped through apartment buildings and single-family houses. Heaps of rubble and blocks of upended concrete surrounded twisted steel bars and knocked down palm trees. Burned-out hulks that had been cars were still in their parking spots; upended furniture and debris littered a pool deck.

Police vehicles, lights flashing, patrolled the walls of the compounds Tuesday. Alhamra compound, which suffered one of the worst attacks, was hidden behind 20-foot walls. Surveillance cameras were posted along the walls. — AP

**We will find the killers, says Bush: Page 14**

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**BLASTS / ATTACKERS SINNERS, SAYS CROWN PRINCE** ✓

# Riyadh vows to destroy terror cell

**RIYADH, MAY 14.** The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Abdullah, sharply vowed to 'destroy' the terrorist cell that carried out four deadly bombings in Riyadh, and said the men were sinners in the eyes of Islam.

Prince Abdullah on Tuesday condemned the terrorists as "criminals, bloodthirsty, devoid of all of the Islamic values and human values" and called them 'monsters.'

Referring to a number of Saudi Islamic victims in the attacks, the Crown Prince said the Koran ruled that killing a fellow 'believer' of Islam would result in "hellfire and the wrath of God".

He quoted the Prophet Mohammed as saying: "He who kills a person with whom he has an agreement will not even smell the scent of paradise."

The text was released to Washington while the speech was in progress, another unusual move that indicated heightened efforts at cooperation with the U.S. war on international terrorism.

The Crown Prince reassured the country that its stability had not been undermined. "If those killers, those criminals believe — if they believe that their criminality, bloody criminal acts will shake even one hair of the body of our nation and its unity, then they are deceiving themselves," he said.

He pledged that the Saudi Government and society would turn against and destroy terrorism until it can no longer "stand up again". "The country is awake, working hard to protect" the people, he said, calling upon Saudis for help in tracking down the suspect cells.

## Well-defended compound

The U.S. defence and security officials described how a group of men in two vehicles penetrated a well-defended compound on the edge of Riyadh and blew the front off a four-storey building housing U.S. defence contractor employees.

An advance party in a white Ford Crown Victoria led the attack, driving up the ap-



**PRIME TARGET:** The devastated Al-Hamra expatriate housing compound that was hit by a suicide car bombing in Riyadh on Wednesday. — AFP

proach road and along the perimeter wall, towards the gate where at least four armed men were on duty at about 11.20 p.m. on Monday, they said yesterday.

First they fired six shots through the front window of a Saudi military truck posted near the gate, killing one soldier and injuring two, one official said.

"It was late and dark, so the soldiers would not necessarily be suspicious that an American car was approaching," the senior official told reporters.

The attackers then turned on the guard in the sentry box at the gate, killing him and pressing the button which controlled the metal gate and the barrier installed in the roadway.

"It was your typical operation. You kill the guards, you push the button, you let yourself in," one officer said.

"All this took 30 seconds to a minute."

Once the gate was open and the path clear, the car pulled aside and let through a Dodge Ram truck loaded with about 200 kg of explosives of the RDX or Semtex type.

The car drove about 100 metres into the compound, turned to the left, drove another 40 metres, then right and up to the edge of the building which housed 70 unaccompanied or bachelor employees of a company, based in Fairfax, Virginia.

"They went for the spot where they do most damage. If they had stopped at the corner the blast would have dissipated down the street," said a senior official.

The blast left a crater about two metres deep and threw the chassis of the truck off the side, where it lay scorched.

At least 10 people were killed, including seven Americans, in just one of three attacks that night. — DPA\Reuters

16 MAY 2003

THE HINDU

**U.N. MEET / ACTION SOON TO LIFT SANCTIONS ON IRAQ**

# Aznar asks Council to draw up list of terrorists

<sup>895</sup>  
**UNITED NATIONS, MAY 7.** The Spanish Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar, has called on the U.N. Security Council to draw up a world list of terrorist groups similar to the list used to crack down on Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network.

But, in a speech to a public meeting of the Council, Mr. Aznar did not specify any movement he wished to see included on the list.

"Terrorism is not a matter concerning this or that country. It concerns us all, it is trans-national," Mr. Aznar told the Security Council.

"We must re-think the phenomenon of terrorism and the security architecture, both national and international, that we have been constructing in order to combat it."

Last month, Spain took over the chairmanship of the council's counter-terrorism committee from Britain.

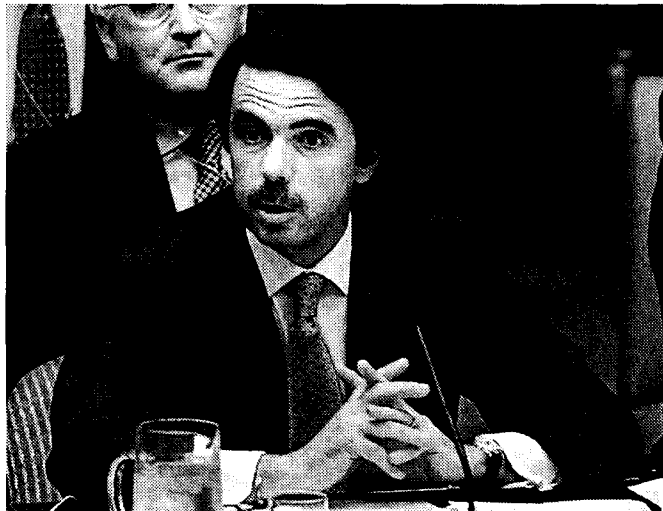
Mr. Aznar also recommended that the council set up "an institutional mechanism" to allow the victims of terrorism to "speak and bear witness" through the United Nations.

He gave no details and his speech contained no other specific proposals.

In a related developemtn, no

<sup>110-14 Terrorism</sup>  
one on the U.N. Security Council objected to lifting sanctions against Iraq, but the U.S. is at odds with Russia and France on how quickly the embargoes should end. The U.S. President, George W. Bush, called for the immediate lifting of sanctions three weeks ago following the end of the war that toppled Saddam Hussein, but the U.S. has yet to present specific proposals

to the Council. Until it does, council members can't begin discussing the issues of sanctions, the future of the oil-for-food humanitarian programme, the return of U.N. weapons inspectors and the world body's role in post-war Iraq. The U.S. Ambassador, John Negroponte, has said he hoped to present something to the council this week. — AP, AFP



**The Spanish Prime Minister, Marla Aznar, speaks at the United Nations Security Council meeting on combating terrorism on Tuesday.** AFP

08 MAY 2003

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# Four Pak.-linked outfits added to U.S. terror list

**WASHINGTON, MAY 1.** Four militant outfits operating in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Pakistan-based Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, have been added to the list of terrorist groups by the United States.

The other outfits mentioned by the State Department in its annual report "Patterns of Global Terrorism", released yesterday, were the Al-Badr Mujahideen, the Harkat-ul-Jehadi-i-Islamia (HuJI) and the Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen.

The outfits were named in the category of "Other Terrorist Groups", which comprised 37 organisations worldwide.

The report said the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen was formed in 1989 and was the militant wing of the Pakistan's Jamaat-e-Islamia. The outfit currently focussed on security forces and politicians in the Kashmir valley. It had also conducted a number of operations against military targets and also "occasionally" struck at civilian targets in the valley.

Interestingly, the report highlighted the "visible splits between Pakistan-based commanders and several commanders in the Kashmir valley."

The Al-Badr, it said was a

splinter group of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen.

The HuJI mainly consisted of Pakistanis and foreign Islamists, who were fighting in Kashmir. The report said that the group

had been linked to mysterious disappearance of five foreigners kidnapped by Al-Faran in 1995.

The Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen, it said, comprised mainly Kashmiris and Pakistanis. —PTI

## U.S. lauds India's commitment to fighting terror

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

**WASHINGTON, MAY 1.** The United States has praised India's commitment to fighting terrorism globally in spite of it being a victim of terror.

"...It's important to appreciate that India continues to be victimised by terror and maintains a strong commitment to the global war on terrorism and to bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation," said Ambassador Cofer Black, Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism, presenting the State Department's 2002 Report on Patterns of Global Terrorism on Wednesday.

At the same time, he cautioned that fighting terrorism did not always mean employing military methods and called for maximum restraint in dealing with Pakistan. "... Fighting terrorism doesn't always mean using military means. If you look around the world, the U.S. fights terrorism in various ways, whether it's military or law enforcement or intelligence. There are other approaches to problems. Military action should certainly be the last," Mr. Black said.

"We have always expressed strong concerns about the potential for conflict between India and Pakistan. We believe that the encouragement of dialogue is most important. Conflicts are resolved through productive interaction.

Q 2 MAY 2003

# Militants send reminder in Valley

VOLENCE SPIRALS | Suicide squad targets BSF hq, patrol ambushed, court attacked

MUZAMIL JALEEL  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 25

As the Centre inches towards resumption of a dialogue with Pakistan, the militants today sent some reminders with a suicide attack on the security forces — the first this year — an ambush and a blast. Five security personnel, including a major in the Army, two militants and four villagers were killed and 35 injured in the incidents.

Two militants appeared at the gates of the highly-fortified Border Security Force headquarters at Madar in Bandipore, 58 km from here, around 9:45 am. "One of them had strapped explosives and grenades to his body. He tried to sneak

inside through a gate. The one who had stayed outside engaged the troops in a fierce gunbattle while the other blew himself up," said sub divisional police officer of Bandipore Khalid Muzafar. This camp had been the target of the first such suicide attack in Kashmir in July 1999.

"Three BSF men were killed while two were injured in the attack. A local milkman, Ghulam Mohammad Khan, was caught in the crossfire and got killed," he said.

The identity of the militants has not yet been established but the BSF suspects Jaish-e-Mohammad, which has a substantial presence in the area, to be behind the incident. The security forces cordoned off the entire area



Meanwhile, N Vohra gets on with dialogue. Javeed Shah

and launched a search to nab other members of this militant group, if any.

This camp, situated at the base of a hillock, is divided by a road that connects Bandipore with dozens of

Harmukh war — a the DIG, a com-

mandant and two other BSF men had died.

The last such suicide attack where a militant had blown himself up had taken place at the assembly complex here on October 1, 2001. It was carried out by the Jaish-e-Mohammad. The strike that had followed the September 11 attacks had attracted international condemnation. In fact, such attacks were stopped after the December 13 Parliament attack that led to a massive troop build-up on the borders and even threatened a war between the two neighbours.

A few kilometres up in the Harmukh jungles, militants ambushed a patrol of 14 Rashtriya Rifles — at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Terrorism

# Terrorism must end for talks: PM

**MANALI, MAY 13.** Maintaining terrorist camps and infrastructure across the border should be dismantled. That will open the door for talks, he told reporters here on arrival for a six-day holiday here. Asked if an end to cross-border terrorism was a precondition for talks, Mr. Vajpayee said "it is not a condition... it is necessary. We are not calling it a pre-condition. But without that (end to cross-border terrorism) how can a conducive atmosphere be created?"

To a question about Pakistan's stand that talks should be unconditional, he said, "(the talk of) unconditional (talks) has no meaning" .. — PTI

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THE HINDU

# Australia bans terror groups

SYDNEY, April 11. — Australia today banned Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and four other terror outfits, all linked to the Al-Qaida network, thus making it possible for it to prosecute under tough anti-terrorism laws anyone who cooperates with them.

Asbat al-Ansar, Egyptian Islamic Jihad, the Islamic Army of Aden and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan are the other outfits that were listed as terrorist organisations by Mr John Howard's government in a gazetted regulation today. The rules follow listings of these groups as terrorist organisations by UNSC.

The listing would deter Australians from becoming involved in their activities. It would also strengthen its ability to prosecute related offences under counter-terrorism laws, which make it an offence to belong to, direct, recruit for, train with or provide training for, and receive funds from or make funds available to a terrorist organisation, in Australia or abroad. — PTI

12 APR 2003



# Serial blasts rock Riyadh, 29 killed

Agencies

RIYADH, May 13. — At least 29 people, including 10 to 12 US citizens, and about 194, including nine Indians, were injured in overnight terror strikes in Riyadh by suspected Al-Qaida suicide bombers.

Earlier, a US State Department official had said the attack killed 91 people. The official, however, later admitted that the preliminary death toll compiled by the State Department was probably too high. The exact toll was still uncertain but said that the final figure would likely be closer to the toll of 29 given by the Saudi interior ministry.

The attacks took place hours before the arrival of the US Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, to Saudi Arabia today.

Diplomats in Riyadh said the overall casualties due to the attacks on three residential compounds housing foreign workers and a Saudi-US commercial establishment could be higher. "Right now it seems as if we have lost 10 Americans and many other lives were lost from many other nationalities," Gen. Powell said on his arrival in Riyadh on a scheduled visit from Jordan.

Reports said among the dead were a 39-year-old Australian, three Saudis,

including son of Riyadh's Deputy Governor Mr Abdullah al-Balaihed, a Palestinian-born Lebanese man, a Palestinian-American and two children whose nationalities were not known.

The Saudi interior minister, Prince Naif, said the explosions were suicide bombings and were carried out by bombers linked to Al-Qaida. "Three explosions that occurred in eastern Riyadh were suicide bombings... set off by cars stuffed with explosives that were driven into targeted com-

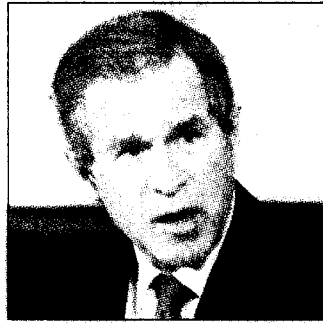
plexes after firing at security guards and then detonated their vehicles laden with explosives. Al-Hamra complex was the worst affected where an entire block was destroyed in the attack and most of the casualties were feared there.

The Indian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Mr Talmiz Ahmed, said nine Indians have been reportedly injured. Out of this, eight have been discharged after first aid while a certain Mr Ahmed Munir was still in hospital. He said teams of officials have been sent to various hospitals and the affected sites to ascertain if there were more Indian casualties.

At least 44 Americans were among those injured, some of them critically while some were cut by flying glasses. Fifty of the injured have been admitted to National Guard hospital while four other hospitals in the eastern sector of the Saudi capital also reported receiving some injured.

Speaking in Jordan soon after the attacks, Gen. Powell said these bore the signs of the Al-Qaida. "It is just part of the Al-Qaida and other terrorist outfits' willingness to kill innocent people in order to push forward a terrorist agenda that very often has no purpose other than to strike out in rage." The US embassy in Riyadh, which remained closed today, advised US residents in the Kingdom to stay at home.

**'The ruthless murder of American citizens and others, reminds us that the war on terror continues... This is the work of killers whose only faith is hate. We will find the killers and they will learn the meaning of American justice'**



pounds," he was quoted as saying.

The explosions targeted Al-Hamra and Al-Jadawel residential compounds and a third complex where families of personnel with US firm Vinnel, which trains the Saudi National Guard, live. A fourth attack took place early this morning at a commercial establishment.

Diplomats said the bombers forced their entry into the residential com-

14 MAY 2003

THE STATESMAN

WASHINGTON RECALLS EMBASSY STAFF

# FBI to probe Riyadh strikes

Agencies

DUBAI, May 14. — The USA today dispatched FBI agents to Riyadh to help investigate the suicide bombings by suspected Al-Qaida bombers that killed 34 people, including eight Americans, as hundreds of Saudi policemen searched for evidences and identities of the attackers.

In another development, Washington has asked all non-essential diplomats and their family members in the kingdom to return home. US embassy in Riyadh remained closed for second day due to security reasons.

Updating the toll figure, the Saudi interior ministry today said 34 people died in the attacks. The five new casualties are a British, an Irish, an Australian of Lebanese origin, a Filipino and one unidentified corpse.

FBI agents would assist Saudi police in investigating the serial bombings. The FBI team includes a dozen agents, led by senior officials from the

counterterrorism division.

In a related development, President George W Bush, who described the attacks as "despicable acts" and blamed the Al-Qaida, spoke to Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah over phone, pledging Washington's support to the kingdom in fight against terrorism.

Prince Abdullah described the bombings as the work of "monsters" and vowed to "destroy" the terrorist group that carried out the attacks.

"There is no place for terror, but there is a place for decisive deterrence against them and to any ideology that feeds them," he said in a six-minute address to the nation.

Mr Bush had earlier warned that those responsible for the terror attacks would "learn the meaning of American justice." "The attacks in Saudi Arabia, the ruthless murder of American citizens and other citizens, remind us that the war on terror continues."

The President, however, faced criticism at home for focusing too much on Iraq rather than Al-Qaida.

14 MAY 2003

THE STATESMAN

14/5 *19-1* EARMARKS OF AL-QAEDA'

# Americans among 29 killed in Saudi suicide blasts

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The bombings constituted the deadliest terror attack on Americans since September 11, 2001, and the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, said the coordinated strike had "the earmarks of al-Qaeda."

There was no claim of responsibility. If the al-Qaeda connection is confirmed, it would show that Osama bin Laden's network is still capable of mounting coordinated attacks, even in one of the world's most tightly policed countries.

The Riyadh attack came as the United States is pulling out most of the 5,000 troops it had based in Saudi Arabia, whose presence fuelled anti-American sentiment.

The Interior Ministry official was quoted as saying that the



This video grab from the official Saudi television shows footage broadcast on Tuesday of the scene of an overnight blast in the Saudi capital Riyadh. — AFP

attackers used cars packed with explosives in "suicide operations".

The attacks were followed by a smaller bombing on Tuesday near the headquarters of a Saudi-U.S. company. No casualties were reported in that bombing.

A guard at one of the housing compounds in the north-eastern section of Riyadh was quoted by the Saudi paper *al-Watan* as saying that seven cars exploded there, all apparently carrying suicide bombers. At least three bodies could be seen lying on the ground at the compound on Tuesday morning.

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Police vehicles, lights flashing, patrolled the walls of the compounds Tuesday. Alhamra compound, which suffered one of the worst attacks, was hidden behind 20-foot walls. Surveillance cameras were posted along the walls. — AP

**We will find the killers, says Bush: Page 14**

# America bleeds in Laden cradle

14/5  
Riyadh, May 13 (Reuters): Suicide bombers in the Saudi capital killed at least 29 people, local officials said today, making the attack on expatriate housing compounds one of the biggest suspected al Qaida strikes on western targets.

In a coordinated attack hours ahead of a visit to Riyadh by US secretary of state Colin Powell, assailants drove, guns blazing, into three guarded housing compounds for expatriates shortly before Monday midnight and set off huge car bombs.

Powell said up to 10 Americans were among the dead. The attack "has all the fingerprints of an al Qaida operation," he said in Riyadh.

There remained considerable doubt about the toll, however. US Vice-President Dick Cheney said "some 91 people were killed".

But Saudi officials had said earlier 29 had died, including nine bombers. Medical sources in the secretive kingdom later questioned Cheney's figure, sticking to a toll around 29.

The Vice-President did not say how he came to his figure. A US official said Cheney was merely repeating unconfirmed news reports.

On a West Asian tour to explain US policy after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, Powell visited a walled complex for US defence workers and saw for himself the devastation wrought as residents slept. Entire walls of apartment blocks had collapsed.

"These despicable acts were committed by killers whose only faith is hate, and the United States will find the killers

and they will learn the meaning of American justice," said President George W. Bush in Indianapolis. "The war on terror continues."

US officials in the kingdom had been on the alert. Just days ago, a purported al Qaida spokesman told a Saudi-owned magazine of a new September 11-style attack: "The strike on America is definitely coming," Thabet bin Qais told *al Majalla*.

Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al Qaida, blamed by Washington for the coordinated hijack attacks on September 11, 2001, has struck US bases and other targets in Saudi Arabia before in its bid to drive US troops from a land sacred to Islam.

Though Washington announced a troop withdrawal from the kingdom two weeks ago after ousting Saddam, Bush's critics have warned that the Iraq war may fan hatred of America across the Muslim world. Riyadh was the first major attack on Americans since the war.

"This could be the beginning of a major campaign aimed at the Americans," exiled Saudi opposition activist Saad al-Fagih said. "This is the beginning of martyrdom operations."

## Indians injured

At least nine Indians were among those injured. "Out of the nine, eight have been released after first aid while one Ahmed Munir is still in hospital," Indian ambassador to Saudi Arabia Talmiz Ahmed said.

■ See Page 4

T 4 MAY 2002

THE TELEGRAPH

# US dubs Hizb, 3 other outfits <sup>Terrorism</sup> terror groups

By Chidanand Rajghatta  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Washington:** Ahead of a visit to South Asia by US deputy secretary Richard Armitage next week, the Bush administration has addressed some fundamental Indian concerns on terrorism, primarily by identifying the mainline Kashmiri insurgent group Hizb-ul-Mujahidin as a terrorist organisation.

Unlike other Pakistan-backed terrorist groups, such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, the Hizb is considered an indigenous Kashmiri outfit and its inclusion in a list detailed in the 2002 'Patterns of Global Terrorism' report released on Wednesday signals a sharp uptick in Washington's intolerance to violence, even by popular local groups claiming greater legitimacy.

Three other groups promoting terrorism against India—Al Badr, Harkat-ul-Jihad Islami and Harkat-ul-Jihad Islami (Bangladesh)—have also been named in the report. The first two are Pakistan-based and the naming of the last named group endorses Indian charges of terrorism emanating from Bangladesh.

The notification in the annexure to the terrorism report does not constitute an immediate listing as a terrorist group (which would attract punitive action), but it is considered a prelude to it as the administration begins to initiate internal legal steps to make such a declaration. In other words, the groups are first "identified" and then "listed".

## Hizb chief is 'shocked'



**Muzaffarabad:** The Hizb-ul-Mujahidin on Thursday criticised the US decision to place it on a terror watchlist and urged Washington to take stock of "Indian state terrorism" in the restive region.

"The decision by the US is regrettable and shocking for us," Syed Salahuddin, supreme commander of the Hizb-ul-Mujahidin, said. "The least we can say is that they (US) have made it to please India while ignoring the bitter ground realities in Kashmir," he said. AFP

The notifications came on a day when Pakistan busted an Al Qaida ring in Karachi and netted a major suspect in the USS Cole bombing, earning fulsome praise from the Bush administration, and deputy secretary Richard Armitage described as truly frightening the situation between India and Pakistan.

But the 2002 terrorism report left no doubt about the root cause of the fright, and the fact that India was a victim of Pakistan-inspired terrorism.

Extremist violence in Kashmir, fuelled by infiltration from Pakistan across the

Line of Control, threatened to become a flashpoint for a wider India-Pakistan conflict during most of the year, it said, in the most clear-cut enunciation of the situation in the sub-continent in recent times.

"Like the United States, India faces a significant terrorist threat," the report said in its overview of the situation in South Asia. The US charge of infiltration comes despite serial denials from Islamabad and its plea for an international monitoring group on the LoC.

But as the 2002 terrorism report indicates, Pakistan first needs to act against the plethora of terrorist groups operating from its soil, a concern that led the US ambassador to describe the country as a platform for terrorism.

In fact, the 2002 report suggests that backers of terrorist groups have become mainstream in Pakistan. Significantly, it also described the Hizb as a militant wing of "Pakistan's largest Islamic political party, the Jamait-i-Islami", which now has a major role in Pakistani politics and is being openly courted by Gen Pervez Musharraf.

While the report clearly identified the Harkat-ul-Jihadi in Bangladesh as getting its funding primarily from madrassas in Bangladesh and also that it has ties to militants in Pakistan that may provide another funding source, the funding for the Pakistani groups was left unidentified.

- The terrible four, Page 11
- See Edit: Audit of Terror, Page 12

**U.N. MEET / ACTION SOON TO LIFT SANCTIONS ON IRAQ**

# Aznar asks Council to draw up list of terrorists

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*110-14*  
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**UNITED NATIONS, MAY 7.** The Spanish Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar, has called on the U.N. Security Council to draw up a world list of terrorist groups similar to the list used to crack down on Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network.

But, in a speech to a public meeting of the Council, Mr. Aznar did not specify any movement he wished to see included on the list.

"Terrorism is not a matter concerning this or that country. It concerns us all, it is trans-national," Mr. Aznar told the Security Council.

"We must re-think the phenomenon of terrorism and the security architecture, both national and international, that we have been constructing in order to combat it."

Last month, Spain took over the chairmanship of the council's counter-terrorism committee from Britain.

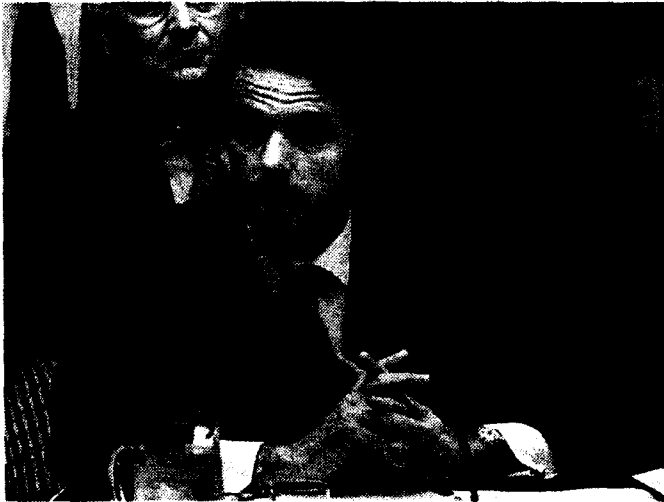
Mr. Aznar also recommended that the council set up "an institutional mechanism" to allow the victims of terrorism to "speak and bear witness" through the United Nations.

He gave no details and his speech contained no other specific proposals.

In a related developemtn, no

one on the U.N. Security Council objected to lifting sanctions against Iraq, but the U.S. is at odds with Russia and France on how quickly the embargoes should end. The U.S. President, George W. Bush, called for the immediate lifting of sanctions three weeks ago following the end of the war that toppled Saddam Hussein, but the U.S. has yet to present specific proposals

to the Council. Until it does, council members can't begin discussing the issues of sanctions, the future of the oil-for-food humanitarian programme, the return of U.N. weapons inspectors and the world body's role in post-war Iraq. The U.S. Ambassador, John Negroponte, has said he hoped to present something to the council this week. — AP, AFP



The Spanish Prime Minister, Maria Aznar, speaks at the United Nations Security Council meeting on combating terrorism on Tuesday. AFP

# U.S. warns Syria over 'terrorist links'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MAY 5. Officials here have warned Syria that the Bush administration and Congress are watching Damascus for positive signs; and that there could be unspecified "consequences" if a determination is made that assistance to certain Palestinian groups was continuing.

The message to this effect has come from the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, who has just finished a visit to the region, including Syria. The Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, who also recently returned from a visit to the Gulf, has stressed that Syrian actions, not words will be the critical component. "Words are one thing. Actions are another", Mr. Rumsfeld said of Syria. The Defence Secretary, who has been on a tour of key states in the Persian Gulf and

Iraq, is known to be one of the toughest critics of Damascus and has not taken kindly to its attempts to complicate American operations in Iraq either at the time of military action or now, during a phase in which the coalition forces are looking for remnants of the old regime.

Gen. Powell took the line that the Syrian leader, Bashar Assad, has been told in rather plain terms of American concerns and expectations and that there will be "consequences" if Damascus did not cease support to groups that Washington regards as terror outfits. This apart, the Secretary of State has also raised the issue of Syria assisting or harbouring top Iraqis.

"It's performance that we'll be looking in the days and weeks and months ahead", Gen. Powell maintained. "We had a good candid exchange of views and there are no illusions in his

mind as to what we are looking for from Syria", the top Bush Cabinet official said.

What is being pointed out here is that Gen. Powell has stepped up the pressure on Syria as far as closures of organisations deemed to be terrorist by the U.S. At a Beirut news conference, Gen. Powell said, "they did closures", referring to Syria. But in going to the extent of saying that military action against Damascus was not on the cards, Gen. Powell is said to have left Syria with an unmistakable impression that the Bush administration "expected" Mr. Assad and the Syrians to "do more".

The administration here is trying to determine the impact of Syria's "closures" of offices of some of the Palestinian organisations. But a news agency has said that outfits like the Islamic Jihad, the Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of

Palestine, have called up to say that the order did not affect them or their operations — an announcement that will not go down well in the Republican administration here.

## Sanctions

The U.S. has told Mr. Assad that unless specific progress could be demonstrated, Syria could come under sanctions under the 2001 USA Patriot Act, as also under a Bill pending in Congress called the Syria Accountability Act. This message was apparently conveyed during Gen. Powell's visit. There is no question that the administration is keen on taking advantage of what has happened in Iraq and in the overthrow of the Saddam Hussein regime.

Gen. Powell is believed to have told Mr. Assad that the U.S. was keen on bringing about "stability" to the region.

# Bush says Iraq battle won, terror war remains

## Prez co-pilots plane in dramatic landing

Washington/Baghdad, May 2

**PRESIDENT GEORGE Bush** performed a triumphal gesture to mark victory in the Iraq war, co-piloting a navy jet on to an aircraft carrier to underline his role as America's commander-in-chief, and steel the nation for more combat in the years ahead. In a nationally televised address from the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln in the Pacific ocean, the President celebrated America's military prowess, but warned that although major combat operations had finished in Iraq, there was still "difficult work" to do there.

The address stopped short of declaring the war over, vowing: "Our coalition will stay until our work is done," according to advance excerpts from of the speech, delivered 100 miles off San Diego. The remaining tasks included the hunt for Saddam Hussein, his regime, and the chemical and biological weapons that were the original justification for the war, while rebuilding the Iraqi economy.

Before the speech, the President made a televised entrance as dramatic as any in White House history. He sat in the co-pilot's seat in a navy submarine-hunting and refuelling jet, a four-seater Viking S-3B, as it was brought to a screeching halt by a cable across the Lincoln's deck. Bush, a former pilot in the Texas air national guard, let it be known he had spent time at the warplane's controls.

He had wanted to land in a two-seater F-18 Hornet combat jet, of the kind which ran continual bombing sorties over Iraq. But the secret service vetoed the suggestion, insisting a body-guard should be on board with the President. A secret service agent and a reserve pilot sat in the Viking's back seats.

Wearing olive-green pilot's overalls, Bush clearly revelled in rubbing shoulders with the Lin-

coln's crew, spending six hours on deck and touring the vast carrier before delivering his prime-time speech.

By sidestepping a formal declaration of an end to hostilities, the US retains room for manoeuvre under international law to pursue the hunt for Iraq's former rulers and to hold on to prisoners of war whom the Pentagon wants to continue interrogating.

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, meeting Afghan President Hamid Karzai in Kabul, said "major combat activity" in Afghanistan had ended too.

The declaration, in combination with Bush's, plainly sought to drive home the idea of a lull in US military activities overseas. That will be politically important to the President as he begins to gear up for next year's election and seeks to convince the country of wisdom of his tax cuts.

"The battle of Iraq is one victory in a war on terror that began on September 11, 2001, and still goes on," he said in a 27-minute speech.

Bush celebrated the swift success of US and allied forces in the three-week conflict in Iraq but made clear that battles lie ahead as the US roots out threats to its security.

The President reiterated what has become known as the Bush Doctrine, which serves notice to all nations that they must side with efforts to stamp out terrorists or they will be viewed as standing with the enemy and will be "targets of American justice". Violence continued in Iraq even before Bush cautioned that "difficult work" remains to be done.

In Fallujah, seven US soldiers were injured when two grenades were hurled into their compound. In Baghdad, four people were killed when a fuel tanker was detonated by rifle fire.

**The Guardian & USA Today**



**ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN:** President George W. Bush with crew members on the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln on Thursday.

## 3 more top officials in US custody

Washington, May 2

**AT LEAST** three additional top Iraqi officials have been apprehended, including the former head of the Iraqi ministry in charge of developing weapons, US officials on Friday.

US Central Command said in a statement that Abdul Tawab Mullah Hwaish, minister of military industrialisation and No 16 on the "most-wanted" list was in custody.

The Military Industrialisation Ministry was established in the 1980s to develop weapons. The apprehension could help US investigators in their search for weapons of mass destruction that Washington said Iraq possessed.

Also apprehended was No 42

on the US list, Taha Mohieddin Ma'ruf, an Iraqi vice president and member of Saddam Hussein's Revolutionary Command Council, Centcom said.

While one of only two vice-presidents and a member of Saddam's council, Ma'ruf was not considered part of the former Iraqi leader's inner circle and rarely appeared in public or made statements.

A US official in Washington said former Transport Minister Ahmed Muratada Ahmed Khalil had also been arrested in recent days. He was not on the most-wanted list and the official did not have details of his arrest.

ABC News reported that another former official had been captured and said he was No 41

on the most-wanted list, Mizban Khadr Hadi, a member of Saddam's Revolutionary Command Council and a top Baath Party leader. US officials in Washington said they could not confirm this arrest.

### Celebration sparks blast

Iraqis firing guns into the air to celebrate electricity being restored in a Baghdad neighbourhood hit a large propane tank and sparked an explosion that injured several people. Footage broadcast by Associated Press Television News on Thursday showed Iraqi fire trucks arriving to douse the flames that leapt from two large tanks surrounded by charred cars near Baghdad's

## NYT scribe accused of plagiarism

New York, May 2

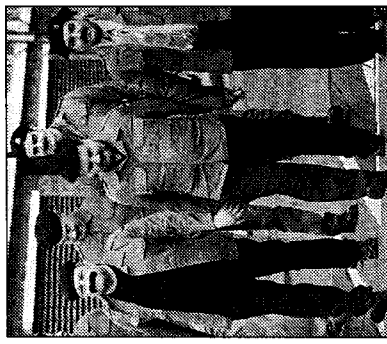
A **NEW YORK Times** reporter resigned after he was accused of appropriating without attribution material from another newspaper's story about a Texas woman whose son was killed in combat in Iraq.

A *Times* review of the story by Jayson Blair has "been unable to determine what original reporting he did to produce it", *Times* executive editor Howell Raines said in a statement.

The review began after San Antonio *Express-News* editor Robert Rivard sent an e-mail on Tuesday to *Times* editors, asking them to acknowledge publicly that the newspaper wrongfully appropriated reporter Macarena Hernandez's work. "The *Times* apologises to its readers for a grave breach of its journalistic standards," Raines said.

Efforts to reach Blair for comment were unsuccessful. An April 26 story by Blair detailed Juanita Anguiano's month-long wait for news about the fate of her son, Army Sgt Edward Anguiano, who was reported missing in late March. He was confirmed dead two days after the story ran.

AP



**DUMMY ACT:** Saddam Hussein lookalikes arrive to audition for a play in London on Thursday.

REUTERS



Terr 215  
10-11

## Four Pak.-linked outfits added to U.S. terror list

**WASHINGTON, MAY 1.** Four militant outfits operating in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Pakistan-based Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, have been added to the list of terrorist groups by the United States.

The other outfits mentioned by the State Department in its annual report "Patterns of Global Terrorism", released yesterday, were the Al-Badr Mujahideen, the Harkat-ul-Jehadi-i-Islamia (HuJI) and the Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen.

The outfits were named in the category of "Other Terrorist Groups", which comprised 37 organisations worldwide.

The report said the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen was formed in 1989 and was the militant wing of the Pakistan's Jamaat-e-Islamia. The outfit currently focussed on security forces and politicians in the Kashmir valley. It had also conducted a number of operations against military targets and also "occasionally" struck at civilian targets in the valley.

Interestingly, the report highlighted the "visible splits between Pakistan-based commanders and several commanders in the Kashmir valley."

The Al-Badr, it said was a

splinter group of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen.

The HuJI mainly consisted of Pakistanis and foreign Islamists, who were fighting in Kashmir. The report said that the group

had been linked to mysterious disappearance of five foreigners kidnapped by Al-Faran in 1995.

The Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen, it said, comprised mainly Kashmiris and Pakistanis. —PTI

## U.S. lauds India's commitment to fighting terror

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

**WASHINGTON, MAY 1.** The United States has praised India's commitment to fighting terrorism globally in spite of it being a victim of terror.

"...It's important to appreciate that India continues to be victimised by terror and maintains a strong commitment to the global war on terrorism and to bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation," said Ambassador Cofer Black, Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism, presenting the State Department's 2002 Report on Patterns of Global Terrorism on Wednesday.

At the same time, he cautioned that fighting terrorism did not always mean employing military methods and called for maximum restraint in dealing with Pakistan. "... Fighting terrorism doesn't always mean using military means. If you look around the world, the U.S. fights terrorism in various ways, whether it's military or law enforcement or intelligence. There are other approaches to problems. Military action should certainly be the last." Mr. Black said.

"We have always expressed strong concerns about the potential for conflict between India and Pakistan. We believe that the encouragement of dialogue is most important. Conflicts are resolved through productive interaction."

2 MAY 2003

THE HINDU

# Militants send reminder in Valley

## Violence spirals | Suicide squad targets BSF hq, patrol ambushed, court attacked

MUZAMIL JALEEL  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 25

As the Centre inches towards a resumption of a dialogue with Pakistan, the militants today sent some reminders with a suicide attack on the security forces — the first this year — an ambush and a blast. Five security personnel, including a major in the Army, two militants and four villagers were killed and 35 injured in the incidents.

Two militants appeared at the gates of the highly-fortified Border Security Force headquarters at Madar in Bandipore, 58 km from here, around 9:45 am. One of them had strapped explosives and grenades to his body. He tried to sneak

inside through a gate. The one who had stayed outside engaged the troops in a fierce gunbattle while the other blew himself up," said sub-divisional police officer of Bandipore Khalid Muzafar. This camp had been the target of the first such suicide attack in Kashmir in July 1999.

"Three BSF men were killed while two were injured in the attack. A local milkman, Ghulam Mohamad Khan, was caught in the crossfire and got killed," he said.

The identity of the militants has not yet been established but the BSF suspects Jaish-e-Mohammad, which has a substantial presence in the area, to be behind the incident. The security forces cordoned off the entire area



Meanwhile, N N Vohra gets on with dialogue. Javeed Shah

mandant and two other BSF men had died.

The last such suicide attack where a militant had blown himself up had taken place at the assembly complex here on October 1, 2001. It was carried out by the Jaish-e-Mohammad. The strike that had followed the September 11 attacks had attracted international condemnation. In fact, such attacks were stopped after the December 13 Parliament attack that led to a massive troop build-up on the borders and even threatened a war between the two neighbours.

A few kilometres up in the Harmukh jungles, militants ambushed a patrol of 14 Rashtriya Rifles — at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

and launched a search to nab other members of this militant group, if any.

This camp, situated at the base of a hillock, is divided by a road that connects Bandipore with dozens of villages in the Harmukh

range, which is highly infested with foreign militants. It houses the headquarters of the BSF's deputy inspector general. In the earlier suicide attack here in July 1999 — soon after the Kargil war — a the DIG, a com-

# Three BSF men killed in 'fidayeen' attack

By Shujaat Bukhari

*Genomina*  
*HO-1 26/4*

**SRINAGAR, APRIL 25.** Fourteen persons, including an Army Major were killed and 30 injured in a spate of militant strikes in Jammu and Kashmir, including a 'fidayeen' (suicide) attack on a sector headquarters of the Border Security Force and a landmine blast since Thursday evening.

A group of heavily armed militants struck at the BSF sector headquarters at Bagh in Bandipore town at about 9.45 a.m. and hurled grenades besides opening indiscriminate fire from automatic weapons. Though the guards were caught unawares, they returned fire and engaged the militants in a gun fight which continued for several hours. Police said three BSF personnel, two militants and a civilian were killed and three BSF jawans injured in the incident. Police sources said that the militants were believed to be from the Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit, but a lesser-known Al Madinah regiment has claimed responsibility for the attack.

This is the first fidayeen at-

tack of the year in the Kashmir Valley. Militants ambushed an Army patrol killing a Major and a soldier in Sumlar village, also in the Valley.

Militants hurled a grenade towards a security picket near the court complex in Pattan township at around 12.30 p.m. and three civilians, two of them women, were killed in the explosion, the SSP, Baramulla, Javed Riyaz, said. More than 30 persons were injured, many of whom were in critical condition.

Militants shot dead Abdul Gani Malik, a 70-year-old block president of the ruling People's Democratic Party at Waripora in Baramulla and another PDP activist at Pampore. Militants barged into the house of Abdul Ahad Malik, an activist of the pro-India Ikhwan militant outfit and shot him dead.

A civilian, Fayaz Ahmed, was shot dead in Laroo in Pulwama district. A soldier was killed in Mendhar in Poonch district.

A teenager was killed and two members of her family injured in overnight shelling from the Pakistani side in Drass area of Kargil district, police said.

26 APR 2003

ONE HINDO

# Blackwill quits as US ambassador to India

Envoy Disapproves Of Bush Silence On Pak Terror Links

Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI 21 APRIL

US envoy to India Robert D. Blackwill has quit following serious differences with the Bush administration over latter's continued appeasement of Pakistan, wrapping up his assignment with an endorsement of New Delhi's case against cross-border terrorism. Mr Blackwill announced his decision here on Monday through a statement which also mentioned that he had conveyed his desire to be relieved of his diplomatic assignment to the US President George W Bush and his senior colleagues in January itself.

Though he attributed the resignation to a desire to be back with his family and resume his teaching at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, sources in the government here suspect that a perception gulf with the US over Pakistan could have been the driver of his decision. The envoy, who was close to the White House, having been a part of the eight-strong group headed by Condolezza Rice — the Vulcans — who advised the Bush campaign on foreign affairs, was lately embroiled in a serious conflict of perception with the South Asia desk of the state department.

► **Terror must end: P 2**



**The fight against international terrorism will not be won until terrorism against India ends permanently. There can be no other legitimate stance by the US, no American compromise whatever on this elemental geopolitical and moral truth. The US, India and all civilised nations must have zero tolerance for terrorism**

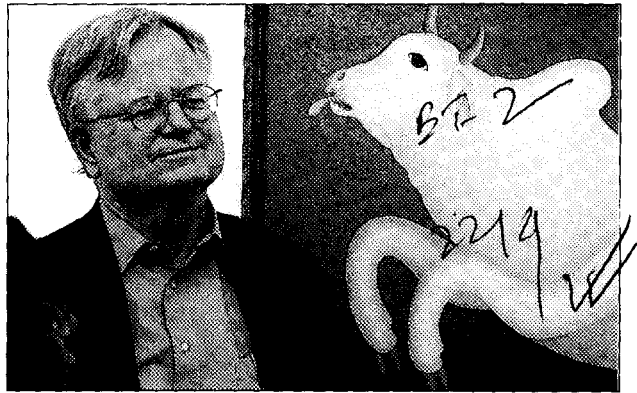
**Robert D Blackwill**  
US Ambassador

# Terror must end in India

From Page 1

SOURCES confirmed that the Harvard teacher often found himself at loggerheads with Ms Christina Rocca, the Bush regime's pointsperson for South Asia, on Pakistan. A former CIA operative, who was engaged with the campaign to push the Soviets out of Afghanistan, Ms Rocca has often been found to be tilting towards Islamabad for what is suspected to be a strong nostalgia for the Cold War collaboration.

A subtle acknowledgement of the differences came through Mr Blackwill's statement which strongly endorsed India's line on cross-border terrorism. "With respect to the global war on terrorism, President Bush emphasises that this scourge threatens both our values and our interests. As I have said many times during my stay in India, the fight against international terrorism will not be won until terrorism against India



BLACKWILL: SAYING IT AS IT IS

ends permanently. There can be no other legitimate stance by the United States, no American compromise whatever on this elemental geopolitical and moral truth. The United States, India and all civilised nations must have zero tolerance for terrorism. Otherwise, we sink into a swamp of moral relativism and strategic myopia," said the am-

bassador. Sources in the government, who rated the remarks as among the boldest to have come from a United States diplomat in support of New Delhi, were naturally apprehensive of the possibility that the biases of the South Asia desk of the state department might influence the choice of Mr Blackwill's successor.

## Australia bans terror groups

SYDNEY, April 11. — Australia today banned Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and four other terror outfits, all linked to the Al-Qaida network, thus making it possible for it to prosecute under tough anti-terrorism laws anyone who cooperates with them.

Asbat al-Ansar, Egyptian Islamic Jihad, the Islamic Army of Aden and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan are the other outfits that were listed as terrorist organisations by Mr John Howard's government in a gazetted regulation today. The rules follow listings of these groups as terrorist organisations by UNSC.

The listing would deter Australians from becoming involved in their activities. It would also strengthen its ability to prosecute related offences under counter-terrorism laws, which make it an offence to belong to, direct, recruit for, train with or provide training for, and receive funds from or make funds available to a terrorist organisation, in Australia or abroad. — PTI

12 APR 2003

THE STATESMAN

British Leader Uses Terms Like Azad Kashmir, J&K To Describe 2 Parts Of Divided State

# Straw again warns Pak on J&K terror

London

3 APRIL

BRITISH foreign secretary Jack Straw has again called on the Pakistani government to stop infiltration of militants into India from "so-called Azad Kashmir."

In an interview with Doordarshan, Mr Straw made it a point to refer to the "so-called Azad Kashmir on the one hand and to 'Jammu & Kashmir' on the other. This is the first time a British leader has used such clear terms to describe the two parts of the divided state that is at the core of a dragging half-century dispute. Both the Indian and Pakistani governments are acutely sensitive to the language used to describe the two areas of Kashmir.

Mr Straw's comments follow a strong statement he made jointly with US Secretary of State Colin



**Call Warning:** Indian security forces display a satellite phone in front of bank notes recovered from Saif-ul-Islam, the chief commander of the Hizbs, in Srinagar on Thursday. — AFP

Powell at Camp David calling on Pakistan to stop supporting terrorism in Kashmir.

"Secretary Powell and I issued this statement from Camp David because of our very grave con-

cern about increasing evidence of infiltration, across the LoC from Pakistan to India and, of course, about the recent terrible atrocities which led to the death of many innocent women, children and men... in certain parts of Jammu & Kashmir." Mr Straw told Saeed Nagvi in an interview on Thursday. "So we are calling on the Pakistani government to do everything they can to stop infiltration, and we want to see them encouraging an end to all kinds of militants and terrorist operations in J&K, whether they are operated from Indian or Pakistani side and, we want to see the beginning of a political process so that we get into a stage where both sides of the LoC... Jammu & Kashmir on the Indian side and the so-called Azad Kashmir on the Pakistani side... can live in peace and harmony." — IANS

## Pak warns of suitable reply if attacked

Muhammad Najeeb

ISLAMABAD 3 APRIL

PAKISTAN on Thursday warned India of a "suitable reply" if attacked and accused Indian external affairs minister Yashwant Sinha of making "irresponsible statements" on cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan also said it wanted a peaceful resolution of its disputes with India, including over Kashmir. Islamabad's statement came after reports quoted Mr Sinha as saying that New Delhi "will do whatever it takes" to fight "Pakistan-sponsored terrorism". — IANS

# US and Russia warn Pak to end terror export

HT Correspondents  
*Washington/New Delhi, March 27*

THE US has warned Islamabad of the possibility of another Indo-Pak crisis unless it goes all out to end cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, a view that was echoed by Russia.

Taking a grim view of the latest massacre of Kashmiri Pandits, the assistant secretary of state for South Asia, Christina Rocca, said: "We look to Pakistan to do everything in its power to prevent extremist groups operating from its soil from crossing the LoC."

In a significant acknowledgement of Indian sensitivities, Rocca refrained from harking back to the "dialogue" theme. This followed New Delhi's annoyance at the state department's earlier statement on Monday that dialogue was "critical" to normalisation of relations. Rocca also described India as a "rising global power" and dwelt on the new initiatives to expand Indo-US security cooperation.

Meanwhile, a Russian embassy spokesman said: "Pakistan must stop cross-border terrorism before a dialogue can be started." He supported the measures taken by India to counter terror.

28 MAR 2003

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES



# Double-standards on tackling terrorism will not help: India

(12/11/83) x 9 2 2/3

By Amit Baruah

**NEW DELHI, MARCH 26.** India today said the fight against international terrorism would be "ill-served" if threats were dealt with "military means" in some cases and calls for "restraint and dialogue" in others.

Without naming the United States or Pakistan, India, for the second consecutive day, expressed its displeasure at Washington suggesting the dialogue route to India after the massacre of 24 Kashmiri Pandits.

In a statement, the Foreign Office spokesman, however, blamed Islamabad for the latest massacre. "The pattern, methodology and the nature of targets

of these acts of terror are all too familiar and, therefore, the culpability of Pakistan is all too clear."

He also maintained that the "clarity and commitment" of the international community to combat international terrorism required a "coherent and principled approach". In essence, he argued that the international community's approach towards Pakistan was "incoherent and unprincipled". "The global war against terrorism can only be won when it is pursued without double-standards and terrorism is eradicated wherever it exists, without being influenced by short-term political and other considerations," he main-

tained. If one were to read between the lines, the spokesman is saying that the U.S. since it stands to gain from "cooperation" from Pakistan as far as anti-terrorist measures are concerned, is being influenced by short-term and "other considerations".

Using strong language, he said the senseless killing of innocent Kashmiris took place on March 23 — Pakistani national day.

"No cause, no religion, no ideology, no so-called struggle justifies such inhuman acts. Those involved in such massacres are criminals and mercenaries motivated by the lowliest impulses and performing their

'murderous deeds at the behest of others.'

"The epicentre of international terrorism that exists in our neighbourhood, and the infrastructure of support and sponsorship of cross-border terrorism must be completely dismantled. We are determined to face this challenge with strength, determination and resolve," the statement added. In response to questions, he said the lack of desire on the part of Pakistan to take action against terrorists was clear. He reiterated that it was for the international community to tell Pakistan to fulfil its commitments as far as cross-border terrorism was concerned.

INDIA

2 - 11 - 1983

POLICE POST STORMED, RIFLES SNATCHED

# Militants gun down 24 Kashmiri Pandits

By Shujaat Bukhari

**NADIMARG (SOUTH KASHMIR), MARCH 24.** In a gruesome incident that dealt a severe blow to the "healing touch" policy of the five-month-old Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Government in Jammu and Kashmir, heavily-armed militants mowed down 24 members of 11 Kashmiri Pandit families in Nadimarg village, 65 km from Srinagar, around 2.30 a.m. on Monday.

The dead included 11 women and two children. The killings were widely mourned and the State Government has ordered an inquiry.

Eyewitnesses said the gunmen overpowered the policemen posted at the security picket in the village, took away four self-loading rifles, three .303 rifles, a carbine and a wireless set before targeting the civilians.

A visibly shaken Chief Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, who rushed to the village condemned the killings and said that, "it is aimed at derailing our peace process but we are committed to go ahead. This is a barbaric act." At the same he said, "I cannot be acquitted in this but such incidents have taken place in the past as well".

PTI reports:

The militants, whose number varied from seven to 25, asked the villagers to line up for an identification parade on a lawn before opening indiscriminate fire from automatic weapons killing 24 persons on the spot.

A survivor, Ramesh Kaul, said the militants claimed they were Army personnel looking for ultras. They went about ransacking houses



The victims of Monday's militant attack at Nadimarg. — Photo: Nissar Ahmad

searching for valuables and cash before lining up the people, said Mr. Kaul, who managed to flee to the nearby Zainapora police station for help.

Security around the village has been beefed up and a hunt launched to nab the militants. No militant outfit has claimed responsibility for the killings in the Shopian area where outfits such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Jaish-e-Mohammad and the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen are said to be active.

Four of the nine policemen posted at the village reported at the Zainapora police station in the morning, while the rest were missing with no clues to their whereabouts, officials

said. However, the villagers contradicted the official version saying only five cops were posted at the picket.

Twelve villagers, engaged in the fruit business, were not present at the time of the incident.

The incident, the first major strike in the Valley after the Mufti Government came to power in November last year, took place at a time when the Government was trying to persuade Kashmiri Pandits to return to their homeland. It also came a day after the killing of the former Hizb-ul-Mujahideen commander, Abdul Majid Dar.

Another report, reactions on Page 11

# Ricin found at Paris railway station

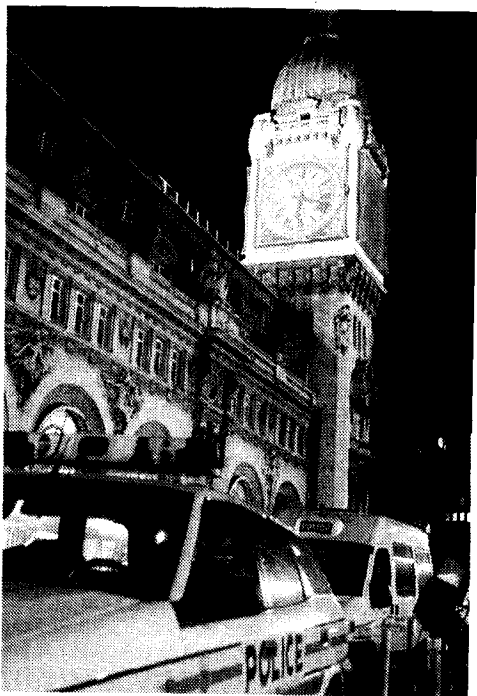
By Vaiju Naravane

**PARIS, MARCH 21.** Police in France discovered two vials of the deadly poison ricin in a locker at Paris' Gare de Lyon train station. The vials were found during scheduled searches of luggage lockers at railway stations under the reinforced anti-terrorist plan known as vigipirate.

The locker contained "two vials with a powder, a bottle filled with a liquid and two smaller bottles also containing a liquid," the French Interior Ministry said in a statement. It said the incident was related to the arrest of Islamic militants in Paris last October.

Ricin is one of the world's deadliest naturally-occurring poisons and is extracted from castor beans. This is the first time it has been found on French soil. The substance has been used for biological weapons. Ricin kills a cell by shutting down its protein synthesis, something that is achieved if just a single ricin molecule penetrates the cell wall.

British police seized small quantities of the substance in a



Police cars parked outside the Gare de Lyon railway station in Paris on Thursday. — AP

raid in north London in January, leading to the arrest of five Algerian men. Police in France also suspect a terrorist link. The

fact that the poison was found stashed away in a locker at the Gare de Lyon is of significance. The station is where trains from the south of France terminate in Paris. In the past several terrorist cells were linked to highly motivated Islamic militant movements in the southern French cities of Lyon and Marseilles.

Ricin is said to be 6,000 times more powerful than cyanide. A speck weighing only 70 micrograms (two millionths of an ounce) — something no bigger than a grain of salt

an adult. In January, a U.S. government source said the Central Intelligence Agency was investigating the possibility that a top weapons

expert from Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network may have been involved in a suspected plot to use ricin to poison food for British troops.

It came to prominence in 1978, when a Bulgarian dissident, Georgi Markov, was killed by secret agents in London who used a toxin-laced pellet fired from an umbrella tip as he was waiting for a bus.

It can be absorbed into the bloodstream through inhalation, ingestion, injection and even through skin contact. Military interest in the toxin dates back to at least World War I.

The initial symptoms of ricin poisoning are rather like flu. Fever, coughing and an upset stomach develop about a day after exposure to the poison. The lungs, liver, kidneys and immune system progressively fail, leading to death within three to five days.

Ricin is easier to make than anthrax and the notorious poison botulinum — castor bean plants can be easily grown, the equipment can be bought off the shelf and the skills to extract the poison are available to a chemistry graduate.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2003

BLATANT AGGRESSION

THE OPENING SALVO in this worrying and indefensible war against Iraq has gone depressingly according to script. The succession of cruise missiles, fired into Baghdad from U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf, and precision-guided bombs, dropped off Stealth fighter-bombers, had at least two military objectives. The limited assault, which will shortly be followed by much more massive air offensives, was partly in the nature of a surgical strike against the Iraqi leadership holed up in the Capital. It was also very much a part of the declared U.S. tactic of creating "shock and awe", a strategy that Washington believes may 'persuade' many Iraqi soldiers to surrender or, better still, to rebel against Saddam Hussein and the military command. From this standpoint, the first wave of strikes against Baghdad has failed in at least the first objective, with the Iraqi President appearing on television soon after the attack to deliver a typically belligerent speech in which he declared the beginning of a holy war. As for forcing surrenders through fear, reports from Kuwait have it that over a dozen Iraqi soldiers gave themselves up to U.S.-led forces along the country's northern border. However, exactly how successful this tactic will be in inducing mass surrenders is something that will be known in the days to come.

The real military campaign against Iraq will follow shortly, largely in the form of massive, simultaneous and debilitating air strikes that clear the way for the entry of the infantry into Iraq. It is too early to rush to firm conclusions, but the early indications are that the Iraqi strategy — given the impossibility of defending its borders against a vastly superior U.S.-led force — would be to mount pockets of strong resistance in some towns and cities, particularly Baghdad and Tikrit. The pullback of Iraqi soldiers from its northern borders would suggest that such a strategy has already been set into motion. In purely military terms, the strategy the U.S.-led forces propose to follow when attacking Iraq is much clearer than that which President Saddam Hussein proposes to employ while defending his beleaguered country. One question is whether Mr. Hussein

will retaliate by widening the theatre of conflict and fire Scud missiles into Israel, something that he did during the 1991 Gulf War. This time around, both the possibility of this happening and the threat this holds out are somewhat slim given the absence of Scud missiles along Iraq's western borders (the only place from where they can reach Israel) and Tel Aviv's acquisition of sophisticated anti-missile systems.

The other question of course is Iraq's possible use of chemical and biological weapons as retaliation. Although Baghdad has the capability to produce warheads packed with such lethal agents, one view — which has been echoed by the Chief United Nations Inspector, Hans Blix — is that Mr. Hussein will not risk using them for fear of losing the propaganda advantage over a war that most of the world believes, ardently and very correctly, has no legal sanction and no moral basis. There are enormous differences between the Gulf War and this one, partly because of the varied objectives and partly because of the quantum leap in U.S. military technology since the early 1990s. The battle for control of the air is no contest and the U.S.-led forces are unlikely to face much resistance in sweeping across large portions of Iraq. The difficulties could arise when they arrive at the doors of cities such as Baghdad which, if the Iraqi resistance is still intact, will have to be won through difficult and messy close-quarter fighting on the streets. The number of innocent human lives that will be lost in an encounter of this kind is only one of the many unanswered questions in this war of terrifyingly uncertain consequences. It has caused a rift within the European Union, created doubts about the efficacy and worth of the United Nations, provoked bitterness and resentment within many Islamic countries and spread apprehensions that it would only serve to divide the world further and fan the flames of fundamentalist terrorism rather than put them out. The long-term fallout of the war on Iraq may be a long term away, but the questions about this take on an immensely worrying character as President Bush's Tomahawk cruise missiles begin pounding Iraq.

21 MAR 2003

THE HINDU

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2003

## GRIM TIMES AHEAD

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AS AN UNNECESSARY and unjust war — which is likely to entail a horrendous loss of life as well as other consequences that would haunt the world for years to come — is about to be unleashed by the U.S. on Iraq, it is essential that the Governments and the people who have opposed it not lose their moral authority and continue to warn against this disastrous course. The aggression against Iraq, which could begin at any moment, is being launched on blatantly false premises, in contravention of all international norms, for perceptible ulterior motives and with an intent to overawe the world with the might of the hyper-power. It will shred the principle of the sovereignty of nations which has provided the only reasonable basis for a stable world order and it will so churn an already turbulent region that the rage seething therein will spill far and wide. With Iraq's President, Saddam Hussein, having rejected out of hand the U.S. fiat that he and his sons surrender power and seek exile and with Washington fixated on initiating an attack at a time of its own choosing, a tidal wave of high explosives could soon hammer down on the people of Iraq. Iraq's armed forces will probably not be able to withstand the assault for long but the invasion will almost certainly involve combat in built-up urban centres and, thereby, a high rate of civilian casualties. No great faith can be placed in the U.S. promises that it will do what it can to contain the bitterness and rage that will be caused, by helping the Iraqis to re-build their state and society that they can look forward to a prosperous and democratic future. What is more likely to happen, once the armed power of the U.S. has smashed a regime that has thus far held an extremely fractious Iraq together, is the outbreak of ferocious strife within the country exacerbated by the ambitions of covetous neighbours.

While the combined efforts of France, Russia, Germany and China — backed up by the overwhelming majority of global opinion — might

not have been enough to avert the war it is absolutely necessary that they maintain their laudable and principled opposition to unilateralist aggression. The leaderships of these countries have laid out, *in extenso*, their arguments against a war on Iraq at this juncture and though they might have failed to achieve their immediate objective they must emphasise the principles they have delineated in the process so that the ground norms of multilateralism can be re-established on firmer basis. This is not the moment for the rest of the global community to be seized by a mood of resignation over its incapacity to restrain the U.S. from following its rogue impulses. Instead, the global community must take the positivist view that its opposition to the war, though it was not fully concerted, did have the effect of delaying the conflict and therefore the more coordinated efforts that can be mounted in the future could be more effective. The four countries above-named do have the weight in international affairs to form the core of a wider coalition that can offer a sufficient counterweight to the hyper-power.

The need to demonstrate that the power of the U.S. can be balanced out is all the more necessary at a juncture when the war against Iraq could easily assume the nature of a conflict between civilisations. For all the unease that many in the Islamic world might feel about Mr. Hussein, the destruction of Iraq by the forces of the West would be regarded foremost as a civilisational assault once his regime is no longer on the scene. The sacking of Baghdad by the Mongols in the 13th Century still remains as an epochal event in the historiography of the Islamic world as does the fact that Islam ultimately triumphed as an ideology through the conversion of the barbarian hordes. An attack on Iraq, at a time when the Islamic world believes it has gone through a very rough period, could revive the memories of past glories and a fervent reaffirmation of the ideology that made it possible.

Summit  
19-10

20 MAR 2003

THE HINDS

# Ultras attack police post, kill 11

TIMES NEWS NETWORK AND AGENCIES

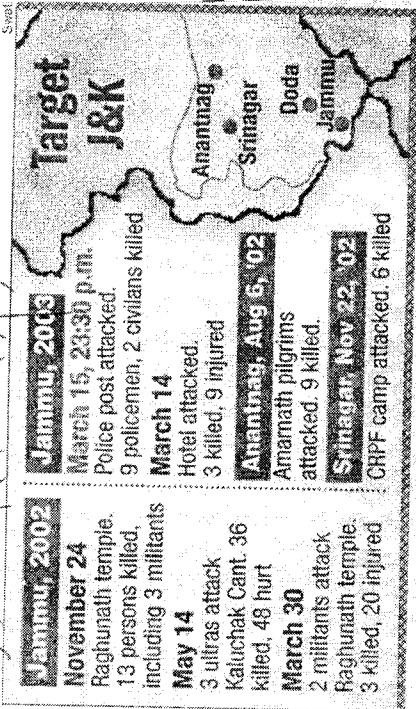
**Srinagar:** At least nine policemen and two civilians were killed while five others were injured when militants attacked a remote police post in Udhampur district late on Saturday. The ultras also kidnapped four policemen and took away a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

One of the civilians, whom the militants suspected to be a police informer, was found with his throat slit.

Twenty-five policemen were on duty at the post in Govil area when heavily-armed ultras barged into the building, firing rockets and spraying bullets. The police retaliated, and the gun-battle lasted nearly two hours. The attackers, however, managed to escape. But they took away with them two police constables and two special police officers (SPOs) besides 18 self-loading rifles, a light machine gun, three AK-47 rifles and some ammunition.

The Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen (JuM) has claimed responsibility for the attack. A man, identifying himself as JuM spokesman Jamil Ahmed, told a news agency here that the attack had been jointly carried out by his group and the Harkat-ul-Jehadi Islami.

The police said the attack might have been in retaliation to the killing of Amanullah, a suspected leader of the Pakistan-based Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, by security forces last week. They added that a massive hunt had been launched to track down the attackers. This is the second major strike by militants in three days. On Friday, six people, including a deputy superintendent of po-



lice, were killed in a hotel siege in Poonch district. Besides attacking the police post, the militants also set on fire houses and a hospital before retreating.

Police and security forces were rushed to the area on Sunday and they have launched massive combing operations in and around the village to track down the culprits. According to an army spokesman, a group of four ultras had been cornered by the security forces in the area.

While eight of those injured were rushed to Military Hospital in Udhampur, one was airlifted and admitted to Government Medical College Hospital here.

Director general of police J.K. Suri and IGP, Jammu zone, P.L. Gupta, who visited the village, have assured the villagers that additional security forces would be deployed in the surrounding areas to effectively contain the growing level of militancy in the area.

17 MAR 2003

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# Qaida in Pakistan

## Interesting relationships come into view

With the arrest of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, number 3 man in the Al Qaida, some interesting relationships have come into view. He was arrested from the residence of Ahmed Qudoos, a Jamaat-e-Islami leader living in Rawalpindi, and information minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has given out that all Al Qaida leaders arrested in Pakistan turn out to have links with the Jamaat-e-Islami. Secondly, Ahmed Qudoos' uncle Adil Qudoos, also a major in the Pakistani army, has been arrested for Al Qaida links. It is noteworthy that Khalid Mohammed was not hiding out in some remote area of the North West Frontier Province but in Westridge, an upmarket location in Rawalpindi, the city that is the headquarters of the Pakistan army and where Musharraf himself lives. This is new evidence of a triadic relationship that has long been suspected — between Islamist political parties, the Pakistan army, and the Al Qaida. Mohammed is thought to have been the key organizer of the 9/11 attacks, and a victory in the war against terror has undoubtedly been notched up with his arrest. But number 3's arrest draws attention to the fact that numbers 1 and 2 — Osama bin Laden and Ayman al Zawahiri — are still around to foment mischief. Mohammed may in fact be in the know about his chief's whereabouts, and there is tantalizing evidence that he met him recently.

But then, the very fact of Mohammed's arrest may cause bin Laden to change location, and it is questionable why the Bush administration should choose to make a public announcement of his arrest at this point — perhaps Washington was eager to counter the criticism that its unremitting focus on Iraq has enabled Al Qaida to slip below its radar. Islamabad's insistence that Mohammed was in its custody was flatly contradicted by Washington which said Mohammed had been moved by US agents to an undisclosed location. Having lied over Pakistani involvement in Kashmir's *jihad* terminological inexactitudes may come easily to the Islamabad establishment, but there is a downside to this — it is fast losing credibility with ordinary Pakistanis, let alone New Delhi or the rest of the world. Islamabad shouldn't have had any trouble taking on the rotten apples within its establishment, had it not been held back by the inhibition that it may need them later to be able to chuck them at India. But that calculation may as yet prove fatal for Musharraf if things spiral out of his control.

8 MAR 2003

THE STATESMAN

# 20 killed, 149 injured in Philippines airport blast

Manila, March 4

A POWERFUL bomb hidden in a backpack exploded on Tuesday at an airport in Philippines, killing at least 20 people, including an American, and wounding more than 149, authorities said. The government called it a "brazen act of terrorism".

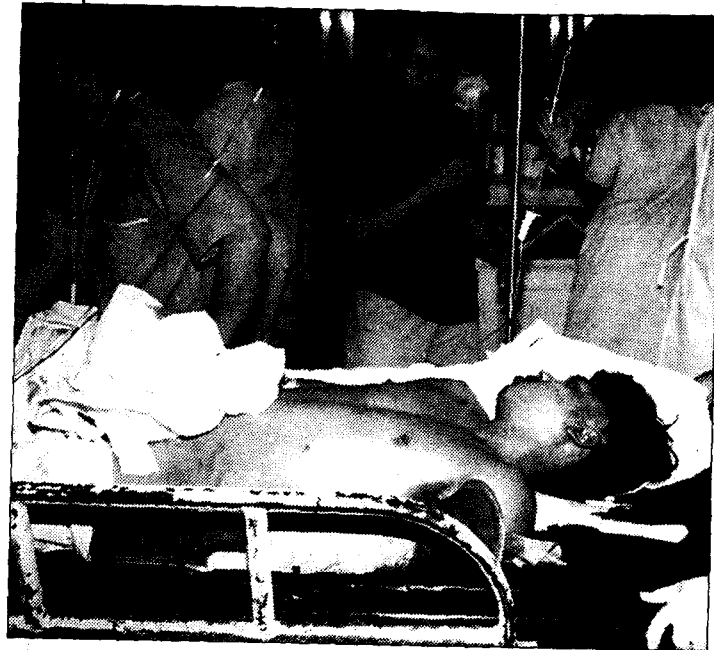
Three Americans from a Southern Baptist missionary family were among the wounded. Many of the injured were in serious condition, and officials feared the death toll could rise.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast at Davao airport on Mindanao island. But the military has blamed Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels for a string of attacks, including a car-bombing at Cotabato airport last month.

A statement signed by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said police detained "several men" in connection with the blast. Arroyo said she ordered police and the military "to hunt down the bombers and their accomplices". She said the bombing was "a brazen act of terrorism which shall not go unpunished". Davao civil defence spokeswoman Susan Madrid said the explosion occurred at 5.20 pm local time as dozens of people waited for a plane to arrive.

"I saw bodies flying," Terry Labado, an airport official said.

An airport security official, who did not want to be identified, said the bomb rocked the front of the terminal building,



A blast victim being carried to a hospital ward in Davao on Tuesday.

smashing windows and causing considerable damage.

"It happened... a few minutes after a Cebu Pacific flight arrived and people packed the waiting area. I saw six persons killed on the spot," the official said.

Madrid said 20 people were killed and more than 149 hurt. One hospital alone reported 91 casualties. The American embassy said an American also died.

An American man, who had been waiting to pick the missionary family, died of his injuries on the operating table at Davao Med-

ical Center, said Dr Manuel Tan. The US embassy confirmed the death of an American but declined to identify the victim.

Two injured Americans, Barbara Stevens, 33, and her 9-month-old son Nathan, were brought to Davao Doctors Hospital, hospital staff said. Flights to and from Davao were suspended.

In another incident, an explosion in Tagum, north of Davao, injured two people, said military spokesman Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero. He gave no other details.

5 MAR 2003

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES



# Pak Major held for al-Qaida links

Islamabad, March 4 (AP) <sup>15 9/3</sup>

A PAKISTAN Army Major has been detained for his alleged links with Osama bin Laden's terror network.

Intelligence officials have detained Major Adil Qudoos, believed to be the uncle of Ahmad Qudoos, the local accomplice of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, media reports from Kohat said on Tuesday.

Qudoos was detained at his Cantonment residence in Kohat on Saturday night, local daily *Dawn* quoted officials as saying.

"Only Pakistani agencies were involved in the operation and the Major has been detained to confirm whether he has links with his nephew or Mohammed," the officials said.

Mohammad was arrested in Rawalpindi from the residence of a local leader of Jamat-e-Islami party. He was reportedly sheltered by Ahmad Qudoos who was closely linked bin Laden's terror network in the past. Soon after their arrest, a group of senior Pakistani military officials went to the house of the Major, who belonged to the 45 Signals regiment carried out a search of his house.

The Major was asked to furnish details about Sheikh Mohammed as to whether he had visited Kohat in recent days or last year. The Major's wife was told that she would shortly be informed of his fate, the report said.

"There is nothing to worry about. We have orders from

above to interrogate the Major and search his house. "He will be released within a few days," the leader of the raiding party reportedly told Qudoos' wife.

The newspaper report said during the search, the telephone connection of the Major's residence was cut off. It was later restored.

According to one version, he was being interrogated by a joint investigation team somewhere in Kohat, while some officials said he has been shifted to Islamabad, the report said.

This was the first time Pakistan publicly detained an army official for alleged links with al-Qaida and Taliban.

Officials here said Mohammad's arrest also exposed the direct links between the hardline Jamat-e-Islami leaders and al-Qaida.

Commenting on Mohammad's arrest, Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad told reporters on Monday that it was unfortunate that all al-Qaida leaders, who were detained in Pakistan from different cities since last year, had links with the Jamat-e-Islami.

He appealed to the outfit to realise the delicate position in which Pakistan was placed in the international community. However, he ruled out banning the party for its links with the militant outfit.

"We want to defend the political people but at the same time they must demonstrate more responsibility," he said.

PTI

5 MAR 2003

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# 9/11 attack mastermind held in Pak

**Islamabad:** Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, a top Al Qaida activist suspected of planning the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington and one of the FBI's most wanted terrorists, was arrested by the Pakistani authorities on Saturday.

Mohammed was arrested—along with a man of West Asian descent and a Pakistani, identified as Ahmed Qadoos—during a raid on a suspected terrorist hideout in Rawalpindi.

Although American officials said Mohammed had been handed over to the US and taken to an undisclosed location outside the country, Pakistan's interior minister Faisal Saleh Hayat said he had not been handed over to the US and was still in the country.

The White House issued a statement praising Pakistani and US officials for what it called a joint operation, but Pakistani officials insisted the raid had been carried out entirely by Pakistani agents.

A number of Americans from the FBI are working with the Pakistanis to track down Al Qaida suspects but their role is politically sensitive and has opened President Pervez Musharraf to criticism from Islamic political forces.

When it was first learned that a man called Mohammed had been captured in Pakistan director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet called up national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, who was at Camp David with President George W. Bush. He called again on Sunday morning to say that officials were now certain they had arrested Mohammed. Ms Rice called the President, who responded, "That's fantastic."

"Mohammed is one of Osama bin Laden's most senior and significant lieutenants, a key Al Qaida planner and the mastermind of the September 11 attacks,"

## Face of terror



### Who is he?

- Born in Kuwait, has Pakistani citizenship
- Believed to have helped Osama plan the Sept. 11 terror attacks
- Al Qaida's third most important man—in charge of military operations

said a White House statement.

Officials suspect that Mohammed, believed to be 37, was also involved in the simultaneous bombings of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998 as well as the bombing of the US destroyer Cole in Yemen in October 2000.

Mohammed, who was born in Kuwait and studied engineering in the US in the 1980's, was on the FBI's list of top fugitives. He has emerged as the central architect of the 9/11 plot. After years of planning to use commercial aircraft in terrorist attacks, he first came to the attention of the authorities in 1995 in the Philippines, when he was a planner of the "Bojinka Plot" to blow up commercial airliners over the Pacific.

He comes from a family identified with terrorist activities—he is a relative of one of the men convicted in the 1993 bombing of the WTC and has a brother who is believed to be a member of the Al Qaida. NYT News Service

Genovine  
HQ-10

## A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH

A/B ✓

THE ARREST NEAR Islamabad of Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, considered the brain behind the September 11, 2001, attack on the U.S., is an important breakthrough that can prove to be a turning point in the drive against the terror network. One of America's most wanted men, Khalid topped the Federal Bureau of Investigation's list of top fugitives, and his capture, coming in the wake of other successes in trapping senior Al-Qaeda operatives in Pakistan in the past six months, will be seen as a triumph for the combined efforts of the intelligence agencies of the U.S. and Pakistan. Other than Osama bin Laden, there is practically no one the U.S. agencies would have liked better to have in their custody. Khalid's capture, more than the arrest earlier of Abu Zubaydah and Ramzi Binalshibh, can be a devastating blow against Al-Qaeda for what he might reveal during interrogation by his American investigators. In the months since the devastating strikes in New York and Washington, the terrorist group has shown that contrary to American claims it is far from broken or shattered by the bombing campaign and that its capacity for networking and causing devastation is inexhaustible. The Khalid arrest has the potential to turn the tide against the outfit.

The arrest confirms widely expressed fears that the sponsors of the Taliban fleeing Afghanistan might have found safe havens in parts of Pakistan across the border. With support from local people, Al-Qaeda operatives were thought to have built up a tight network in Karachi, the Pakistani port city. After the arrest of Ramzi following a bizarre shootout, Pakistani police admitted that while they were able to disrupt Al-Qaeda activities they had not succeeded in eliminating them. Khalid's arrest, following a raid on a suspected terrorist hideout, could prove to be qualitatively different. In the investigations after the September 11 strikes, Khalid had emerged as the suspected central

architect of the entire plot. He had come under the American radar in the Philippines seven years ago when he was part of a plot to blow up commercial airliners over the Pacific. He may have more valuable insights into Al-Qaeda than any other of the approximately 400 detainees with the U.S.

If the Khalid arrest brought relief in Washington, it also brought into sharp focus the dilemmas and challenges facing Pakistan today. On the positive side in the global fight against terror, it demonstrated the often-restated resolve of the Musharraf Government to be an active partner in the American campaign against Al-Qaeda. Doubts had been raised about the genuineness of Pervez Musharraf's promised crackdown on Al-Qaeda elements in the wake of continuing terrorist outbreaks in the region. Some of this scepticism may end with the latest arrest. But more worrisome for the President must be the political fallout from such operations against Al-Qaeda carried out in conjunction with American agencies such as the FBI and the CIA. The role of these agencies is a highly sensitive issue in Pakistan in these troubled times. The resurgence of Islamic hardliners following their showing in parliamentary and local elections late last year has if anything made it an explosive issue, and reinforced doubts about the capacity of the Government to keep its promise to the international community, especially the U.S., to maintain the pressure on Al-Qaeda. The six-party religious alliance, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, whose "million man" march against a possible war on Iraq coincided with the arrest of Khalid, has been quick to contest Government claims that Saturday's raid was conducted solely by Pakistani security forces and that American agencies had no hand in the actual operation. Though Gen. Musharraf has ridden such political waves before, the coming days can prove extremely challenging as the war drums beat louder in the neighbourhood.

4 MAR 2002

THE HINDU

# No joint operations, says Pak.

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 10. Pakistan today dismissed reports of a hunt being carried out for Osama bin Laden on its soil and also rejected reports of any joint operation by the Pakistani and the U.S. forces in search of Al-Qaeda members.

"There has never been a joint search," the Foreign Office spokesman, Aziz Ahmed Khan, said in response to a question on reports in the local and international media on the subject. Mr. Khan said the Pakistani forces alone were carrying out operations inside its territory.

Since the U.S.-led military operations in Afghanistan in October, 2001, Pakistan has consistently maintained that it had not provided any military bases to the U.S. inside Pakistan to search for the Al-Qaeda members.

The tracking of the Taliban operatives fleeing Afghanistan was being exclusively undertaken by Pakistan forces.

Asked why Pakistan has changed its stance to-

wards those earlier described as mujahideen (holy warriors) to terrorists, Mr. Khan said Pakistan, itself a victim of terrorism, had always opposed terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

To a question on the excavation of the ground where Babri Masjid once stood to determine whether there was a temple beneath it, he said the act of "erasing the mosque to ground by the Hindu fanatics was a shameful thing. Our position has been that the mosque should be re-constructed... and no temple should be allowed to be built (there)."

Mr. Khan dismissed reports appearing in the U.S. media alleging Pakistan's assistance to Iran's nuclear programme. On Iran-India joint military exercises, the spokesman said that Pakistan and Iran enjoyed excellent relations as was evident from the Iranian President, Mohammad Khatami's recent visit to Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan's relations with Iran were not contingent upon its ties with any other country.

1 1 MAR 2003

THE HINDU

# Delhi gives and takes on Nam terror draft

**PRANAY SHARMA**

**Kuala Lumpur, Feb. 23:** Gathering war clouds over Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict coloured perceptions of terrorism, allowing Pakistan to escape a tougher verdict from the Non-Aligned Movement for its role in sponsoring the menace.

However, an Islamabad-initiated move to bring "conflict resolution" within Nam's ambit got derailed in the face of tough resistance from India.

Adoption of "conflict resolution" in the Nam draft would have provided Pakistan with an opportunity not only to raise the Kashmir issue at the forum of the developing countries, but also legitimately seek its intervention in the dispute.

After days of tough negotia-

tion, Nam seems to have come closer to a consensus on terrorism. Delhi stoutly opposed Pakistan's attempt to include "root cause" and "conflict resolution" in the Nam draft, saying countries would use them to justify their terrorist action.

An agreement appeared to have been reached that they would be kept out of the final document.

The main hitch was with the words "state-sponsored terrorism" — a term popularised by the Americans mainly in the context of West Asia. Respecting the sentiments of the Arab and Islamic nations, India agreed to relent on it.

The heads of government of Nam nations will have to approve the draft before it becomes part of the Kuala Lumpur Decla-

ration at the end of the summit on Tuesday. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and other leaders of the movement will address the gathering at tomorrow's inaugural session.

"Developments in Iraq provided additional oxygen to countries sponsoring terrorism. The debate on terrorism was heavily coloured because of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The issue was seen through the prism of (the) Middle East," foreign secretary Kanwal Sibal said this evening.

"The situation in (the) Middle East and the one prevailing in our region are different and the same arguments are not relevant," he added. But given the popular mood, India admitted that it would be difficult to push the issue any further.

Though separate meetings on Iraq, Palestine and terrorism were on simultaneously, soon they merged into one and the progress of one hampered movement on the others as various regional biases came into play.

Last night, Nam leaders managed to come to an agreement on the text on Iraq, in which the emphasis was on finding a "peaceful resolution" to the crisis through the UN. The US was not referred to by name.

India managed to convince the others that stress should be laid on Baghdad's "total compliance" with the UN Security Council resolutions to defuse the situation there.

It became apparent this morning that the Arab world and the Islamic nations will extract their pound of flesh for this compro-

mise. Nam host and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad articulated the rising sentiments of this section.

"The attack against Iraq will simply mean more Muslims who see this as being anti-Muslim rather than anti-terror. The world is in a state of terror. We are quite paranoid. We are afraid of flying, of going to certain countries, fearful of certain people. We are afraid of Muslims, of Arabs, of bearded people," Mahathir said at a business meeting.

He argued that the "world has changed for the worse" after September 11. Countries like Israel now have an excuse to launch attacks on the Palestinians: fighting terrorism.

Aware that various Islamic countries were now hiding behind Iraq and the West Asia cri-

sis to push their own agenda, a senior Indian official said: "We had to agree to certain adjustments in the text, otherwise the position of the Arab world would have hardened further."

Arithmetically, too, it was difficult for India to get a tougher wording out of Nam on terrorism. The 50-odd members of the Organisation of Islamic Countries make up half the strength of Nam.

During bilateral discussions, most of these countries accepted India's view on Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir and elsewhere in the country.

But, with the possibility of a US-led war on Iraq looming large and there being no signs of a peaceful and honourable resolution to the Palestinian issue, they, as an Islamic bloc, decided

to oppose any stronger language on terrorism.

## Netaji culture centre

The Prime Minister today announced the setting up of an Indian cultural centre in Malaysia, which will be named after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The Malaysian government will provide the land.

Vajpayee made the announcement before a huge gathering of the Indian community, after a meeting with his Malaysian counterpart.

Earlier, the Prime Minister almost turned down a request for setting up a Hindi school in Malaysia. "Efforts can be made for the promotion of Hindi language. But I don't know whether that merits a school here," he told the gathering.

# 'Pathan had fallen out with Dawood'

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Feb. 20. — Ejaz Pathan had reportedly fallen out with Dawood Ibrahim, an official said, indicating this development could be linked to Dubai's decision to deport the Mumbai serial bomb blast accused to India last night.

Ejaz was among those arrested by the Dubai authorities when it swung into action after Dawood Ibrahim's associate, Sharad Shetty, was gunned down in an elite social club. Dubai Police had subsequently rounded up several gangsters suspected to be involved in the shoot-out and earlier this month, cracked the whip on Dawood associates who had arrived in the port city to apparently avenge Shetty's killing.

The Dubai Police was suspected to have rounded up over 100

people in this exercise, only to subsequently release Dawood's associates on the condition that they leave the country. Ejaz, an official said, was among those who could not get out of their custody and was reportedly beaten up during his interrogation.

"We still don't know why we got him or for that matter, Iqbal Sheikh, why Dubai cooperated this time," an official said, pointing that the picture would get clear over the next few days during Ejaz's interrogation. "His interrogation is not only important because he could tell us something new about the blasts that took place 10 years ago but because of what he can tell us about the situation in the underworld today," he said.

It was also surprising that the deportation came a day after the Dubai Police chief Major Gener-

al Dhahi Khalfan Tamim went public arguing that India could not expect them to hand over the criminals it wanted unless it was on a reciprocal basis.

Officials said the intelligence and security agencies who worked as a team in the operation did deserve credit but one should not miss the point of where the two stand in the underworld hierarchy today.

There is not a lot that is known about Dawood's younger brother, Iqbal Sheikh, who claimed in a Mumbai court that he came to India on his own. But if he was on good terms with the D-company, why did he not flee to Karachi like the rest of the clan. Or for that matter, why did he approach the Supreme Court against the external affairs ministry which had refused to extend his passport in 2001.



Police escort Iqbal Kaskar in Mumbai on Thursday. — AFP

THE STATESMAN

21 FEB 2003

# The return of the wanted

The Dubai deportations are significant for the fight against the mafia-terror network

THERE is an anniversary here that the Dubai authorities may not have been aware of when they despatched Iqbal Shaikh Kaskar and Ejaz Pathan back home to Mumbai on Wednesday. The tenth anniversary of the Bombay blasts will soon be upon us and the country has still to come to terms with that tragic event. The connections between these two fugitives and that horrendous event will, of course, have to be established through the due process of law but there is enough evidence to suggest that their inputs could prove invaluable in piecing together the complex jigsaw puzzle that the Bombay blasts constitute. The CBI case, which began on June 30, 1995, had chargesheeted 195 people, of whom 44 were absconding. Among them was Pathan, believed to have masterminded the smuggling into the country of assault rifles before that fateful March day. As for Iqbal Kaskar, apart from being charged with murder and other serious offences, he is Dawood Ibrahim's brother and would presumably have been privy to many of the nefarious goings-on within the D-Company.

Apart from what the Dubai deportations can do in terms of throwing fresh light on past events, they hold great significance for India's battle against the mafia-terrorist network, which has received both overt and covert support from Pakistan. This year has proved especially fortu-

nate in this regard, what with the arrest of Shakil Mursalim Shaikh, believed to have once been a key associate of Dawood Ibrahim, and the deportation of Imran Khan and Mohammed Altaf, both of whom were wanted in the Ghatkopar blast of last December. Of course, these breakthroughs would not have been possible without the active cooperation New Delhi has been receiving from the UAE authorities over the past several months. But there are two further developments that have helped. First, the endemic rivalries and dissensions within the D-Company itself. Second, the international pressure on all criminal-terrorist groups after 9/11. If the Portuguese government has finally been persuaded to hand over Abu Salem to India, as the minister of state for external affairs has revealed, it is certainly a consequence of such pressure.

This then is the time for India to do its homework and systematically follow up on every lead it may have on individuals and groups that have committed serious crimes in this country and fled to safe havens abroad, or who continue to perpetrate mayhem by remote control. It must also ensure that those deemed guilty by the courts are quickly brought to book. Such a resolve would be the best tribute the nation can pay to the 257 people who lost their lives on that horrific Friday in Mumbai, ten years ago.

# After Iraq, Pak?

India must press for that

Pervez Musharraf was probably up to his old tricks of making the right noises at the right time when he cautioned the powerful jihadi lobby that its actions could put Pakistan in the firing line once George W Bush was satisfied that he had completed his father's unfinished business with Saddam Hussein. While one purpose may have been to try and contain his domestic detractors, bigger gains would accrue if it kept the Americans convinced that he was going whole hog with them in the campaign against terror. But while the Bush administration refuses to accept ground realities, others who wield influence in the US are becoming increasingly sceptical of Pakistan's sincerity in the battle that was launched after 9/11.

There is no way in which the dispersed Al Qaeda elements could have taken root along the Pak-Afghan border had Islamabad not chosen to permit that — a point Colin Powell stressed when seeking to convince the Security Council of an Iraq-Al Qaeda link. That almost every extremist Islamic militant outfit has a Pakistani connection is being established as those pursuing the war against terror in a professional manner — which the Bush administration is not doing — and truth is being revealed. So maybe Musharraf does have cause for genuine concern, his bluff could be called some day.

The tragedy of the war against terror is that the United States is not carrying it to logical conclusions. Rather than "smoke 'em out" as George Bush had threatened at one stage, the White House opted for a smokescreen. Having failed to get Osama bin Laden — dead or alive as they would say in Texas — that failure is being camouflaged by diverting American attention to Iraq, and given the cowboys-and-Indians syndrome, Saddam Hussein is the next bad kid on the block. What is being overlooked is that the "time out" taken from the genuine war against terror will provide a window of opportunity to Al Qaeda to re-deploy and plan further mayhem — as at the nightclubs in Bali. And, not at all surprisingly, Tony Blair and John Howard prefer to two-step with George Bush unlike the Germans and French who point out that the obsession with Iraq dilutes the drive against terror.

India, however, will be required to do more than gloat over the gradual build-up of western opinion against Musharraf's refusal — or inability — to rein in terrorists and crack down on those within his own establishment who continue to be their godfathers. The pressure must be sustained on Washington and London to hold Pakistan to its pledge of abandoning its patronage to militants in Jammu and Kashmir. It must be consistently stressed that infiltration has not ceased, nor has the provision of weaponry and indeed direction. Yet that too will require a professional showing by our diplomatic and military leadership — political rhetoric, however shrill, will simply not suffice.

19 FEB 2003

THE STATESMAN



# Al Qaida is planning more attacks, says US

Washington: Despite the US-led campaign against terrorists in Afghanistan and around the world, fugitives of the Al Qaida terror network are regrouping, planning more attacks and could acquire weapons of mass destruction, US President George W. Bush has said.

"Members of the Al Qaida have travelled from continent to continent with the ease of a vacationer or business traveller. Despite the US-led coalition's success in Afghanistan and around the world, some Al Qaida operatives have escaped to plan additional terrorist attacks. They readily blend into communities wherever they move," Mr Bush said in a strategic paper on terrorism released on Friday.

The threat of terrorists acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction is a clear and imminent danger, he added. "The Al Qaida exemplifies how terrorist networks have twisted the benefits and conveniences of an increasingly open, integrated and modernised world to serve their destructive agenda," he said.

On countries offering safe havens to terrorists, Mr Bush said, "Whether through ignorance, inability or intent, states around the world still offer havens—both physical and virtual that terrorists need to plan,

organise, train and conduct their operations," he added.

Once entrenched in a safe operating environment, the organisation can begin to solidify and expand, Mr Bush noted, adding the terror outfits' structure, membership, resources and security determine its capabilities and reach.

Rebuffing the belief that terror was a legitimate means to address underlying issues such as poverty, corruption, religious conflict and ethnic strife, he said some of these conditions were real and some imaginary.

Terrorists used these conditions to justify their actions and expand their support. The belief that terror is a legitimate means to address such conditions and effect political change is a fundamental problem enabling the menace to develop and expand, he said.

Releasing the strategy, Mr Bush said the US would work closely with every nation committed to the fight against terror; "and we will continue to help our allies and friends improve their ability to fight terror."

The war against global terror, he warned, will be hard and long. "Today terror cells exist on nearly every continent and in dozens of countries, including the US." PTI

16 FEB 2003

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# Rings of steel encircle Heathrow, Gatwick

PAUL MAJENDIE

London, Feb. 13 (Reuters): Britain's two main airports were hit by security alerts today amid intelligence-led fears that London and Washington could be targeted by al Qaida.

A Venezuelan man carrying a live hand grenade was arrested at Britain's Gatwick airport today. The police said the 37-year-old Venezuelan was arrested after his arrival at the airport, Britain's busiest after Heathrow, from Colombia when a suspicious item was found in his luggage which appeared to be a live grenade.

Flights were suspended out of Gatwick's north terminal and two arrests were also made close to Heathrow on the outskirts of London.

In Washington, anti-aircraft missiles protected the Pentagon — one of the targets of the September 11 attacks — and F-16 fighter jets were placed on 24-

hour alert. In New York, police circled Grand Central Station, stopping and searching vans while extra police patrolled streets.

A spokesman for the British airport authority BAA said the north terminal at Gatwick was closed and all flights suspended after a security alert.

Heathrow was surrounded by a ring of steel — troops and police patrolled the airport in the largest security operation in the history of London's Metropolitan police. The police arrested two men near Heathrow today, but detectives stressed the arrests were precautionary and did not appear to be significant.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, President George W. Bush's closest ally in the war on terror, said it was vital "to do absolutely everything we can to root these terrorists out".

As an extra 1,700 police were drafted in for counter-terrorism operations across London, inte-

rior minister David Blunkett told parliament Britain faced a "real and serious threat" from al Qaida.

In a city hardened by 30 years of guerrilla attacks by Irish republican bombers, London police chief John Stevens said: "The level of the threat is extremely high. That is why we have taken the steps we have. This is the largest police operation of its kind."

In the Gulf, where anti-US sentiments are running high, tight security measures are already in place over a possible US-led war on Iraq.

Some jittery New Yorkers were taking extreme measures.

Proprietors at two Manhattan shops said they had sold several hundred \$300 chemical protection suits this week. And in Israel, people were advised by the defence ministry to stockpile food and water against the possibility of Iraqi missile attacks in the event of a war against Iraq.

14 FEB 2003

THE TELEGRAPH

# Al-Qaida planned attacks on February 12: Report

New York, February 16

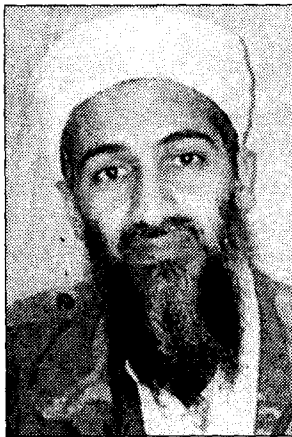
THE US has credible intelligence that al-Qaida had planned an attack or multiple attacks at some point last week and that members of the Congress could have been the terrorist outfit's likely target, a media report said on Sunday.

Counter-terrorism officials were quoted as saying that they had received a phone tip that members of the United States Congress could have been targets of assassination attempts by Islamic fundamentalists.

Intelligence reports gathered from human and electronic sources around the world suggested what intelligence officials had suspected for weeks — al-Qaida operatives “are in the execution phase of some of their operations,” a senior US official was quoted by *Time* magazine as saying.

Officials said the intelligence specifically mentioned that the likely targets on February 12 were New York City and Washington.

Even though the feared attacks failed to materialise, the anxieties did not subside and inside the Federal Bureau of Investigation fears of a devastating attack are as high as they had been in



Osama bin Laden

months, particularly because of the possibility that “other tools” or biological and chemical weapons could be used, it said.

The Homeland Security has increased the level of alert. Telephone calls and e-mails exchanged between several suspected terrorists and intercepted by the US and foreign intelligence agencies pointed to a plot inside the US using nerve gas, poisons or radiological devices. “It wasn't just chatter,” said Republican Senator Pat Roberts, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. “It was a pattern.”

Some of the plots are believed to be in the planning

## Osama son in Iran

OSAMA BIN Laden's eldest son Saad has reportedly moved to Iran and is living there with other members of the group. Saad had been spotted in Iran last month, a media report said on Sunday. The officials said it was not clear what relationship Saad had with the government in Tehran, PTI, London

stages, *Time* said, adding extremists might also try to build an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle to spray chemical agents over populated areas.

A senior Administration official tells the magazine that domestic law-enforcement agencies are investigating a report that Islamic fundamentalists in the US are trying to acquire parts to build an unmanned aerial vehicle abroad — the kind of machine that terrorism experts believe could be deployed to spray chemical agents over populated areas.

It is feared that a UAV assembled overseas could be used against US assets there, *Time* says.

PTI

17 FEB 2003

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES



# Laden urges suicide missions against USA

Press Trust of India

LONDON, Feb. 12. — In an audiotape message purportedly recorded by Osama bin Laden, the Al-Qaida leader has urged Iraqis to launch suicide attacks against America and its allies and tried to inspire them with his own escape from the bombing of Afghanistan.

Bin Laden's message, broadcast by the *al-Jazeera* satellite channel last night, suggested that any country supporting a US war on Iraq would be vulnerable to attack.

"We stress the importance of martyrdom operations against the enemy. These attacks have frightened Americans and Israelis like never before," bin Laden said. He also said "socialists are also non-believers," in an apparent reference to Iraqi President Mr Saddam Hussein's secular Baath party.

Urging Iraqis to launch *jihād* against "the crusaders", he advised them to "try to extend the war", and to "fight city war because they (US forces) will have big casualties. If we are in the trenches they cannot get us. US State Department spokesman Mr Richard Boucher said the tape proved Al-Qaida is still a threat.

"I think the statement shows that al-Qaida still represents a danger to us all. I think it threatens not only the USA but half a dozen Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Jordan and others and the whole world," Mr Boucher said in a statement broadcast on *al-Jazeera* after the tape was played.

Yasser Thabet, a broadcast editor of *al-Jazeera*, said the voice on the tape

sounded like Laden's and they assumed it was authentic because it was obtained in the same way as his previous tapes.

In the tape, bin Laden also warned neighbouring Muslim countries not to help USA. "Anyone who helps America, from the Iraqi hypocrites (opposition) or Arab rulers, whoever fights with them or offers them bases or administrative assistance, or any kind of support or help, even if only with words, to kill Muslims in Iraq, should know that he is an apostate."

**Bin Laden called on true Muslims to rise up 'incite and mobilise the nation...to break free from the slavery of these regimes who are slaves of America'**

Bin Laden also called on true Muslims to rise up "incite and mobilise the nation...to break free from the slavery of these regimes who are slaves of America." He singled out Jordan, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

The tape was broadcast as security forces on both sides of the Atlantic gave warning that Al-Qaida was plotting imminent attacks against the West. Troops and tanks were ordered to Heathrow airport here yesterday after a specific threat to Britain — possibly a ground-to-air missile attack on an airliner.

Intelligence chiefs in US also reportedly warned of a radiological or chem-

ical attack on USA or the Arabian Peninsula within days, possibly to coincide with the end of the Hajj pilgrimage.

Downing Street said that intelligence about imminent Al-Qaida attacks was coming in "thick and fast", prompting British Prime Minister Mr Tony Blair personally to authorise yesterday's security alert. More than a thousand soldiers and police were drafted in to saturate the area around Heathrow and extra armed police were guarding Whitehall amid fears of a suicide attack on a government office.

The security forces at Heathrow were spread across the area from which a missile might be launched.

The USA believes the tape is genuine and that Bin Laden's message urging Islamic countries to side with Iraq may herald a "burgeoning alliance of terror," a top US official has said, adds AFP from Washington.

Iraq has accused the USA of trying to establish a link between Osama bin Laden and Iraq and using it as a pretext for war, a senior Iraqi official said here today, adds AFP from Baghdad.

**Tape affects stocks:** As the news of the release of the bin Laden tape spread US stocks swung lower, reversing early gains, adds AFP from New York.

## 'Tape inconclusive'

In another development, Germany has said that the tape does not point to close links between his Al-Qaida network and Iraq, a German government spokesman said today, reports AFP from Berlin.

13 FEB 2003

# CIA voice in al Qaida alert

TABASSUM ZAKARIA

Washington, Feb. 11 (Reuters): CIA director George Tenet said today that al Qaida remained a threat to the US and information showed Osama bin Laden's network had established a presence in Iraq and Iran.

Tenet also told a Senate intelligence committee hearing the latest increase in the national-alert level was prompted by more specific information tied to al Qaida.

"I can tell you that the threat from al Qaida remains, even though we have made important strides in the war against terrorism," Tenet said.

He said the US raised the threat level to orange, the second highest, last week because of threat reports from multiple sources with "strong al Qaida ties".

He added that the intelligence information was "not idle chatter on the part of terrorists and their associates" but was the most specific that US intelligence agencies had seen.

"The information we have points to plots aimed at targets on two fronts — in the United States and on the Arabian penin-

sula. It points to plots timed to occur as early as the end of the Haj, which occurs late this week," Tenet said.

"And it points to plots that could include the use of a radiological dispersion device as well as poisons and chemicals," he said, referring to devices similar to the so-call "dirty bomb".

Tenet's public testimony comes as the US might be on the verge of war with Iraq, North Korea has threatened to resume its nuclear program, and Iran said it was poised to enrich uranium to fuel its nuclear energy programme.

"We see disturbing signs that al Qaida has established a presence in both Iran and Iraq," Tenet said. "In addition, we are concerned that al Qaida continues to find refuge in the hinterlands of Afghanistan and Pakistan."

Senators at the hearing were expected to ask Tenet why Iraq was considered a more imminent threat than North Korea and Iran — what President George W. Bush calls the "axis of evil" — and whether a US invasion of Iraq would increase terrorist threats against the US.

FBI director Robert Mueller also testified about threats facing the US, mainly from al Qaida, which Washington blames for the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that killed about 3,000 people.

1 2 FEB 2003

THE TELEGRAPH

# India and Thailand to combat terrorism

**Bangkok:** Stepping up their cooperation in fighting international terrorism, India and Thailand on Friday decided to set up a committee



**L.K. Advani**

to share information about terrorists and also agreed to join hands in economic and security matters.

Thailand and India have agreed to establish a committee to exchange information about terrorists and would cooperate in fighting international terrorism, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said after a breakfast meeting with visiting deputy prime minister L.K. Advani here.

The two countries would also cooperate in economic and security matters, Mr

Thaksin said without elaborating.

During the wide-ranging discussions Mr Advani is understood to have raised the issue of cross-border terrorism being faced by India.

He also impressed upon the need for bilateral cooperation on providing mutual legal assistance and having extradition treaty in the shortest possible time.

The fear of insurgent group leaders from India, especially from the northeast, taking refuge in Thailand as well as drug smuggling make it imperative that the two countries sign these accords, official sources said.

Mr Advani, who is on a three-day visit to Thailand before flying to Singapore, also held talks with his Thai counterpart, Wissanu Krea-ngam, justice minister Pura-chai Piumsombun and interior minister Wan Muham-mad Noor Matha to stress these issues. PTI

# Iraq shelters al-Qaida: US

United Nations, February 5

THE US on Wednesday alleged that members of a group associated with al-Qaida had been operating freely in Baghdad for eight months.

Secretary of state Colin Powell told the UN Security Council, "Iraq harbours a deadly terrorist network headed by Abu Musab Zarqawi, an associate and collaborator of Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida lieutenant."

Zarqawi is connected with Ansar-al-Islam, a group that operates in northern Iraq outside Baghdad's control.

But Powell said Zarqawi spent two months in Baghdad in May and June 2002 for medical treatment and that some members of his groups were now based in the Iraqi capital.

"They have now been operating freely in the capital for more than eight months. Iraqi officials deny accusations of ties with al-Qaida. These denials are simply not credible," Powell said.

Meanwhile, of the 15 Security Council members, only the US and UK have voiced support for forcibly disarming Saddam Hussein.

China said immediately after Powell's testimony on Wednesday that the inspectors should be given more



Syrian children at a rally in Baghdad to show support to Saddam Hussein on Wednesday. AP

time to do their work.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said on German TV before the session that the UN's goals could be achieved without military action if inspectors were given more time.

Iraq's ambassador, Mohammed Al-Douri, on being asked before Powell's presentation about what

message he would be delivering, said: "It's a message for peace."

Following a White House breakfast that Bush had with congressional leaders in advance of Powell's presentation, Sen Joseph Biden of Delaware said: "If I had this evidence before a jury that was an unbiased jury, I could get a conviction."

But Biden, the top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, said, "We're talking about a different stage. (Powell) has a tougher jury and there is a lot of skepticism that exists in the international community."

Hans Blix, the chief UN weapons inspector, also attended the UN session.

**The New York Times**

6 FEB 2003

THE HINDUSTAN TIME



# Dubai gets tough with D-company

By S. Balakrishnan and  
Ranjit Khomne  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** The Dubai police has arrested as many as 110 members of the Dawood Ibrahim gang and not 15 as believed earlier. Among those arrested are Noora and Mushtaquim, Dawood's younger brothers.

Police sources said the arrests were part of a massive crackdown ordered by the Dubai authorities who were worried that their territory was increasingly being used by the gang for its nefarious activities.

The gunning down of Dawood's lieutenant Sharad Shetty in Dubai on January 19, by members of the Chhota Rajan gang, has shaken up the Dubai administration. As many as 20 bullets were pumped into Shetty by a hit squad sent by Chhota Rajan, who is believed to be somewhere in Europe.

In 1995, the Chhota Rajan gang had gunned down Sunil Sawant aka Sautya, a Dawood sharp-shooter, on a Dubai street in a sensational operation, but that incident did not invite a similar reaction from the Dubai police.

Post 9/11, the Dubai authorities want to rid their emirate of criminal elements, some of whom could have links with terrorist outfits. The Dubai government

does not want its country to be perceived as a haven for criminals who have run away from India, a police official said.

Also, the local police do not want any trouble during the month-long Dubai shopping festival which commenced on January 15.

Security agencies here are sceptical about the deportation of Noora and Mushtaquim. They expect big brother Dawood to pull strings and ensure that they are put on a plane to Karachi.

Mohammed Dossa, who is a big-time smuggler and hawala operator, may also escape deportation as he had worked closely with Pakistan's inter-services intelligence in executing the serial bomb blasts in Mumbai in March 1993.

The Pakistani government may use its clout in Dubai to ensure that he is not deported to India.

Sources in the police said the Dubai authorities have placed the 110 detenus in three categories.

The first category, which includes Noora, Mushtaquim and Dossa, might be sent to Karachi to join Dawood.

The second group comprising those wanted in India for major offences may simply be asked to leave the country. The third lot, which comprises of low-level Dawood operatives, might be sent to India.

5 FEB 2003

THE TIMES OF INDIA

'U.S. APPROACH DISAPPOINTING'

# Pak. spreading terrorist activity, says Advani

By P. S. Suryanarayana

**BANGKOK, FEB. 1.** Making out a new case against Pakistan on the suspected global reach of its "terrorist-promoting activities", India today expressed "disappointment" over the perceived U.S. "approach" of continuing to regard Islamabad as an anti-terror ally.

However, the visiting Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, L.K. Advani, who outlined India's new concerns at a press conference here, said he had "nothing specific to say" whether Pakistan had spread its wings to South East Asia too.

Placing India firmly in the camp of war-sceptics regarding the Iraq crisis, he said Baghdad "must give up (its) weapons of mass destruction" in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

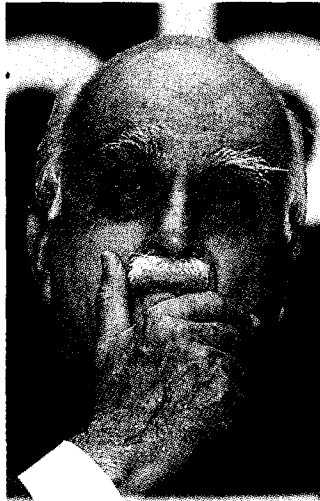
However, "a war should be avoided" even if Iraq failed to disarm, he said, stressing that India did not favour any State acting unilaterally to force Baghdad to abide by the U.N. resolutions.

Answering questions from the international media at the conclusion of his talks with Thailand leaders, Mr. Advani said: "We have seen Pakistan trying to maximise the spread of its terrorist-promoting activity and, in that effort, they (the Pakistanis) may be attempting (to do so) everywhere. But I have nothing specific to say in this regard" insofar as South East Asia as a possible theatre for such operations was concerned.

Nor did he cite the reports of Pakistan's support for North Korea's nuclear-weapons programme.

About Pakistan's anti-terror profile, Mr. Advani said that India, while being "disappointed with (the U.S.) approach", recognised that "every country has its own foreign policy considerations".

Given the strategic aspects of realpolitik on the global stage at present, New Delhi would "not expect any country of the world to help" it in the battle against Pakistan's sponsorship of "cross-border terrorism".



"We are determined to deal with it on our own."

## 'Talks pointless'

Ruling out any possibility of renewing talks with Pakistan, Mr. Advani said the "touchstone" was that it would be "pointless and purposeless ... unless (all the) dimensions of (Pakistan's) infrastructure (of terrorism) are dismantled".

These "dimensions" were Pakistan's "terrorist camps" as also its suspected actions of providing "arms, finances and asylum" to terrorists on a sustainable basis.

He clarified that Pakistan was not discussed at any great length during his talks with the Thai leaders, though he himself had briefed them about India's perceptions.

However, views on the overall terrorism-quotient of international politics were exchanged.

It was in this context that India and Thailand had now agreed to put their Joint Working Group on Security into stride as early as possible. The perceived delay in signing a bilateral extradition treaty was traceable entirely to Thailand's compulsions of having to update its relevant domestic laws which were 75-year-old.

Mr. Advani said his visit to Thailand and Singapore should be seen in the evolving context of New Delhi's efforts to sensitise the international community to the general and specific aspects of security and terrorism as seen from India's standpoint.

Call for global action: Page 8

## Pak. rejects Italian allegations

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 1. Pakistan has rejected the allegations levelled by Italian authorities that 28 Pakistanis arrested in Italy belong to an unidentified terrorist network. *U.D. 9/11/03*

"The Pakistanis arrested are innocent but were living in a house that belongs to the mafia of Naples, city of Italy," the Pakistani ambassador in Italy, Zafar A. Hilali, told the State-run Pakistan Television. *U.D.*

Mr. Hilali asserted that developments in the last 48 hours, since the arrest of the 28 individuals, have proved beyond doubt that they were completely innocent and had nothing to do with any terror network.

The ambassador said he was worried about the fate of the arrested individuals as under the new Italian law the authorities could detain a person for 18 months without specific charges. The Pakistan embassy in Italy had sought consular access to the arrested individuals but so far it has not been allowed.

Mr. Hilali contended that the arrested Pakistani nationals had applied for work permits and were staying in Naples legally. "None of them had explosives as alleged by the Italian police. Unfortunately, the house they were staying in was apparently owned by the Italian mafia."

The ambassador said that it is not for the first time that such allegations have been made. "Already 15 Pakistanis have been in jail for the past six months on a similar charge."

The Pakistan embassy staff visited them and ascertained that they were innocent labourers. He said there are reasons behind the allegations framed against them. However, the ambassador did not elaborate.

THE HINDU

2 FEB 2003

# 8 European nations rally behind Bush

Baghdad/London, January 30



A model wears a T-shirt mocking US President George Bush during the Autumn-Winter collection at Sao Paulo on Wednesday.

AMERICANS CLOSEST friends in Europe urged those opposed to invading Iraq to line up behind George W. Bush on Thursday as the focus of diplomacy swung ever further toward preparing for war rather than averting it.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and seven others including the leaders of Italy, Poland and Spain signed an open letter calling on the peace camp — implicitly Germany, France and Russia — to rally to the US standard against Iraq.

“The transatlantic relationship must not become a casualty of the current Iraqi regime’s attempts to threaten world security,” they wrote in a letter printed in several newspapers.

The Syrian state media concluded that President Bush’s State of the Union address 24 hours earlier had been nothing short of a “declaration of war”. But in Baghdad, one official newspaper dismissed it as a “Hollywood commotion”.

President Saddam Hussein vowed to break America’s neck. At the heart of an intense round of diplomacy, starting with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi’s visit to Washington on Thursday and leading up to what may be a crunch meeting of the United Nations

## America will assist Saddam in exile

THE BUSH administration, weighing whether to set a deadline for Saddam Hussein to disarm, offered to try to help find a haven for the Iraqi President and his “henchmen” as a way to avert war.

But time appeared to be running out, and State Department officials said an exile scenario was not under serious consideration. “We’re entering the final phase” and only a narrow “diplomatic

window” remained open, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Secretary of State Colin Powell called Saddam a liar in an interview with Britain’s ITN television and said the Iraqi leader could avert war right away if he “understood the crisis” and disclosed he had hidden weapons. “He’s got a short period of time left to do that,” Powell said.

AP, Washington

Security Council on February 14, will be US efforts to convince the doubters it has evidence that Iraq has nuclear, biological or chemical weapons of mass destruction.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer predicted “an uptick in the tempo” of diplomatic efforts in the coming days and weeks.

Bush, who also meets Blair on Friday and who US officials said may consider setting Saddam a deadline for disarmament, has made clear he is willing to launch the big US invasion force now massing in the Gulf without further UN backing.

But he is sending Secretary of State Colin Powell to the Security

summer heat also lead many analysts to forecast that, barring surprises such as Saddam falling from power, war will begin within weeks.

“The Iraqis are on notice. They have probably till February 14 before a decision will have to be made about bringing them into conformity with their international obligations,” Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham said. Canada has argued for giving inspections more time but seemed to be hardening its stance.

On February 14, ElBaradei and Hans Blix will report again to the Security Council. ElBaradei said his teams had yet to find a “gross violation”.

An Iraqi opposition source said US troops were already at work in Kurd-controlled northern Iraq, prompting the Pentagon to say there were no “significant forces” in the area “right now”.

China, one of five permanent members of the Security Council with the power to veto any new resolution calling for an attack on Iraq, repeated its calls for a peaceful UN solution.

But many analysts argue that, like fellow permanent members France and Russia, Beijing may in the end prefer to go along with the unstoppable force of American arms rather than risk a rift with Washington for the sake of Baghdad’s isolated leader.

Reuters

UNCONVINCING ARGUMENTS

THE U.S. PRESIDENT, George W. Bush, has virtually declared that he will initiate military action against Iraq if it does not soon rid itself of a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) capability. But, he has yet to completely explain why such a war is necessary. Mr. Bush's intent to make war was evident in those parts of his State of the Union Address wherein he stated that placing trust in the sanity and restraint of Iraq's President, Saddam Hussein, was neither a strategy nor an option and that the U.S. would not accept a serious and mounting threat to itself, its friends and its allies. Although Mr. Bush still found it necessary to insert an escape clause for Iraq — that it could avert an attack by ridding itself of a WMD potential — he did not bother to hide his conviction that Baghdad would not make use of this option. Mr. Bush has also indicated very clearly that he would not wait for the consent of the rest of the global community before embarking on hostilities since his promise to consult was counter-weighted by his declaration that the U.S. would lead a coalition against Iraq if it continued to prevaricate. The U.S. President has instructed his Secretary of State, Colin Powell, to place hitherto undisclosed information before the United Nations Security Council to further prove the charge that Iraq is not fulfilling its disarmament obligations. But from the overall tenor of Mr. Bush's address it would appear that Gen. Powell's brief is not so much to convince those countries that are opposed to a war as to propagandise against them.

U.N. weapons inspection teams, which have been given the mandate to eliminate Iraq's WMD programme, have endorsed Mr. Bush's assertion that Baghdad has not come clean on this issue. But the arguments that Mr. Bush made in his address to justify military action are not sound enough to negate the judgment made by a majority of the global community, that Iraq's failure to make a full disclosure of its WMD programme does not make a sufficient cause for war. Mr. Bush sought to prove

that Iraq's possession of a WMD potential is doubly dangerous since it is known to have contacts with terrorist groups, including Al-Qaeda. This is a specious argument — especially in a context wherein Washington has ruled out any connection between Baghdad and the events of September 11, 2001 — since many Governments (including that of the U.S.) have had connections in the past with the elements of global terror which eventually morphed into Al-Qaeda. There is little evidence that Iraq is currently connected to the network of global terror and given the strictly secular credentials of the Baghdad regime it does not appear very likely that such a nexus would be forged. It was also disingenuous of Mr. Bush to make the argument that Iraq's possession of a WMD potential is all the more menacing because the Baghdad regime has used such weapons against its own people, since Washington re-established friendly ties with Mr. Hussein's regime precisely at the time these attacks were being carried out.

Mr. Hussein's past record does suggest that Washington's concerns — that Iraq might use such weapons directly against the U.S., its troops or its allies or indirectly by handing them over to a terrorist group — are not entirely misplaced. However, the danger that Baghdad would resort to these weapons would become all the greater should the regime there believe that it is under threat of extinction. Efforts directed at persuading Baghdad to give up its WMD potential could still succeed if supported by a firm global consensus, and these efforts must continue since Iraq has demonstrated that it cannot handle these weapons in a responsible manner. But when Mr. Bush declares that one of the objectives that he seeks to achieve through war is to ensure that no other power can dominate a vital region, which the U.S. has itself dominated till now, he gives the distinct impression that he will not be satisfied with the elimination of Iraq's WMD potential and he thereby creates a disincentive for Baghdad to do so.

31 JAN 2003

# US isolated after key powers oppose war



British Paratroopers of the 16 Air Assault Brigade during their final training near Colchester before being deployed in the Gulf. (AP/PTI)

HASSAN HAFIDH AND CAROLINE DREES

**Baghdad/Istanbul Jan. 23** (Reuters): Washington looked increasingly isolated in its stance towards Iraq today as key powers lined up to oppose war.

China and Russia joined US allies France and Germany in rejecting military action.

As the US and Britain continued their troop build-up in the Gulf, West Asian nations also met today to discuss ways of averting a conflict. The stand taken by Paris, Beijing and Moscow means a majority of the five veto-wielding permanent members on the UN Security Council are against rushing into war. The other two members are the US and Britain.

However, Washington has said it could launch military action without Security Council

backing. In Berlin, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder vowed he and French President Jacques Chirac would do all they could to avert war. "War may never be considered unavoidable," he said. Russian foreign minister Igor Ivanov said there were no grounds to use force at the moment. "There is still political and diplomatic leeway to resolve the Iraq issue," he said.

He agreed with France and Germany that UN inspectors in Iraq should be allowed to press on with their job of looking for evidence of weapons of mass destruction. A Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman said Beijing's position was "extremely close to that of France".

Washington accuses Iraq of hiding nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and has threatened to attack if Baghdad does not disarm in line with a UN res-

olution passed in November. Iraq denies possessing any banned weapons.

The UN inspectors, who are due to present a key report to the UN on Monday, have said they need several more months to complete their work. However, US President George W. Bush has warned time is running out for Iraq.

He is massing 150,000 troops in the region and has said he is ready to use them, with or without a Security Council resolution, if he considers Iraq has not disarmed.

Foreign ministers and diplomats from Iraq's neighbours — Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria — were meeting along with regional heavyweight Egypt, in Istanbul to discuss a way out of the crisis.

"The countries... (at) the Istanbul meeting all have friendly

relations with the US," Iraqi ambassador Talip Abid Salih El Dulaymi said. "We want them to use those relations to dissuade the United States from its intention to attack."

Iraq urged Turkey to reject US requests for military support in any attack on Baghdad.

The US is looking to Turkey for use of its air bases and frontiers in the event of military action. Ankara opposes war but may be hard pressed to deny help to its closest Nato ally.

The US has asked Nato to consider several measures to provide indirect military assistance in case of an invasion.

NATO Secretary-General George Robertson on Thursday denied reports of a "bust-up" over providing support.

Diplomats said France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg had blocked a decision in Nato

on whether to prepare supporting measures, notably defending Turkey's southern flank. But Robertson said the only disagreement was over timing.

In Iraq, UN experts continued their hunt for banned weapons as a local newspaper warned that US troops faced a fate worse than the September 11 attacks if they attacked.

"The events of September 11 will be a picnic compared with what would happen to America if it commits aggression against Iraq," the *Babel* paper of President Saddam Hussein's son Uday said today.

It was referring to the suicide plane attacks in New York and Washington which killed 3,000 people in 2001. The UN inspectors visited at least five sites today, including food stores, a fiberglass production plant, a missile complex and a university.

# Terror suspects held in raid on London mosque

11/20/04  
TOP-4  
T.M. 11/20/04

By Hasan Suroor

**LONDON, JAN. 20.** Stung by criticism from its European neighbours that it has not done enough to check infiltration of extremists into the country, the British Government has signalled a new tough approach including a more liberal use of its controversial powers to detain foreign nationals indefinitely if they are seen to be a threat to national security.

The Home Secretary, David Blunkett, said on Sunday that he had authorised anti-terrorist agencies to "take whatever steps necessary, controversial or otherwise" to protect the country from a terrorist attack. He also hinted at 'controversial' action to streamline the asylum system which, it is alleged, has become a conduit for extremists to gain entry into Britain.

Within hours of Mr. Blunkett's warning, a mosque in North London was raided by the police this morning and seven people were arrested under the Terrorism Act in an operation believed to be linked to the discovery of Ricin, a deadly chemical, found in a London flat occupied by asylum seekers suspected to be Al-Qaeda supporters.

The mosque, in Finnsbury Park, is seen as a hub of Islamic extremist propaganda and several high-profile suspected terrorists are known to have been connected with it. They include the "shoe bomber", Richard Reid, accused of trying to blow up an American plane, and Zarias Mousaoui who is charged with September 11 attacks.

The mosque is frequently in the news because of its contro-

versial cleric Abu Hamza, who has been accused of making inflammatory speeches and preaching 'jihad'. He is facing eviction from the mosque for making statements that, according to the Charity Commission, contravene the mosque's charitable status. It was not clear if he was among those arrested in Monday's raid which the Scotland Yard described as "pre-planned and intelligence-led".

Fearing a Muslim backlash, a police spokesman made clear that the operation was not against the mosque itself or those who went there to pray, but targeted at specific terror suspects.

"The operation is part of ongoing and extensive inquiries by the Metropolitan Police's Anti-Terrorist Branch into alleged terrorist activity in Lon-

don and elsewhere in the U.K.," he said. He confirmed that it was linked to the arrests made in connection with the discovery of Ricin but said there was nothing to suggest that any chemical substances were in the mosque.

Monday's police swoop was the latest in a series of raids across Britain in the past week amid fears that some U.K.-based terrorist networks might be planning an attack. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir John Stevens, said that terrorists linked to the Al-Qaeda were active in Britain and the police were watching a "large number of people". But civil rights groups accused the Government of exaggerating the threat and curtailing people's human rights in the name of fighting terrorism.

# Deadly chemical gives Britain the jitters

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, JAN. 8. Panic-prone Britain was in jitters today and went on a "terror alert" after the police found traces of a deadly poison, Ricin, from a suspected Al-Qaeda cell in a north London flat prompting fears of a possible terrorist plot to launch a chemical attack.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, was quick to seize it to justify support for the U.S.-led campaign against terrorism saying that the development was a proof that "this danger is present and real...and its potential is huge".

Security agencies, sounding equally grim, said this was the first real evidence of a potential terrorist threat to Britain. They warned that Britain faced a "range of terrorist threats from a number of different groups", but urged people not to panic.

"The message is alert, not alarm", a senior Scotland Yard officer in charge of counter-terrorism said.

Six youths of north African origin, mostly Algerians, who had been under police surveillance for some time were arrested from five different addresses, though only one was reported to be living in the flat where Ricin was found. Among other things, police were trying to establish if the arrested men had any accomplices but it was made clear that none of them had any links with Iraq.

Hospitals were alerted to watch patients for Ricin-related symptoms and emergency services were on standby even as experts explained that although Ricin, extracted from castor oil beans, was a deadly substance it was more likely to be used to target individuals rather than cause mass casualties. There was also confusion whether a person could succumb to its effects by sim-



The top floor flat above a chemist in North London, where traces of the deadly poison Ricin were discovered on Tuesday. — AFP

ply inhaling it or whether it needed to be injected. The only known case of its use in Britain was the assassination of a Bulgarian dissident, Georgi Markov, in London in 1978 when he was jabbed with a tip of an umbrella which had been treated with Ricin. He developed symptoms of natural illness and died in hospital three days later.

"This is an extremely nasty substance. Half a milligram killed Markov. It is such a clever thing to use in assassinations because the fever symptoms mimic actual illness. The patient dies from lots of tiny

haemorrhages in the heart," Dr Rufus Crompton, the pathologist who worked on the Markov case told *The Guardian*. The poison has no antidote.

There were suggestions that the significance of the Ricin "breakthrough" was being talked up to justify repeated intelligence warnings about a possible terrorist attack. In recent weeks, intelligence agencies have drawn flak for creating public scare, particularly after the panic over reports of a plot to release a chemical gas in the London Underground.

THE HINDU

9 JAN 2003



# Anatomy of terrorism in South Asia — II

By Muchkund Dubey

THE RISE of terrorism in South Asia is associated with some of the adverse effects of globalisation. Globalisation causes economic dislocations leading to the creation of pockets of unemployment, particularly in the informal, small and medium scale industrial sectors. The ensuing frustration, particularly when it is concentrated in particular ethnic, religious or linguistic groups, often fuels the fire of terrorism. In Sri Lanka, privatisation and liberalisation of imports particularly affected the emerging entrepreneurs among the Sinhalese. This proved to be a major factor in the JVP's descent to terrorism. The marginalisation of large sections, brought about by the retrenchment of social development activities under the structural adjustment programmes implemented by South Asian countries and designed to facilitate the process of globalisation, has been another contributory factor. Yet another aggravation has been the loss of cultural identities due to the homogenisation associated with globalisation. This has led to the reassertion, as a defence mechanism, of primordial identities, often by violent means. Finally, globalisation is associated with the weakening of the state, the rising salience of realistic as opposed to idealistic paradigms and the consequent decline of social values. These have affected the functioning of democracy and brought about mis-governance — phenomena closely linked to the rise of terrorism in South Asia.

Terrorism has profoundly influenced inter-state relations in South Asia. It has been the single most important factor for the recent sharp deterioration in India-Pakistan ties. Recently, it has become the bone of contention in relations between India and Bangladesh. The current Maoist insurgency in Nepal has cast its shadow on India-Nepal relations. The terrorist acts of the LTTE have introduced an additional element of complexity and uncertainty in India-Sri Lanka relations.

Had the South Asian countries seen terrorism as a common threat, they would have mounted a united campaign against it, which would

have strengthened bilateral ties and consolidated their mutual cooperation. But unfortunately some of these countries are using terrorism against their neighbours in the context of bilateral disputes inherited from the past. This has aggravated the situation and has even the potential to trigger war.

After the recent U.S. intervention in Afghanistan, South Asia has been drawn into the vortex of the U.S.-led global campaign against terrorism. As a result, the U.S. involvement in South Asia, which predates Septem-

ber 11, 2001, has become deeper and much more intrusive. Countries of the region are becoming increasingly dependent on the U.S. for settling the problem of their own domestic terrorism or that sponsored and aided by neighbours. This has vastly enhanced the U.S.' leverage, which it is likely to use for fully incorporating these countries in the new world order it has been shaping and co-opt them in pursuit of its interests in other parts of the world.

## *The maintenance of pluralistic societies is an important condition for containing terrorism.*

There is now a broad consensus in the international community that direct actions to combat terrorism cannot be postponed until its root causes are eliminated. Therefore, combating terrorism should proceed side by side with actions designed to prevent it. However, counter-terrorism by itself can become a problem. First, given the nature of the modern technology of using violence against terrorists and the closely-knit character of modern economies, the collateral damage caused can be really staggering. Every effort should, therefore, be made to minimise, if not avert, it. Besides, international arrangements should be put in place to pay due compensation to non-combatant nations and individuals. Second, counter-terrorism creates vested interests in the perpetuation of terrorism, particularly when it serves domestic political purpose. Finally, it is very difficult to take effective counter-terrorist measures in

the polarised societies of South Asia. There are formidable obstacles to revamping the law and order machinery in a divided society. In these conditions, dealing with the root causes of terrorism may become the pre-condition for ensuring the effectiveness of counter-terrorist measures.

There is no uniform approach applicable to all South Asian countries for dealing with terrorism. What is needed is a differentiated country-specific approach. For example, because of its social and cultural homo-

geneity, there is a larger margin of safety in Bangladesh with regard to all the forms of terrorism prevailing there. The challenge is to maintain and widen this margin which is in danger of being eroded, in no small measure due to the influence of developments in fundamentalist directions in other countries of the region. In Nepal, the task seems to be to reconstruct the democratic and constitutional order.

A major task in most of the South Asian countries is to mainstream home-grown terrorist elements into the democratic process. The Maoists in Nepal, the left-over of the extreme leftists in Bangladesh, People's War and other naxalites in India, the religious extremists in Pakistan and the LTTE in Sri Lanka need to be brought into the mainstream of national politics.

The maintenance of pluralistic societies is an important condition for a containing terrorism in South Asia. What happens to pluralism in one country has implications for preserving pluralism in other countries of the region. South Asian countries, therefore, have a common stake in preserving and strengthening their pluralistic societies.

Just as terrorism impacts adversely on bilateral relations, maintenance of good bilateral relations can be an antidote to terrorism. This can enable the countries to better absorb each other's shocks. This can also

lead to the development of stakes in each other's stability and prosperity, thus rendering it counter-productive to encourage or perpetrate terrorism in neighbouring countries.

The South Asian countries should not exaggerate terrorist threats from other nations in the region to pursue obscurantist and chauvinistic domestic political agenda. By doing so they divert attention from their problem of domestic terrorism and make it difficult to elicit the cooperation of neighbouring countries, essential for combating both external and domestic terrorism.

Economic crisis or a 'failed state' can create conditions for the rise of terrorism. South Asian countries should, therefore, do their best to absorb each other's economic shocks and invest in each other's prosperity. In any event, they should resist the temptation of contributing to the failure of other states.

The way South Asian countries deal with domestic terrorism or that affecting their neighbours is often shrouded in secrecy. This creates problems all round. There is, therefore, a need for greater transparency. This can be facilitated by debates in Parliaments, taking people into confidence and a more constructive and objective reporting by the media. Civil society organisations in South Asia have a crucial role to play in containing terrorism. They can build pressures for facilitating the process of democratisation and empowerment of the people. They can also launch a movement for ensuring greater transparency in the way their Governments deal or associate with terrorism. They can also contribute to creating the right kind of climate within their respective countries for maintaining good relations with neighbours.

Finally, South Asian society has historically been characterised by cultural diversity and religious perspectives rooted in tolerance and humanism. Conscious nurturing of these values and distinctive cultural features can go a long way towards making the region inhospitable for terrorism based on religious fundamentalism.

(Concluded)

# Anatomy of terrorism in South Asia — I

By Muchkund Dubey

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THE REGIONAL Centre for Strategic Studies located in Colombo recently organised a Symposium on the Impact of Terrorism on Development and Democratic Process in South Asia. Significant conclusions were reached at the symposium on the distinguishing features and implications of terrorism in South Asia.

Terrorism has been a ubiquitous phenomenon in South Asian countries much before it hit the United States in a grievous and dramatic fashion on September 11, 2001. These countries have been the victims of one or more of the following forms of terrorism: as a part of the Al-Qaeda network; arising out of religious fundamentalism; brought about by structural factors such as extreme and large scale poverty, glaring inequality, prolonged and gross forms of injustice; and as a result of the general collapse of law and order.

There is no agreed definition of terrorism internationally. But after September 11, there is a consensus that this should not be allowed to come in the way of confronting terrorist groups on the basis of a working definition. Terrorism is now taken to be any premeditated and unlawful act of violence against innocent people or non-combatants, irrespective of its cause or motive. There are problems with this definition from the South Asian perspective. Going by the South Asian tradition and present practice, some acts of violence cannot be bracketed with terrorism. For example, people in South Asian countries have generally endorsed violence used during their independence movement. Similarly, it will be counter-productive to treat as terrorists the Maoist elements in Nepal who are using violence to bring about structural changes in the polity.

Besides, the use of the term "unlawful" seems to be designed to exclude state terrorism on the ground that whatever the state does must be construed as lawful. However, in the South Asian context, political violence or structural violence perpetrated by the state against its own people cannot be exonerated. Safeguards against such violence in democracies have not proved very effective and there are no safeguards

in authoritarian regimes. Regarding violence by the state as lawful leads to the bizarre situation where outside powers can, by invoking the so-called doctrine of intervention on humanitarian grounds, act against the state while its own people cannot rise in rebellion against it. Moreover, in South Asia, states have lost their monopoly over violence mainly because of the rise of non-state perpetrators of violence. Having failed to control these forces, the states have co-opted them, and even aided and abetted them, for suppressing democracy within and unleashing terrorism against neighbours.

It will be a travesty to define the term "combatant" too widely or ex-

the narrowing of the mind brought about by fundamentalist indoctrination.

External factors have played a very important role in the rise of terrorism in South Asia. Foreign powers, particularly the U.S., have supported dictatorial regimes, particularly those pursuing fundamentalist agenda (like that of Zia-ul-Haq). This withheld democracy for a prolonged period and helped in creating widespread infrastructure for the spread of fundamentalism with its accompanying terrorist potential. U.S. assistance thus opened up space for establishing a political constituency for a theocratic form of military dictatorship. Non-state actors of the

pose of which is to send out messages. For, the bigger the catch, the stronger is the message and hence greater the chance of its reaching the destination. No attempt has so far been made to draw up a sociological profile of terrorists in South Asia. However, one can safely assume that the poor are the foot-soldiers of terrorism mounted as a rebellion against injustice and deprivation.

Terrorism has had an adverse impact on domestic political structures in South Asia. It has encouraged militarism, chauvinism and a distinct lurch towards right-wing extremism. It has been used as an excuse for undermining democracy, e.g. the adoption of emergency and virtual collapse of representative government in Nepal and adoption of POTA by India. It has also led to an increasing communalisation of society, as in India and Pakistan.

Terrorism has adversely affected development and imposed heavy economic costs on most of the South Asian countries. Direct costs are in the nature of the destruction of infrastructure, factories and standing crops and stoppage of economic activities. Indirect costs are varied and arise out of general loss of confidence in the economy and the consequent inability to attract foreign investment, brain drain, enhanced military expenditure, high transaction costs and various kinds of economic distortions. Though various quantitative estimates have been attempted of the economic costs of terrorism, these exercises have suffered from serious limitations due to the problem of double counting and of isolating the terrorist factor from other relevant factors. However, it is important to continue making such estimates on the basis of refined and improved methodologies in order to drive home the immense costs of terrorism, which South Asian countries can ill afford. Calculations of the impact at the micro-sectoral level, such as that on tourism, and production and export of products particularly vulnerable to terrorist activities, are far more reliable and useful than the calculation of their impact on such macro-variables as growth in GNP, balance-of-payment position, level of foreign exchange reserves, FDI flows, export growth or fiscal deficit.

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***Terrorism has had an adverse impact on domestic political structures in South Asia. It has encouraged militarism, chauvinism and a distinct lurch towards right-wing extremism.***

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tend its scope too far. In any case, it cannot be allowed to include innocent wives and children of combatants or persons who happen to belong to a particular nationality (American or Israeli) or the followers of a particular religion (e.g. Pandits of Kashmir).

There is hardly any cause of terrorism which is uniformly applicable to all South Asian countries. The causes are country-specific. Since it is not possible within the space constraint to go into all the causes, some critical variables can be identified. These include persistence of extreme poverty and accompanying deprivations such as unemployment, low levels of literacy and limited access to health services; non-functioning or malfunctioning of democracy; years of misgovernance which have made violence the only means of bringing about a change; brutal suppression of human rights over an extended period of time; and the alienation of whole cultural or ethnic groups brought about by threat to life by frequent communal violence, destruction of means of livelihood, historical humiliation, and continuing *de facto* discrimination in jobs and opportunities. Another important factor is

fundamentalist variety have been harnessed by foreign powers for pursuing their global strategic interest in countries adjoining the region (as in Afghanistan). Thus religious fundamentalism was unabashedly pitted against fundamentalism of the secular variety i.e. communism. Foreign support has also contributed to the heightening of the salience of national security concerns, aggressive nationalism and militarism in the region.

South Asian countries have themselves spawned, encouraged, aided and abetted terrorism in neighbouring countries. That is why border areas have become the familiar arena of terrorism in most of these countries and terrorist groups operating in a particular country have links with ideologically similar groups active in the neighbouring country.

Different forms of terrorism followed in the region have different impacts. The poor are the principal victims of terrorism perpetrated as a consequence of the breakdown of law and order or general collapse of governance. In such situations the elites generally have a nexus with the terrorists. However, the elites suffer in terrorist violence the main pur-