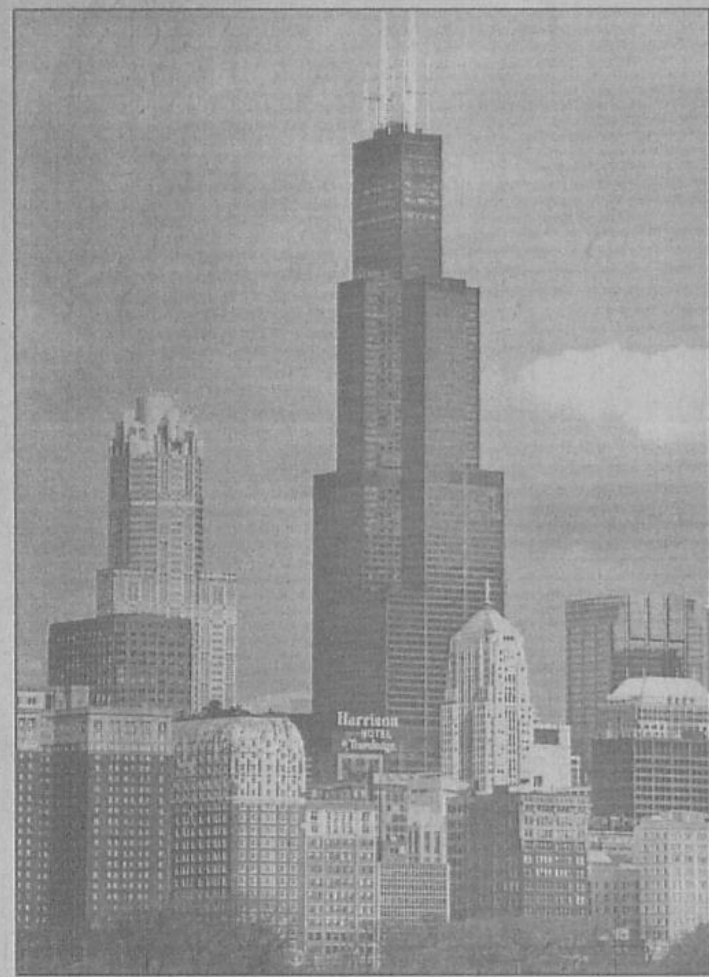


SEARS TOWER SKYSCRAPER ATTACK PLOT

US 'domestic terrorists' appear in Miami court



US authorities have arrested seven men over an alleged plot involving Al-Qaeda to blow up the Sears Tower skyscraper in Chicago.

AFP, Miami
US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has warned that "domestic terrorists" could become as big a threat as Al-Qaeda, as seven men appeared in court accused of a plot to blow up the tallest building in the United States.

While acknowledging that the plot was "more aspirational than operational", FBI deputy director John Pistole called the arrests in Miami an "important step forward in the war on terrorism here in the United States".

Aaron Spelling who spawned a dynasty of TV hits, dies

AFP, Washington

Legendary television producer Aaron Spelling, who launched a string of star-making global hits such as Dynasty, Charlie's Angels and Beverly Hills, 90210, died following a stroke on Friday. He was 83.

"Mr. Spelling died at 6:25 pm this afternoon, he was in his home in Beverly Hills with his wife Candy and son Randy at his bedside. I don't know if his daughter Tori was with him at this moment," his publicist Kevin Sasaki said.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, Spelling was "the most prolific TV producer of all time", producing more than 5,000 hours of television programming, including more than 300 hours of made-for-television movies and at least a dozen films.

He produced some 200 television shows from the 1960s to date, also including The Mod Squad, Starsky and Hutch, The Love Boat, Vegas, Hart to Hart, T.J. Hooker, Fantasy Island, Hotel, Melrose Place, Seventh Heaven and Charmed. People magazine noted in its online edition.

Indian defence officials' homes raided over leaks

AFP, New Delhi

India's top investigating agency has raided homes across the country of senior defence officials suspected of leaking classified military information, a statement said Saturday.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) raided 19 sites in four cities, including the premises of several serving navy and army officials, a statement posted on the agency's website said.

Ongoing investigations indicate that there was also a larger ring of compromised officials who were giving sensitive information to the accused persons in exchange (for) gratifications, the statement said.

The government had asked the CBI earlier this year to investigate after reports said classified information related to a multi-billion-dollar submarine deal had been leaked.

Zawahiri vows to avenge killing of Zarqawi

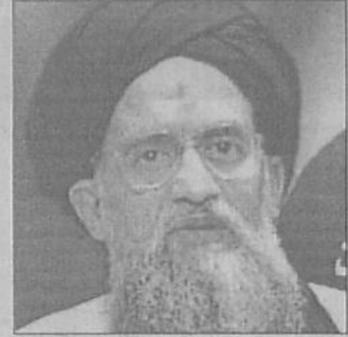
AFP, Dubai

Al-Qaeda number two Ayman al-Zawahiri vowed in a videotape on Al-Jazeera television Friday to avenge the death of the terror network's Iraq frontman Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, killed in a US air raid June 7.

"Yes O Bush, none of us is killed without us avenging him, with the help of God," said Zawahiri, addressing US President George W. Bush to the backdrop of a picture of Zarqawi.

"Do you remember, O Bush, how the lion of Islam, the mujahid (holy warrior) Osama bin Laden, God keep him, swore that America will not be able to dream of security until it (security) becomes a reality in Palestine and all Muslim lands?" Zawahiri said.

He was referring to Al-Qaeda leader and mastermind of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States Osama bin Laden, the world's most wanted man.



Ayman al-Zawahiri

born Zawahiri said.

"Tell me how many of you really died (in Iraq), how much your economy lost and how the morale of your soldiers is crumbling..."

"Bush is lying to you when he says that you will be victorious if you kill Osama bin Laden, (the leader of Afghanistan's Taliban movement) Mullah Omar and the members of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban," Zawahiri said.

"The lying addict (Bush) is hiding from you the disaster you face. You are not facing individuals or organizations; you are up against the nation of Islam, fired by the spirit of jihad (holy war)," he added. Zawahiri blasted Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad for being "keen to be the first to announce news (of Zarqawi's death) to the world," saying Maliki "trades with Islam" for power and describing Khalilzad as "the Afghan apostate."

Rebels, Nepal army can merge Maoist leader for single force ahead of polls

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's Maoist rebel leader Prachanda has said his guerrillas and government troops could join forces to form a single army ahead of elections to a constituent assembly, media reported Saturday.

"The Maoist army and the Nepali Army could be merged before constituent assembly elections after the formation of the interim government through an interim constitution," the rebel leader told local journalists Friday at Dhangadi in western Nepal, state-

run daily The Rising Nepal reported. Prachanda, whose real name is Pushpa Kamal Dahal, also said that the issue of arms management could be achieved through discussions between the Maoists and the new government.

While not prepared to disarm, Maoist rebels said on Thursday they are willing to put their army and their weapons under the supervision of the United Nations to create a stable environment for the constituent assembly polls.

The two sides have been observing a ceasefire for nearly two

months and have agreed to hold elections for a body that will rewrite Nepal's constitution, probably removing the king permanently from political life.

King Gyanendra relinquished direct rule in April and handed back power to parliament after mass protests against him.

He had sacked the government and assumed direct control in February 2005, in a widely criticised move, that he said was justified as political parties were corrupt and had failed to stem the decade-long bloody insurgency.



A bleeding supporter of President Chen Shui-bian is carried by policemen after a fellow supporter beat him during a rally in Taiwan. Thousands of protesters took to the streets yesterday calling for the resignation of Chen over a string of corruption scandals.

Saudi forces detain 43 suspected Islamists

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi security forces have detained 43 suspected Islamists, including two Somalis, an Ethiopian and an Iraqi, the interior ministry said Saturday after a deadly gunbattle in the capital.

The ministry said the arrests had been made in different parts of the oil-rich kingdom since May 9.

It gave no explanation for the delayed announcement, which followed a firefight in Riyadh Friday in which six suspected Islamic militants and a policeman were killed.

The Saudi authorities have been battling an Islamist insurgency blamed on sympathisers of Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network since 2003.

Vietnam PM, president resign

AFP, Hanoi

Vietnam's national assembly Saturday confirmed the resignations of the prime minister, president and assembly chief, kicking off a political reshuffle in the communist nation, an assembly official said.

The 496-member legislature overwhelmingly backed the resignations of Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, President Tran Duc Luong and National Assembly Chairman Nguyen Van An in a long-anticipated change of leadership, the source said.

"The deputies voted for the departure of the three," the assembly source told AFP, hours after they had read their resignation letters to the deputies meeting behind closed doors.

The changes come during a time of transition in the country of 83 million people, which remains a one-party state but leads Southeast Asia in economic growth which reached 8.4 percent in 2005.

Vietnam looks set to join the World Trade Organisation this year before hosting an Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in November, to be attended by US President George W. Bush, and leaders from the region.

Khai, 72, earlier this month asked the assembly to allow him to step down, a year before his second term officially ends in mid-2007. He and the other leaders cited age as their reason to retire, state television said.

The new premier is widely expected to be Khai's first deputy Nguyen Tan Dung, 56, who analysts say has been groomed for the prime ministership for years, having held key security and economic posts.

Indian film stars cancel show in Pakistan over visa row

AFP, New Delhi

A television show in Pakistan featuring top Indian film stars has been cancelled after Bollywood song writer Javed Akhtar said Saturday he was denied permission to enter the neighbouring country.

More than 20 Indian film stars were to take part in the television show and a screening of a Bollywood classic in the Pakistani port city of Karachi on Saturday to raise funds for last year's massive earthquake in the region.

But the Indian team "indefinitely postponed" the show after Akhtar, also an Urdu poet and script writer, was denied permission to travel to Pakistan.

"They had issued all the members visas on the 20th. Two days later, they informed us that they were cancelling the visa for Javed Akhtar," Akhtar told AFP by phone from western Mumbai city where the country's Hindi-language film industry is based.

The Pakistan High Commission said Akhtar's visa had been cleared late Friday, but the songwriter said "it was too late".

"The Pakistan High Commission is hiding behind the excuse of bureaucratic delay, but the fact is the visa was first issued, and then cancelled."

"I found the entire thing in very poor taste," he said.

The writer, who often speaks out on public issues, hinted that the show may not be held at all, rather than just postponed till a later date.

"To say it's indefinitely postponed is a polite way of saying we are not doing the show."

"It was for a good cause. We thought it will create friendship and goodwill."

The earthquake in October claimed more than 73,000 lives and left 3.3 million homeless in northern Pakistan. More than 1,000 also died in Indian Kashmir.

India's Hindi films have been banned in Pakistan for 40 years, but warming ties between the two arch rivals have resulted in a partial lifting of the ban.



An Indian Kashmiri Muslim woman mourns over the body of a suspected Islamic militant who was killed in a shoot-out near Srinagar yesterday.

Three killed in fresh Kashmir violence

AFP, Srinagar

Two Islamic militants and an Indian army officer were killed and 15 people hurt in fresh shootouts and a grenade blast in revolt-hit Indian Kashmir, police said Saturday.

The deaths took place in the district of Pulwama early Saturday when the Indian army raided a rebel hide-out, a police spokesman said.

"As the soldiers raided a hide-out, militants opened fire killing an army officer and wounding a soldier," the spokesman said, adding that two rebels were killed in the retaliatory action.

In the summer capital Srinagar, nine civilians and a policeman were hurt in a grenade attack Saturday by suspected rebels in a busy commercial street, police chief of Srinagar Syed Mujtaba said.

"The grenade was aimed at police but mostly injured civilians," he said.

The noise from the blasts sparked panic in the street as rescuers removed injured to hospital.

Mujtaba said one of the wounded was in critical condition.

On Friday, 12 people were hurt in Srinagar in two similar blasts.

US asks court to drop eavesdropping suit

AFP, San Francisco

Federal lawyers asked a court Friday to reject a suit against the phone giant AT and T for allegedly sharing public phone records with authorities as part of the US anti-terror campaign.

The government argued the suit by the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) was groundless and that its hearing could threaten national security by revealing how authorities gather intelligence.

AT and T has neither confirmed nor denied sharing its customers' phone, e-mail and Internet records with authorities. It said such a suit should be brought against the government itself and that the existing case was based on unsubstantiated media reports.

US District Court Judge Vaughn Walker said before adjourning the hearings that secret privilege "is not unlimited" and promised to weigh the US request.

The high-profile eavesdropping suit hearing came as Washington was forced on the defense on yet

another privacy issue Friday amid revelations that authorities have been secretly monitoring international banking transaction since the September 2001 attacks.

In both cases, the US administration has argued that revealing details of how it tries to track down terror suspects would only assist the enemy and hurt Washington's efforts to counter terrorist threats.

But EFF argued Friday that authorities had badly trampled on Americans' privacy rights.

The suit accuses AT and T of letting the National Security Agency (NSA) to install call and data interception and "trap-and-trace" equipment in a transmission center room.

Only workers with NSA clearance could get into the room while AT and T embarked on the "wholesale acquisition" of telephone and e-mail activity of millions of US residents for the spy agency, EFF lawyers argued in court.

"It was illegal collusion with the government and reckless disregard," said EFF attorney Kevin Bankston.

While refusing to confirm or deny tracking AT and T records, federal attorneys argued that EFF was basing its information on speculative public reports.

But to "clarify the muddy picture" over intelligence gathering would only assist the enemy, Assistant US Attorney Peter Keisler told the court.

Spying sources and methods are "the crown jewels of what you do in intelligence" and the case had to be thrown out in the interest of national security, Keisler said.

"We are not saying that the allegations are true or that they are false," Keisler told the judge. "Just that it would expose national secrets to figure that out."

Meanwhile the phone company itself told the court Friday that it was "a passive instrument of the government, a tool that the government is using" and should be immune from this type of lawsuit, company attorney Brad Berenson told Walker.

"The action should be against the government, not AT and T," Berenson said.

Lone Democrat quits Bush cabinet

AFP, Washington

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, the lone opposition Democrat in US President George W. Bush's cabinet, has tendered his resignation effective July 7, the White House said Friday.

Mineta, commerce secretary under president Bill Clinton who was kept on by Bush as the only Democrat in his cabinet, announced the move in a letter to Bush on Friday, White House spokesman Tony Snow told reporters.

"After serving as your secretary of transportation for over five

productive and memorable years, it is time for me to move on to other challenges," Mineta said in his resignation letter.

Mineta's political philosophy was honed when he was imprisoned as a child in a desolate World War II-era internment center set up to house Americans of Japanese descent viewed by the government as a threat after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Some 120,000 Japanese-Americans were forced to move from their homes, mostly on the West Coast, into the camps for the duration of the war.

Branch Shifting advertisement for Janata Bank. It details the shift of the Panam Nagar Branch from an old address to a new address. The old address is Janata Bank, Panam Nagar Branch, Narayongonj, with JL No- 387, Dag No- 36, Khatian No.- 387, Mouza- Habibpur, Sonargaon, Narayongonj. The new address is Janata Bank, Panam Nagar Branch, Narayongonj, with JL No- 387, Dag No- 6, Khatian No.- 387, Mouza- Habibpur, Sonargaon, Narayongonj. The ad also includes a logo for Janata Bank and the slogan 'JANATA BANK YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER IN PROGRESS' along with the website www.janatabank-bd.com.