Western intelligence reports say

Terrorists, trained in Iraq, sent around the world

LOS ANGELES, Jan 25: Western intelligence agencies say they have uncovered leads to what they believe is a network of terrorists trained in Baghdad, Iraq, and sent around the globe, the Los Angeles Times reported yesterday, says

irregularities in passports used by two Iraqis involved in a botched bombing Saturday near a U.S. library in Manila provided a major break in the search for Iraqi terrorists, according to another unnamed

The revelations led to arrests Wednesday of two Iraqis and two Jordanians in Bangkok, Thailand, Evidence also indicates the Iraqi Embassy in Manila directed the bombing, the Times said.

"It is clear that what has happened here (Manila) is part of a global deployment by the lragis," an unidentified Western official told the newspaper.

"We think this is a wellplanned and extensive operation in which groups were sent out and pre-positioned all over the place."

In addition, it was learned that the Federal Aviation Administration told airlines Tuesday night that 140 Ethiopian passports were stolen and are thought to be in the hands of a Middle East terrorist organization.

International alert

An international alert was issued Wednesday for police and immigration officials to be on the lookout for Iraqis or other potential Arab terrorists. the Times said.

An unidentified official in Manila was quoted as saying Bangkok appears to be a logistics center for Iraqi terrorist attacks in Asia.

"They're bringing people in. They're bringing supplies in and they're expert at making fake passports," the official was quoted as saying.

A Thai newspaper reported Thursday that two Iraqi Embassy diplomate were asked to leave Thatland by That authoritics worried that they might become involved in terrorism. The Bangkok newspaper

the Nation said the diplomats. whom it did not identify, left Thailand after being expelled from Australia and the Philippines. The paper quoted un-

named sentor sources. The report said at least four other Middle East nationals who had contact with the iraqi Embassy have been repored as a precaution.

Several That government and security officials denied the report. A man at the Iraqi Embassy, who refused to iden tify himself, denied that any diplomats had left. Western diplomats would not comment but some indicated there was some truth to the report.

The attempted bombing in the Philippines provided cru cial clues, according to an other unidentified official.

"Now we have something to go on, to look for in other countries," that official was quoted as saying.

The official said the search will be most intensive in countries with concentration of Iraqis, Lebanese and Palestinians, "places where they have a local community in which to hide."

Bangladesh

He cited Greece and Italy most of Central America, a dozen countries in West Africa. India . Pakistan . Bangladesh Thailand, Malaysia and In-

An unidentified intelligence official for a foreign government said professional terrorists whom the Iraqis might have employed "have a lot less support than they used to have. The East Germans, the Bulgarians, the KGB aren't there to support them the way they

He added that terrorists "used to have Mideast money available to them that came indirectly, from the Saudis. But that's dried up."

Police searched Wednesday for at least two more Iraqi suspects in the Manila bombing. And Philippine troops and armored personnel carriers were deployed outside several Western embassies, airline of fices, international schools and the residential compounds of

diplomats and other foreign:

Muwafak Ant, Iraq's secondranking diplomat in Manila and intelligence chief, left the Philippines on Thursday after he was expelled for allegedly directing the bombing that killed one Iraqi and injured another. Ant met repeatedly with the two terrorists at the embassy, and his car was used to drop them near the library.

the Times said. He denied involvement in

the bombing. Ant, his wife and children flashed "V" for victory signs and shouted "Long live Saddam Hussein" as they boarded a Malaysian Airlines jet bound for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. They planned to fly on to Iran and then Iraq, he said.

Another Iraqi diplomat and intelligence operative is being denied accreditation and will be asked to leave Mantla. Investigators say the envoy on Jan. 14 gave cash to Iraqi and Palestinian students, including two brothers who are now suspeets in the bombing.

Meanwhile, Germany wxpelled 28 Iraqi diplomats Thursday. Government officials said there was 'very great suspicion" some of the diplomats controlled extremist groups in Germany and could direct terrorist activities.

Wednesday, Canadian police setzed a cache of weapons and explosives after arresting a man wearing military fatigues and a Palestinian flag a short distance from the US consulate. An anti-terrorist team was investigating the case Thursday morning. a spokesman said.

'A new threat for Saddam to worry about'

WASHINGTON, Jan 25: U.S. submarines cruising the Mediterranean and Red Seas have launched Tomahawk missiles at targets inside fraq. Defense Department sources said Thursday, reports AFP.

The military initiative marks the first use of American submarinelaunched missile in a combat environment. according to one source speaking on condition of anonymity

The use of submarine fired Tomahawk missiles in the US led Operation Desert Storm "just gives (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein a new threat to worry about", the source added, noting missiles are now coming at him from the north as well as the south.

Whether the submarines would perform other Desert Storm duties, such as delivering secret SEAL (Sea -Air Land) teams for special operations not carrying small troops units into combat zones, was not disclosed by the two

40 cases being probed

Iraq gets stolen US military technology?

MIAMI (Florida). Jan 25 : U.S. authorities are investigating a wealthy Chilean Arms manufacturer who allegedly sold stolen American military technology to Iraq, judicial sources said Thursday, reports

US customs agents last week raided the offices of a Miami real estate firm they believe may be linked to the Chilean businessman, Carlos Cardoen, and a grand jury began deliberations. Tuesday to consider bringing charges against him, the officials said.

Mr. Cardoen was interviewed Sunday on the NBC news magazine programme "Expose," in which he was de scribed as one of the richest people in South America with

vast real estate holdings in Miami as well. He was said to have made his fortune-selling weapons and bombs to Iraq during that nation's eight-year war with Iran.

The agents who raided the Swissco Development Co. setzed file cabinets, computer disks and any other documents they thought might contain evidence of illegal arms sales to

US Customs Commissioner Carol Hallit told NBC her agency is probing 40 cases involving alleged exports of sensitive material to Iraq, ranging from chemicals to devises that can be used to detonate nuclear weapons.

Mr. Cardoen told NBC he

had never sold weapons to an enemy of the United States. but said 'without trying to critictze the foreign policy of the United States, I am an observer of how people who are good guys becomes bad guys".

The NBC programme showed a photograph of Mr Cardoen, who was educated in the United States and spends much of his time in Miami shaking hands with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The two men are seen smiling

Mr. Cardoen told a network interviewer he had 'a great deal of respect for President Hussein although I am not responsible for his opinions or

White House security US forces ready tightened for war

WASHINGTON, Jan 25: President George Bush's Sceret Service agents now routinely tote gas masks. Dozens of riot-helmeted guards stand sentry along. the White House fence. Sharpshooters prowl the

line of police vehicles is stationed in the median strip of Pennsylvania Ave. Sometimes, when protests get unruly, traffic in front of the nation's most famous address is stopped entirely. And that's just what you can

see. Officials understandably

won't firepower there. The president lives next to public streets, in a metropolitan area". said Chuck Vance, a former Secret Service agent and now a consultant on secu-

Security surrounding Bush and the executive mansion has been steped up since the Gulf war began last week.

One of the first tolls of the new heightened security was the cancellation of public tours in the White House for the first time since World War II.

Officials decided that the tours provided would be terrorists too-easy access to the mansion, even though visitors had been required to pass through metal detectors and have bags searched. Some 3.500 visitors a day -- more than 1 million annually-- had been taking the tours.

"The tours offer the most immediate opportunity for unwarranted intrusion into the White House". White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said.

Gas masks

Gas masks are now routinely carried by agents who work at the White House. An agent was even stationed near the Oval Office on the

night when Bush addressed the nation, with a mask in a military bag, presumably for the President if needed. Bob Snow, a spokesman for

the Secret Service, said the gas masks may be " made more evident now by people carting them around" in the recent state of alert, but that their use by the Secret Service goes back to the 1960s. Asked whether the masks

where intended more to protect agents from tear gas used by police to quell riots, or from gas that might be used by protesters or terrorists. Snow said: "Both" While sharpshooters always

have been stationed as a hundreds of U.S. vehicles. precaution on the roof of the White House, now there clearly are more of them. As well, security has been increased for president's children and grandchildren.

for land battle guns mounted on jeeps and 155 millimeter Howitzers on

RIYADH, Jan 25: U.S.-led ground forces are, stepping up their preparations for the land battle, they expect to enter with, Iraq, reporters said from the front Sunday and Monday, reports AFP.

They said they came across columns of trucks loaded with rockets and missiles, ambulances with Red Crosses painted on their roofs and armoured vehicles on roads leading north of the Saudi

Under the reoporting ground rules, correspondents were not allowed to disclose their location but said they saw Frence trucks, British machine-gun mounted cars and

The convoys included columns of M1-Abrams heavy tanks, M2-Bradley infantry armoured vehicles, armoured M-113 troop transports heavy duty machine trucks which could be seen for miles, over which flew attack helicopters, they said. Tent cities spread across

the desert and included dispensaries, fuel depots maintenance units, the entire logistical chain needed for the day a ground offensive is launched, they said. The offensive seems im-

minent, although it is not officially discussed.

In Riyadh, the Deputy Commander of French Forces, Colonel Michel Monnier-Vinard, said that the buildup of ground forces was ongoing.

On the ground, hundreds of thousands of soldiers are "K" day (for awaiting Kuwait), with a mixture of impatience and apprehension, eyewitnesses said.

Civilians did not wait to leave ahead of the land war.

some 70 kilometers (43 miles) from the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, was almost deserted Monday, with most of its residents having headed south.

Reuter from Washington adds: The U.S. Defence Department said on Monday it was reluctant to release of allied bomb damage to targets in Iraq and Kuwait because that information should be kept away from the Iraqi government

Pentagon spokesman Pate Williams said current bad weather in the region was hampering bomb damage assessment and that targets which were not badly damaged would be hit again, if

If identities of targets with minor damage is release, he told reporters, "that is, more or less, a notice to the Iragis that we will come calling again."

Choosing a Career in Geography

by Prof. Nazrul Islam

NVIRONMENT. popula production. , tion and development are three critical issues that concern the contemporary world most seriously and geography is a discipline which addresses all these issues from an integrated scientific approach. These issues are of supreme importance in a country like Bangladesh where a rapidly growing massive population makes heavy demands on the natural environment in its frantic efforts at development.

The role of geography in the understanding of the complex relationships amongst environment, population and development can be a very significant one. In addition geography has other contributions to make, particularly in producing culturally and socially conscious educated youths.

Traditionally, geography has been regarded as the "study of the earth as the home of man". and its main business is the analysis of man's relationship to his natural or physical environment, the tracing of the limits of possibilities, with human happiness in view on some agreed standard of measurement of the material basis of it. Intimately involved in this analytical process is an under standing of cultural forms and their meanings.

The geographic tradition is characterized by three emphases, namely (1) the loca tional or spatial emphasis which tries to analyze the patterns and processess of distributton of both natural phenomenon and socio-economic elements on the earth's surface, globally, regionally or locally: (2) the ecological emphasis, also known in geography as the man - environment theme; and (3) the regional analysis emphasis, which combines the other two themes in the study of chosen regions, both macro and miero. This approach provides the traditional multi-disciplinary inventory type interpretation of the various regions, countries and local ar-

The geographic tradition is also characterized by political economic approach to the analysis of resource distribution and access to factors of

In terms of methodology. geography depends heavily on field mapping and household surveys but also on secondary data. The techniques of geographic analysis involve quantitative of statistical methods. cartography, aerial photo and satellite imagery intrepretation and computer applications.

Contemporary geography is essentially a modern scientific discipline which combines elements of physical sciences.

gramme after their Higher Secondary Certificate (H.S.C) with either Science or Hu manities background. How ever, to be a good geographer, one needs to be equipped with some mathematical and physical science training. In addition, one should also have skill in cartography (map making) and graphic arts. But above all one should have the temperament of going out to the field observe and record natural

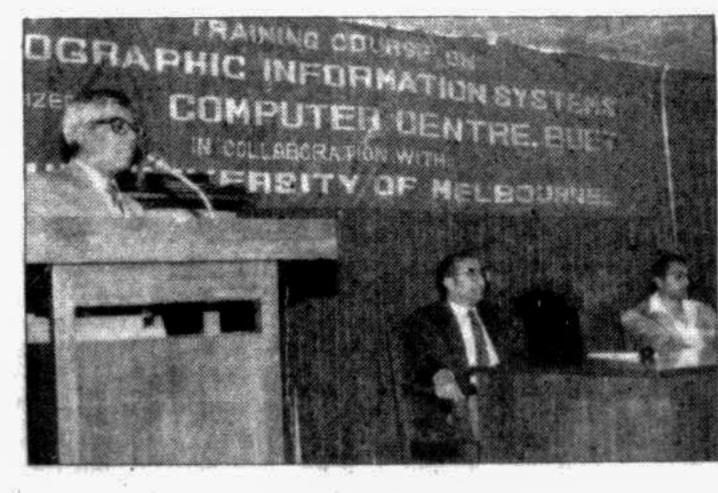
Starting with this issue this feature section on Education will occasionally dovote some space on different careers open to our young students. We start this series with a discussion on Geography.

social sciences, humanities and aesthetics. As a university discipline it was first introduced in Germany in the 1870's and subsequently in Britain and the United States. In our own country geography was introduced first in Dhaka University in 1948 and then in Rajshahi and Jahangirnagar universities. Today Jagannath College also offers Honours and Master's degree programmes while Eden Girls College has only an Honours programme. At present nearly 400 students take Master's degree in geography a year from the four departments.

Students can seek admission to the Honours pro to acquire first-hand knowledge about the life and work of the people in villages and

nvironmental phenomena and

Curriculum in geography in our universities is designed to offer specialized knowledge on the physical environment, with particular emphasis on dynamics of fluvial processes, river bank erosion, floods, delta building, coastal changes, occanography. climatic hazards, soil capability and forestry. In human geography. the study of population dynamics receive particular attention. The nature and consequencies rapid population growth and internal and inter national migrations have been



Prof. Dr. M.H. Khan, Vice-Chancellor BUET, inaugurating a training course on Geographic Information System jointly organised by BUET Computer Centre and the University of Melbourne, Australia, at BUET Seminar room, recently.

the subject matter of much geographic research in Bangladesh. Another important area of geographic analysis is the subject of habitat or human ettlements. Our geographers have made significant contributions to the understanding of the process of rural settlement development and of urban development.

The welfare geographic (or political - economic) approach in geography has encouraged some of our geographers to study the questions of "Who gets What and Where" and of the nature of poverty (particularly urban poverty.urban slums and squatters). Geographers in Bangladesh have for long looked at the problems and prospects of agricultural and rural development, and also of industrial and transportation development. Some of our voung geographers have been able to add new dimensions (such as of the role of environmental and technological factors) in agricultural land utilization and development.

The role of human perception in people's adjustment to the changing natural environment has also received particular attention from Bangladesh geographers Significant contributions are also being made by our women geographers to the understanding of the role of women in agricultural de velopment or in urban formal and informal sector activities. In all these areas geographers show a predilection for analysis of relationship between the natural environment and the cultural factors. It thus appear that geogra-

phers can have career oppor-

tunities in many sectors of na tional development. Indeed they do and the demand for advanced geographic skill is very widely felt. This is particularly so because of the increased focus on the environment bias in contemporary development thinking. In Bangladesh geographers with post-graduate university degrees have found employments in such organizations as the Geological Survey of Bangladesh, Sotl Survey Department, Water Development Board, Inland Water Transport Authority. Urban. Development Directorate, Planning Com-

mission Rajdhani Unnyan Kartripakhya (RAJUK). Dhaka Municipal Corporation (as planners and geographers). Rural Development Academy Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB). Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries (BSCIC) Corporation Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and a host of research organizations and consultancy groups. The geographer's training and skill of field work, is making them popular with NGO's involved in rural or urban development with environment and population NGO's and research centers. The geographic expertise in the scientific study of fluvial or weather hazards, have been very well recognized by the inclusion of several senior geographers in national level committees. Similarly their leading role in urban analysis has also been recognized by the invited participation of geographers in several national commissions committees and

A career opportunity in geography (or any other well established discipline) of course, is to be found most widely in the teaching of the subject at university, college and high school levels. In this area, however, geography is less fortunate than some of the other disciplines Bangladesh. Chittagong University is yet to have a geography department and not many colleges in the country have as yet introduced geography as a subject. Such gaps are unfortunate and should be corrected as soon as possible. Geography is a useful applied science (or social science) and it has potential for making contributions towards national development efforts.

task forces on urbanization and

urban development.

Since my entry into the arena of the geographic discipline back in 1958 and my choosing a career in geography teaching and research. I have never regretted. Indeed, for me. it has been a wonderful experience being a geographer in a developing country.

A former chairman of the Department of Geography, Dhaka University, Prof. Nazrul Islam is the Director, Centre for Urban Studies, DU, and President Bangladesh Geographical Society.

Breaking the Myths About Women Teachers

By Salma Akhtar

Misconceptions about female primary school teachers are widespread. There is a shortage of qualified women teachers, people say. Or women are unwilling to work in rural schools. Or female teachers do not perform as well as men in the classroom.

But when 6,000 primary posts were advertised recently, more than 72,000 qualified women applied compared with less than 18,000 men--which suggests that there is no shortage of suitable women for the job.

And national statistics show that about 80 per cent of female teachers are professionally trained, with C-in-Ed degrees as well as their general educational qualifications. It is true that women are

poorly represented in rural

primary schools. A recent study by Shamina Islam calculated that there was only one female teacher for every seven rural schools. Similarly, Dhaka division

has the highest number of female teachers (10,000) which represents 23 per cent of the total, followed by 21 per cent in Chittagong division, 15 per cent in Khulna and 13 per

cent in Rajshahi. But there are reasons for this urban bias. During the rule of the Jatiya Party the upazila administrations were given responsibility for recruiting, and the chairmen controlled selection of candidates. This, it is said, led to the widespread appointment of relatives and supporters. Qualifications were not given

It is even alleged that some primary teachers job could be bought for Tk15,000-35,000a year's salary--which particularly disadvantaged female candidates. Women generally have less access than men to money and family assets.

proper consideration.

In addition, many men were antagonised by the gov ernment's target of appointing women to at least half of all posts, and the slightly lower entry qualifications for women. Nevertheless, the proportion of women primary teachers has increased since liberation, from two per cent (2,541) in 1971 to eight per cent in 1983 (14,913) and 18 per cent (33,575) in 1988.

The upswing reflects grow ing recognition of the abilities of female teachers, of their

role in reducing the 70 per cent drop-out rate among children, and the encourage ment their presence gives to young girls. Government policies have also been important, although no plan targets have been met. The first five-year plan set its sights on at least one female teacher in each primary school, and the second and third plans aimed at filling half of all new vacancies

with women. In an attempt to ensure that targets were met and that women were not discriminated against, the last govswitched ernment. responsibility for recruitment from upazila to central level, and instructed that 60 per cent of vacancies should be filled by women.

With universal primary education still the target, now is the time to discard the myth that there are not enough qualified women primary teachers willing to serve in rural schools.

Ms Salma Akhtar is an assistant professor of the institute of Education and Rescarch, Dhaka University. J

Where Speaking the Mother Tongue is an Offence

new degree course at Uganda's leading uni versity could herald the introduction of a national language for the first time in 27 years since independent from British rule.

Mekerere University is introducing a Bachelor of Arts degree in a new local language. Runyakitara - to promote the study of local culture and literature.

It also seems to be the first practical step towards evolving a national language for this country of 17 million people speaking 32 or more lan-

Runyakitara is a product of Runyankole, Rukiga, Runyoro and Rutooro which are four related languages spoken in

comes from Kitara, a 19th century Kingdom which covered much of present day Uganda and northern Tanzania. The hybrid language could

eventually upstage English. Uganda's official language. which is still enforced in many schools despite widespread calls to include local languages in the curriculum. In one notorious recent in-

cident, a high school girl, who had slipped up and addressed a classmate in her local language, had her hatr shorn and school skirt replaced with itchy jute material - the penalty for not using English at all times.

Her trate father caused stirt when he wrote to a local

western Uganda. The name daily newspaper complaning that the punishment was too harsh to act as a deterrent or to be of any redeemign value. Some hope that Runyakitara

> schoolgirls as well as the even tual phasing out of English as the dominant language in schools and officials life. Since few of the local languages enjoy such wide usage.

could mean the end of shorn

heads and ttchy skirts for

language understood by her neighbours. Swahili, already used over

Uganda could as well go for a

much of castern and central Africa, may be a good bet. GEMINI NEWS