

BRIEFLY

Lahore airport blast: Four arrested

LAHORE, Pakistan, Aug 6: Police announced the arrests Monday of four men in connection with last month's blast at the international airport here and alleged they were working for Indian intelligence, reports AFP.

City police chief Chaudhry Sajjad Ahmed said Mohammad Ishaq, 30, a Pakistani Science graduate who had been arrested last week, had confessed to being the mastermind of the July 22 Airport explosion which killed six people and injured around 60.

The police official identified the three other suspects as Mohammad Afzal, Abdul Ghafar and Shamsher Ali Shah.

Police had announced on July 31 that a main suspect had been arrested in the airport bombing, but he was not identified until Monday.

Citing Ishaq's alleged confession, the police chief said the four had been working for Indian intelligence. He also said Ishaq had confessed to the April 1996 bombing of a cancer hospital in Lahore founded by cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan, in which six people died, and several other bombings.

Duke, Duchess of York appear in public

LONDON, Aug 6: The Duke and Duchess of York appeared together in public Monday for the first time since their divorce in May, chatting and joking at a charity golf tournament, reports AFP.

The royals met the press during the tournament in Surrey organised to raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, of which the Duchess is patron.

Prince Andrew, Queen Elizabeth's second son, took part in the game and later posed for photographers with the ex-wife and their two daughters, Princess Beatrice, who will be eight on Thursday, and Princess Eugenie, aged six.

Appearance of Megawati in police HQs still uncertain

JAKARTA, Aug 6: Embattled Indonesian opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri has received a summons to appear at police headquarters here Friday, but it is still uncertain she will appear in person, her lawyer said today, reports AFP.

"We received the summons Monday afternoon, and we are still discussing whether Megawati will appear herself on Friday," the chief lawyer Robert Tambunan told AFP on Friday.

The officials said the task-force for the first time will offer a catalogue of India's latest defence products at global exhibitions in a bid to enhance awareness of the country's military potential.

India's arms exports rose from 28.90 million dollars in 1991-92 to 156 million dollars in 1994-95 but the earnings tumbled last year due to a glut

in the international market.

The country's security and strategic considerations would be also given due consideration, Limited News of India (UNI) said in a related dispatch.

Officials said India's new government was setting up a taskforce of experts who will identify the potential and capabilities of state-run defence enterprises and ordnance factories to promote exports.

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The government has not released its arms export figures for the previous financial year which ended on March 31.

Indian embassies abroad will be asked to promote indigenous military equipment in line with New Delhi's plans to bolster arms exports, the officials said.

"We will showcase equipment and systems which are at par with the hardware offered internationally ... we will end the existing lack of awareness of our products," a senior Defence Ministry official said.

India has also begun to offer technical cooperation to "friendly nations" for the production and third-country export of its military equipment, he said.

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