

Written & Information collected from the Internet by
Mohammed Saquib Hussain.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is an agency of the United States Department of Justice, and the principal federal investigative agency. Functions of the FBI, under its general responsibility of investigating violations of federal law, include the investigation of espionage, sabotage, subversive activities, and other actions related to national security; organized crime and drug trafficking; terrorism; and white-collar crime.

History

The FBI originated in 1908 as the Bureau (later the Division) of Investigation of the Justice Department. Following reorganization in 1924, J. Edgar Hoover became the first director, and the bureau's present policies were defined. The bureau acquired its present name in 1935.

In addition to its national headquarters in Washington, D.C., the FBI maintains 58 field offices in strategic cities in the United States and Puerto Rico. It also maintains an Identification Division, established in 1924; the FBI Laboratory, founded in 1932; a training program for FBI agents; the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, established in 1935 and expanded in 1972; and a project called Uniform Crime Reporting, begun in 1930.

Jurisdiction

FBI jurisdiction extends to more than 180 matters, including bank robbery, extortion, racketeering, kidnapping, antitrust violations, and, since 1982, drug enforcement activities. The FBI investigates infringement of civil rights committed in violation of federal law.

The Office of Personnel Management has primary responsibility for conducting applicant investigations for the federal government. When the president so directs, however, as in the case of positions of high importance or sensitivity, or when data indicating possible disloyalty come to light, the FBI conducts the applicant investigation. The FBI also handles inquiries concerning individuals requiring security clearances at the request of other government agencies. In 1939, the FBI was made the national clearinghouse for data relating to internal security by a presidential directive, in the US. The FBI discharges its duties in cooperation with local and state law enforcement agencies, as well as those of other countries.

Among functions specifically excluded from the jurisdiction of the FBI are investigations of counterfeiting and violations of the customs and revenue laws, which are the province of the Treasury Department. Violations of the postal laws, which are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Postal Service, are also excluded from the jurisdiction of the FBI. United States intelligence activities abroad, relating to the national security of the United States, are planned, developed, and coordinated by the Central Intelligence Agency, an agency of the National Security Council, which is also charged with certain activities relating to the security of atomic bomb projects in the U.S.

Activities

The Identification Division, a repository for identification data, began with about 810,000 sets of arrest fingerprints acquired from the criminal identification data of the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, and from the International Association of Chiefs of Police. In the following years, as local and state law enforcement agencies

forwarded fingerprint records to the FBI, its criminal identification data increased greatly. After 1933, when the Civil Identification Section was established, the number of fingerprints in possession of the FBI rose precipitately. It currently has on file more than 173 million sets of fingerprints, the largest collection in the world. As a result, the FBI has been able to function as a national clearinghouse for criminal identification data and identification data on missing persons, as well as for other civilian uses. Through a service called the International Exchange of Fingerprints, sponsored by the FBI since 1932, the FBI exchanges identification data with the law enforcement agencies of more than 80 foreign countries and with U.S. possessions outside the continental limits.

The FBI Laboratory employs specialists trained in many branches of science and in methods of scientific crime detection. They examine and analyze specimens of evidence submitted by FBI agents and by local law enforcement agencies. Precision instruments and chemical and other processes are utilized in the examination and analysis of letters, documents, bullets, bloodstains, human and animal hair and skin, textile fibers, soils, rocks, metals, and other evidential substances and matter.

The training program educates FBI agents in the techniques of scientific investigation and crime detection. Applicants must be between 23 and 40 years of age and graduates of a state-accredited resident law school or a resident 4-year college with an accounting major and at least three years' work experience in this field. The FBI also considers applicants with a resident 4-year college degree and a specialization for which it has a need. Periodically, agents attend in-service classes to keep abreast of the latest developments in crime-detection methods. Training is also given to stenographic and clerical personnel.

The National Academy trains police instructors and administrators selected from law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and its territorial possessions and from some foreign countries. It gives them much the same training as that given FBI agents but places a special emphasis on the organization of police schools, along the same lines as the training school, in local, county, state, and territorial law enforcement agencies.

The Uniform Crime Reports Bulletin is issued annually by the FBI to law enforcement officials, with quarterly supplements. The FBI thus serves as a national clearinghouse for crime statistics; the Bulletin contains reports compiled from data forwarded monthly and annually to the FBI by law enforcement agencies in the U.S. The Bulletin also has information on arrested persons.

The National Crime Information Center, a computerized index of information on crime and criminals, is located at FBI headquarters, Washington, D.C., and serves as the nucleus of a vast communications network that includes local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies throughout the U.S. The center is designed to complement the development of metropolitan and statewide electronic systems, and it makes available in a few seconds data essential for effective law enforcement.

An idea of the extent of jurisdiction and effectiveness of the FBI may be had from the following summary of some of its activities. On the basis of evidence supplied by the FBI, the U.S. government secured about 14,000 convictions of various offenders during a recent year, and the identification facilities of the FBI were utilized to locate more than 33,000 fugitives from justice.

Features

Thoughts on the Asia Cup 2000

By Naved I. Mahmud



The Asia Cup is an important fixture in the cricket calendar of any Sub-continent team, but this year the tournament holds even more significance for the four participating teams. India and Pakistan, embroiled in match fixing controversies, with new accusations and revelations being made almost every day, will be almost desperate to win the Cup to at least partially clear their names. Sri-Lanka, meanwhile, will be out to prove that there is more to Asian cricket than only India and Pakistan. Just as they took great strides for their cricket by winning the WC in 1996, an Asia Cup victory will go a long way in making the rest of the world consider Sri-Lanka on equal terms with, and as formidable opponents as, India and Pakistan. Hosts Bangladesh have different goals for the tournament. On the brink of Test Status, Bangladesh needs a few good victories or near-victories against strong teams to convince the ICC that our national team, considered by many to be the weakest link in our application for full ICC membership, is ready to play the five-day game.

The weather does not look too promising. Either early monsoon rains will wash out a few of the matches, or it will be almost unbearably hot and humid. The Pakistan team will be coming from the Caribbean, so they'll be used to the hot weather. Many of the key Indians however, such as Dravid, Ganguly and Kumble, will be arriving in Dhaka direct from England, and it will take them a while to adjust to the heat. The sports fanatics in Dhaka will be hoping that the rains stay away for the week, as the cricket promises to be exciting, the action fast and furious.

India, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka all have an equal chance of clinching the Asia Cup. It is difficult to make predictions on current form, as the Indians and the Sri-Lankans have been out of action for some time. Pakistan's performance in the West Indies has generally been good, but their batting, with the exception of Inzi, has been woefully short of class at times. Even with the absence of Shoaib Akhtar, Saqlain and Youhana, the Pakistan team looks strong, and if they fail to win the Cup, it will be because of their batting. With Saeed Anwar being out injured, the burden of getting a 250+ score will rest squarely on Inzi's large shoulders, but even he must fail some time or the other. India have not had a good build-up to the tournament, with coach Kapil Dev calling for India to pull out of the Asia Cup. But India's batting is the strongest in Asia, and they look the most likely to post 300+ scores. If Azhar plays, they have four of the world's best in the top order, with Jadeja to follow after that in the slog overs. The Sri-Lankans look organized, and are immensely talented, but if India's batting and Pakistan's bowling fire, then look out for an India-Pakistan final. Realistically speaking, Bangladesh has no chance of defeating any of the other three teams. Even though we're playing at home, Bangladesh has more chance of defeating India or Pakistan in some place like Canada, not on the placid, batting-friendly pitches of Dhaka. Let's hope our boys can prove me wrong in the coming weeks! Or at least come close to proving me wrong.

Whatever happens, and whichever team wins, the Asia Cup 2000 promises to leave us with many happy cricket memories.

Depression DISSECTED

FROM PAGE 1

you've lost your appetite or you eat a lot more.

You feel restless and tired most of the time.

*You think about death, or feel like you're dying, or have thoughts about committing suicide

Sometimes teenagers get seriously depressed after something like a divorce in the family. Many children blame their parents divorces on themselves, and this may cause them to feel self-guilt. Major financial problems in a family can also cause severe depression. Many teens whose parents may not have steady jobs may feel as if life isn't fair. In addition teenagers tend to what to show off their flashy belongings in school, and this may make a teen painfully aware of inequalities between themselves and their classmates. Other factors contributing to depression are a messed up home life, which sometimes makes teen's hate their own parents. Other causes of depression may be breaking up with a boyfriend or

girlfriend and repeated failures at school and tests. Several ambitious people become seriously depressed when they cannot achieve goals they set for themselves. There are even many people who fall into depression and commit suicide after their favorite teams loses for the Cricket world cup or when their favorite rock star dies or kills himself.

Other times, depression just happens. Often teenagers react to the pain of depression by getting into trouble: trouble with drugs, trouble with school or bad grades; problems with family or friends. This is another reason why it's important to get treatment for depression before it leads to other even more serious sorts of trouble.

Having depression doesn't mean that a person is weak, or a failure, or isn't really trying... it means they need treatment.

Most people with depression can be helped with counseling, provided by a professional psychologist, and some are helped with

Counseling and Medicine.

Counseling, or psychotherapy, means talking about feelings with a trained psychologist who can help you change the relationships, thoughts, or behaviors that are causing the depression. Think about it, you feel depressed because you think your life is bad. What if you're wrong? What if you're missing all the good things around you? What if your future holds a lot more promise than you think? When you're depressed, you're in a rut, and you can't see anything good. You need to talk to someone who can help you get out of that rut! Don't wait, if you think you might be suffering from depression, tell your parents today.

Medicine is used to treat depression that is severe or disabling. Antidepressant medications are not "uppers" and are not addictive. When depression is so bad that you can't focus on anything else, when it interferes with your life in an overwhelming way, medication might be necessary, in addition to counseling. But most often, counseling alone is sufficient.

With treatment, most depressed people start to feel better in just a few weeks.

So remember, when your problems seem too big and you're feeling low for too long,

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

There's help out there and you CAN ask for help. And if you know someone who you think is depressed, you can help. Listen and encourage your friend to ask a parent or a responsible adult about treatment. If your friend doesn't ask for help soon, talk to an adult you trust and respect - especially if your friend mentions suicide. Your friend's life is more important than keeping a secret!

It is NOT true that people who talk about suicide do not attempt it. Suicidal thoughts, remarks, or attempts are ALWAYS SERIOUS... if any of these happen to you or a friend, you must tell a responsible adult immediately.... It's better to be safe than sorry.

It helps to try to be as optimistic as possible. True, sometimes life can be difficult to get through, but you just have to give it everything you've got. We've all been depressed sometime or the other during our lives, when loved ones pass away, but we try to move on. If you feel depressed try talking to your parents about the problem, or go for medical help. The important thing is to try to move on, you only live once and you're only young once too. Your life has immense potential, it's not worth throwing away...