

Pak militant group threatens suicide attacks in India

KARACHI, Dec 30: A Pakistan-based Islamic militant group threatened today to carry out suicide attacks in India, following a bomb blast that wrecked its office in this port city.

"Indian RAW (Indian intelligence's Research Analysis Wing) was behind the blast at our office here. We will now target Indian cities," a central leader of Jash-e-Mohammad group, Mufti Jamil, told AFP.

Jash-e-Mohammad, formed by Pakistani Islamic scholar Masood Azhar after his release by India to end the hijacking of an Indian Airlines commercial jet last year, is fighting against New Delhi's rule in Kashmir.

A girl was killed and 10 other people were injured when a bomb ripped through the group's office in Karachi late Friday.

Mufti Jamil said the activities of Jash-e-Mohammad would not now remain confined to Indian Kashmir.

"We will carry out suicide attacks in cities in India itself," he said.

"RAW should now get ready for our reply." The office blast damaged a restaurant on the ground floor and other parts of the multi-storey building.

"We have detained about 10 people from different parts of the city in connection with blast," Karachi police chief Tariq Jamil said.

"It is premature to say anything about their affiliation or identity at this stage."

"We are still investigating, though the explosion appears to be in retaliation for the car bomb blast in Srinagar last week," the police officer said.

Ten people were killed in the bombing at Srinagar in Indian-administered Kashmir on December 25.

Police and para-military forces have intensified their patrols in the biggest Pakistani city following Friday's explosion.

"We have also deployed police and rangers at key including offices of Jash-e-Mohammad and other Islamic groups," another police official said.

The Karachi explosion came four days after bomb blasts injured 40 people in a market in Lahore, capital of Punjab province.

Interior Minister Molnuddin Haider blamed Indian intelligence agents for the explosions.

Police in Lahore said they had anticipated retaliation following an attack on the historic Red Fort in the Indian capital, New Delhi, by suspected Muslim militants.

The Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba militant group took responsibility for the December 22 attack in which three people were killed.

Pakistan and India, locked in a dispute over Kashmir, routinely trade accusations of cross-border terrorism by each other's spy outfits.

Lashkar-e-Toiba condemned the blast at the office of Jash-e-Mohammad as "an attack against all mujahideen (Islamic warriors) who are fighting in Kashmir."

Middle East peace efforts continue amid violence

US expresses signs of frustration

JERUSALEM, Dec 30: Palestinian leaders said Friday they were ready to meet their Israeli counterparts to discuss crumpling US suggestions for a peace deal against a backdrop of new violence on the ground and growing pressure from hardliners on both sides, reports AFP.

One day after plans broke down for a summit on ideas put forward by US President Bill Clinton, the Palestinians said their leader Yasser Arafat would be willing to hold a summit with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, provided that the Clinton ideas are clarified.

"We don't have problems attending any meeting to clarify what remains unclear and to develop the American proposal so that it can be the basis for negoti-

ations. ... President Arafat has no objections to holding any meeting like that," said Palestinian international cooperation minister Nabil Shaath.

But Barak, who had conditionally accepted the Clinton proposals, appeared to backtrack late Friday, telling Israeli television he would not accept Palestinian sovereignty over a key hotspot in Jerusalem, a cornerstone of the US plan.

"I do not intend to sign a document that calls for a transfer of sovereignty to the Palestinians of the Temple Mount, which is at the heart of our identity," Barak said.

In response to Barak, Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rudeina told AFP his side would not accept any deal "that does not give total Palestinian sovereignty over (east) Jeru-

salem, the Noble Sanctuary and all of the holy sites."

Clinton has shown frustration at the slow pace of negotiations, telling a press conference Thursday there was "no point in our talking further unless both sides agree to accept the parameters that I've laid out."

"I do not want to talk more about this. ... Both sides know exactly what I mean and they know exactly what they still have to do, and that's enough right now," said Clinton, who did not explicitly criticize either side.

Clinton hopes to secure a peace deal before he leaves office in little over three weeks, while Barak knows a peace deal may be his only hope of winning re-election February 6.

Bomb blasts kill 11 in Philippines

MANILA, Dec 30: A series of bombs exploded in the Philippine capital Manila today killing at least 11 people, wounding scores and plunging the city of 12 million people into panic, reports Reuters.

Ambulance sirens wailed as police rushed to the bomb scenes on a suburban train, a bus, a park bench near the US Embassy, near the international airport's power generating plant and outside a luxury hotel.

The first four almost simultaneous explosions were at around noon (1000 BST). A fifth bomb, about two hours later, killed a policeman who was trying to defuse it.

Brigadier General Avelino Razon, a superintendent of police, told Reuters 10 people were killed and 43 were injured in the noon explosions. DZMM radio station said 56 people were wounded.

There was no immediate word on who was responsible, but city police chief Edgardo Aglipay said the bombings could be in response to the arrest of the brother of a feared Muslim separatist leader.

Fector Janjalani, the brother of Abu Sayaf leader Khadafy Janjalani, was arrested in the city

earlier this week after being found in the possession of drugs and weapons.

"We have been on alert since the arrest of Janjalani's brother," Aglipay told the ABS-CBN television channel.

The most devastating explosion was in one of the coaches of a crowded suburban train as it was pulling into a station. At least nine people were killed and 30 wounded, Razon said.

Another bomb went off on a park bench near the US Embassy, injuring five people.

A third bomb exploded on a bus as it neared a terminal, killing one person. "It was so powerful it stood the bus up on end," said a reporter for ABS-CBN.

Several cars in the vicinity were badly damaged.

A fourth explosion was reported in Manila's international airport. Severe people were injured, witnesses at the scene said.

Police said the bomb exploded in a warehouse some 700 metres from the passenger terminal.

City police chief Edgardo Aglipay said the fifth bomb was found near the Dusit Hotel in the Makati financial district and was being defused when it went off.

Omar el-Bashir re-elected in Sudan

KHARTOUM, Sudan, Dec 30: Gen. Omar el-Bashir was re-elected President of Sudan, winning 86.5 per cent of a vote boycotted by the opposition, election officials said Friday, reports AP.

The nearest challenger was former President Gaafar Nimeiri, who won 9.6 per cent of the vote, said Abd-El-Moneim Zain Nahas, head of the General Election Authority. Three other challengers took no more than 5.6 per cent combined.

Nahas, declaring the elections "fair and free," put turnout at 66 per cent during 10 days of polling that ended Dec. 22. Some 8 million people voted in Africa's largest country.

Friday night, el-Bashir, who seized power in a military coup in 1989 and won elections in 1995, addressed thousands of well-wishers singing folk songs and chanting "Bashir, go forward!"

Opposition leader elected president in Ghana

ACCRA, Dec 30: Ghanaians voters have opted to turn the page on the past, electing opposition leader John Kufuor to succeed longtime ruler Jerry Rawlings in the country's first democratic transfer of power, reports AFP.

Rawlings' protege John Atta Mills, the incumbent vice president, conceded defeat late Friday as near-final results showed Kufuor with an unassailable 15 percent lead in Thursday's land-mechlection.

Atta Mills called Kufuor to congratulate him, Atta Mills' campaign manager Ekwow Spio-Garbrah told

AFP. When Rawlings, who has held power for 19 years as military强人 then elected president, passes the baton to Kufuor on January 7 the occasion will mark the first time in Ghana's 43 years of independence that one duly elected president will hand over power to another.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Friday: "The international community should rejoice at this orderly and democratic transfer of power and stand ready to help Ghana and other new democracies consolidate their hard-won gains."

7 shot dead in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Dec 30: Seven people killed in a dilapidated crack house had been lined up on the dining room floor and shot by four masked intruders, police said, reports AP.

Six men and one woman were killed Thursday night. Three others were wounded and remained hospitalized Friday.

"We know that a robbery occurred inside, but it would seem to me that you don't slaughter 10 people for a few bucks," Capt. James Brady said. "So I think there's a deeper motive involved than a single, straight-up robbery."

Brady said police had no suspects.

Police said two of the victims had recently begun selling drugs, and a small amount of crack was found in the run-down rowhouse situated in a crime.

Hillary Clinton most admired woman in USA

WASHINGTON, Dec 30: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton tops the list of women most admired by Americans, according to a poll released on Friday, reports Reuters.

The New York senator-elect received the highest number of votes, 19 per cent of the total, followed by talk show host Oprah Winfrey and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, each with 4 per cent, in a CNN/USA Today poll.

Americans were less certain about which man they most admired, leaving a cluster of politicians and religious leaders at the top of the list. President Bill Clinton and Pope John Paul II each received 6 percent.

Come New Millennium

People always have occasions in their lives to observe and celebrate but not like bidding farewell to the past and welcoming the new. They get into the retrospective of the past and see what remained unfulfilled in the year gone by and calculate what they cherish to fulfil in the coming year. As the new millennium dawns, people in different parts of the world are preparing for celebrations each in their own way, as these AFP photos show:



People board a bullet train at a Tokyo station to head for their hometown. The annual year-end exodus peaks in Japan as families head for hometowns and resorts for their New Year holidays.



A man is splashed with water thrown from an office window in the financial district of Montevideo, Uruguay. On the last working day of the year, employees and clerks of companies working in the district throw water and confetti to celebrate the end of the year.



Children play on a Buenos Aires, Argentina street in the business district with sheets of paper that are traditionally tossed from office windows by workers celebrating the end of the year and the last business day of the year.



Neighbours on Aquila street in central Havana, Cuba look on as Pedro Gonzalez (L) and Jacinth Perez (R) prepare a wild pig which will be cooked and eaten in a traditional new years celebration. The Cuban Parliament has declared 2001 the "Year of the Victorious Revolution in the New Millennium," celebrating improvements in the Cuban economy and the return of Elian Gonzalez to the island.

Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence

New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Tender Notice

(1st Time)

1. Sealed tenders are invited in foreign currency from bonafide Manufacturers/Dealers/Suppliers/Indentors (Enlisted Firm's) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Armed Forces:

| Sl No | Nomenclature | Date of selling From | Date of opening To | Currency | Tender No | Cost of I/T |
|-------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|
| a | Skinned Milk Powder | 31-12-2000 | 13-2-2001 | Foreign Currency | 621/P-8 | 1500.00 |

150 Metric Tons

2. Tender schedule with detail specifications will be available on payment (Non-refundable) as per I/T selling rate during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender will be dropped latest by 1000 hours and opened at 1005 hours on concerned opening date in front of tenderers present at that time (if present any).

ISPR/Misc/2000/1072

DFP-30840-20/12

G-2240

14 RHD of 2000-2001.

Different roads. As per group list under Barisal Road Division during the Year 2000-2001.

As per Group List.

As per Group List.

As per Group List.

Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Barisal/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barisal/Patukhali/Bhola/Pirojpur/Jhalakati/Borguna/Planning Division (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division/I-III, Barisal/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Barisal during office hours on all working days. No tender form will be sold on the opening date of tender.

Up to 5:00 PM on 07.01.2001 E.

Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Barisal Zone, Barisal/Divisional Commissioner, Barisal/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Barisal Road Circle, Barisal/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barisal/Pirojpur/Jhalakati.

Up to 12:30 PM on 08.01.2001 E.

At 11:00 AM on 15.01.2001 E at office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barisal.

At 11:30 AM on 16.01.2001 E.

Last date of selling of tender bids will be received in sealed cover

Date & time of recording tender bids in sealed cover

Date, time & name of office where tender will be opened

Lottery date & time

Group No

Name of work & location

Estimated amount

Earhest money

Time allowed

Eligibility of contractor

Name of offices where tender documents will be available

Last date of selling of tender bids will be received in sealed cover

Date & time of recording tender bids in sealed cover

Date, time & name of office where tender will be opened

Lottery date & time

Group No

Name of work & location

Estimated amount

Earhest money

Time allowed