INTERNÂTIONAL

Pakistan bans 3 Islamic leaders from entering Sindh province AFP, Karachi

Pakistan authorities yesterday banned three radical Islamic leaders from entering a key province where major rallies against the US airstrikes in Afghanistan, officials

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, head of the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), Fazlur Rehman, chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), and Azam Tariq, leader of sectarian militant group Sipah-e-Sahaba, were banned from Sindh province for 30 days, said provincial Home Secretary Brigadier Mukhtar

Fazlur Rehman and Azam Tariq are already under house arrest, in North West Frontier Province and Punjab province respectively.

But the JI chief has called a major rally in Jacobabad, 500 kilometers from Karachi, next Tuesday.

And the Defence Council of Afghanistan, a coalition of religious parties, has announced a "million march" in Karachi on October 26 to be led by party heads.

The provincial home secretary told AFP that the three leaders "have been banned (from Sindh) for 30 days as their presence here can create law and order problems.

One person was killed and 24 people injured during clashes between police and protestors on Sunday, when Islamic extremists tried to march to the Jacobabad airfield, that has been used by US forces

Police last week arrested former Jaish-e-Mohammad leader Abdullah Shah Mazhar for violating a government ban on displaying

WFP warehouse under Taliban control

AFP, Geneva

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) said yesterday the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan was still occupying its food depot and office in the southern city of Kandahar.

"We are asking the Taliban to hand over our warehouse which contains 1,600 tonnes of food," WFP spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume told a briefing at the UN's European headquarters here.

The warehouse, along with another food depot in Kabul, were seized by the Taliban on Tuesday but the UN agency regained control of the Kabul site on Thursday.

The 5,300 tonnes of food supplies in the Kabul warehouse appeared to be intact, Berthiaume

The total food supply in the two sites of about 6,900 tonnes equals one week of food deliveries to Afghanistan and about half the WFP's current stocks in the country.

Almost 18,600 tonnes of food have been handed out to Afghans by the UN agency since the September 11 attacks on the United States, blamed on Taliban-protected terror suspect Osama bin Laden

Laden's comrade killed in grenade blast: Taliban

Taliban officials confirmed Friday that a veteran comrade of Osama bin Laden had died in Afghanistan but insisted it was a grenade accident, not a US bomb, that killed him, a Pakistan-based news agency

Abu Baseer al-Masri was mortally wounded Oct 11 when a grenade he was holding accidentally exploded, injuring his hands and chest, the private Afghan Islamic

Al-Masri died Saturday at a hospital in Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan, according to the news

A London-based Islamic group had reported al-Masri's death on Thursday, saying he was killed by a US bomb near Jalalabad on

270 illegal immigrants held in Turkey AFP, Ankara

Turkish security forces have detained 270 illegal immigrants abandoned on a beach in the southwestern province of Mugla, local

officials said vesterday. The immigrants, who included Afghans, Iraqis, Pakistanis and Turks, were dumped on a beach near the resort town of Sarigerme late on Thursday by human traffickers who had promised to sail them to Italy, local governor Cemal Yildiz told Anatolia news agency.

It was not clear where the group

had boarded the boat. Police have launched an investigation to find the smugglers, Yildiz

Located at a juncture connecting Asia and Europe, Turkey serves as a major route for cross-border people and drug trafficking.

Israel tightens grip on Palestinian town

Five more Palestinians killed

Tanks tightened Israel's grip on Bethelehem early yesterday, hours after Israeli forces blew up three Palestinian activists in the West Bank town and as the United States issued a plea for restraint.

Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen traded fire after 20 Israeli tanks penetrated deep into the autonomous Palestinian town, while two more

Palestinians died elsewhere in the West Bank. The tanks rolled in from two directions, Jabel Hindata and Rachel's Tomb, before a column of armoured cars circled a refugee camp and Israeli

troops were reported to have occupied Bethlehem's Paradise hotel. "These incursions were decided after Palestinians fired mortars at Gilo," an Israeli army spokesman said, referring to the Jewish settlement on the fringe of annexed east Jerusalem.

The army reported no casualties The incursion followed an Israeli helicopter raid on Bethlehem late Thursday in which three members of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement were killed

One of the victims, Atef Abayat, had been sought by Israel in connection

with the murder in September of a Jewish settler in the Bethlehem area Two other Fatah activists were killed when Abayat's jeep exploded,

allegedly after a bomb planted by a Palestinian collaborator was triggered by an Israeli helicopter Almost immediately, Palestinian gunmen responded by opening fire on

Earlier, Palestinian gunmen shot dead an Israeli tourist and wounded

several others, after three other Palestinians including a schoolgirl were also On Friday morning, a 13-year-old Palestinian boy died in the Gaza Strip when a live tank shell he was handling exploded. And Israeli gunfire killed a

Palestinian policeman during clashes in the West Bank town of Ramallah, The deaths brought the toll from nearly 13 months of unrest to 887

The latest violence follows the assassination by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Wednesday of right-wing Israeli cabinet minister Rehavam Zeevi to avenge the Israeli killing of its leader in August.

including 687 Palestinians and 178 Israelis.



Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon (L) looks at the coffin of Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi during the funeral at the Knesset in Jerusalem on Thursday. Zeevi, 74, died in hospital after being shot in the head by members of the hardline left-wing Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

Pakistani lawyers hold a portrait of Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden while chanting anti-US slogans during an demonstration in Karachi yesterday. The situation in Karachi is tense as various anti-US groups are protesting the

the area said they had seen unusual

military activity at the small airport,

Ahmed said his party was plan-

ning to protest against the govern-

ment's decision and would hold a

rally in Dalbandin where residents

said they had seen cruise missiles

but there is a lot of activity in the

airport, lot of army, Pakistani army,"

Americans have come...I don't

wrecking the already fragile econ-

demonstrations," Haz -- the leader

of the United Development Party,

Indonesia's largest Muslim party -

was quoted as saying by the state

brothers in Afghanistan, help them

demands to sever relations with the

US. Haz said Indonesia is a poor

country and the United States is its

boycotts or cut relations with the US.

by sending medicine and prayers.

"If our friends want to help our

Responding to militants'

"We don't need to press for

"I ask the people to stop the

Largest anti-US protest in Jakarta

Antara news agency

second largest investor.

We have not seen Americans

Everyone is saying that

flying at night toward Afghanistan.

planes or troops.

Pakistan allows US to use third air field

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan has given permission to U.S. forces to use a third air field, at Dalbandin, a small town in southwestern Baluchistan province bordering Afghanistan, a pro-Taliban Islamic religious party leader said yesterday.

Pakistani government were tightlipped about whether Dalbandin -- 170 miles southwest of the provincial capital Quetta and about 45 miles from the Afghanistan border -- was being used by U.S. forces for logistical support.

However, sources close to the military said the air field was being used by U.S. forces.

`According to our reports from

An estimated ten thousand Muslims

flooded the heart of the Indonesian

capital Jakarta yesterday in the

largest protest so far against US-led

beating protesters -- mostly from the

Muslim-based Justice Party --

brought traffic to a standstill as they

marched through the city centre

behind a huge banner reading "Stop

earlier pleaded for an end to pro-

tests in the world's largest Muslim-

populated nation, saying they were

Vice President Hamzah Haz

Chanting, singing and drum-

attacks on Afghanistan.

War - Save Afghanistan."

the area, they have given Dalbandin to the Americans," Hafiz Hussain know. People are very anxious, they stay up all night seeing missiles flying in the sky," he said. Ahmed, vice-president of the Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam party told The resident, who asked not be Reuters by telephone. Residents of

identified, said Dalbandin lay in the path of cruise missiles from U.S. warships in the Arabian sea to targets in Afghanistan. but could not see any American Several other residents said

there was plentiful military activity at not know why.

Commercial flights were halted to the remote airport a year ago, but aviation officials said the air field was taken over the Pakistan military shortly after the September 11 suicide plane attacks on New York and as Osama bin Laden emerged as a prime suspect.

We can see the reality. Even without

declaring a boycott, foreigners have

already left Indonesia. This has an

extremely big influence on the

After three days of calm protests

resumed after Friday prayers with a

mass march from the National

The embassy remains tightly

Protesters moved on to the

United Nations building, then filled

all five southbound lanes of the main

Jalan Thamrin thoroughfare

quarded by rows of razor wire and

hundreds of riot police carrying

Monument to the nearby US

economic sector." he added

embassy.

batons and shields.

at British High Commission in Pakistan

A querrilla group fighting New Delhi's

rule in Kashmir threatened suicide

attacks on Indian cities, while two

state ministers escaped assassina-

Tension mounted, meanwhile,

along the military Line of Control

which divides the Himalayan territory

The Pakistan-based Islamic

Jaish-e-Mohammad group warned

of suicide strikes in New Delhi,

Bombay and elsewhere in India in

retaliation for India's heavy mortar

fire across the Line of Control earlier

this week to "stop cross-border

The two nuclear-capable neigh-

bours batted accusations at each

other despite calls by US Secretary

of State Colin Powell just a day

earlier to avoid stoking hostility in the

region while US-led strikes on

Afghanistan were going on.

between India and Pakistan.

tion attempts on Friday.

infiltration.

The Pakistani government said yesterday it was testing a "suspicious letter" containing a powdery substance that was received by the British Embassy in Islamabad. Pakistan's Interior Secre

Tasneem Noorani, said the letter was received at the British High Commission on Thursday, Embassy officials immediately called authorities, Islamabad police officials said. "We don't know yet if it was a

hoax or genuine." Noorani said. He termed it a "suspicious letter." Noorani said the letter was immediately sent to the country's

National Institute of Health, where a supervisor said results weren't expected until at least midday Saturday. A spokeswoman for the British

High Commission confirmed the letter's existence and said it had been addressed to His Commissioner Hilary Synnott. "We are waiting for the results,"

spokeswoman Rachel Jamieson said. "We don't want to speculate about the nature of the substance."

It was the first reported instance of such a letter in Pakistan, though similar mail containing powdery substance has caused scares across the world in recent days.

A male embassy employee who opened the letter, was taken to an Islamabad hospital, police said.

Nehru University in New Delhi, said that if Powell had been seeking to de-escalate tension in the region he had been for from successful.

Kashmir rebels threaten suicide

Twenty-five people, including seven Indian security force personnel, were killed in aunbattles across the insurgency-plaqued state of Jammu and Kashmir yesterday as militant groups flexed their muscles.

attacks on Indian cities

A senior state minister escaped an attempt on his life while addressing a rally in the north of the Muslimmajority state when two rifle grenades exploded in the air. Police said another minister

escaped unhurt when militants fired on his motorcade on the outskirts of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. "According to a written statement

the leader of Jaish-e-Mohammad, in an extraordinary meeting, decided to intensify suicide attacks," Alsafa, Kashmir's leading Urdu-language Jaish-e-Mohammad claimed

responsibility for the October 1 suicide bombing outside the legislature in Srinagar in which 38 people It later denied involvement in the

attack, the bloodiest incident in the disputed Himalavan region since the September 11 attacks on the United Jaish-e-Mohammad was

launched by a Pakistani cleric, Moulana Masood Azhar, after he was released by Indian authorities in exchange for the passengers on an Indian airliner hijacked to Afghanistan in December 1999. Last week, Washington included

the group on a list of entities whose assets US financial institutions were ordered to freeze because of their ties to terrorist funding. The list described Jaish-e-Mohammad as a pro-Taliban force based in Pakistan.

A senior Indian government official accused Pakistan yesterday of trying -- since October 5 -- to feed militants across the Line of Control, a line drawn in 1972 after the last of three full-scale wars between the

The official, who asked not to be

identified, told Reuters India had

seen no signs that Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf was clamping down on guerrilla groups in He said India would exercise restraint, but it would take action if

rival powers

infiltration continued across the Line of Control. Pakistani Foreign Minister Spokesman Riaz Mohammad Khan

denied that Islamabad was trying to push militants into Indian Kashmir. "The Kashmiri struggle is being

carried out by the Kashmiris themselves." he told a news conference

Anthrax is primarily psychological Anthrax alarm weapon: Doctors REUTERS, London `The real purpose of these

As anthrax fears sweep the United States and spread around the world, medical experts said yesterday that the psychological damage to society could well be greater and longer lasting than any physical

Although ostensibly meant to endanger lives, chemical and biological agents make unpredictable killers. But they are very effective in causing anxiety and social and economic mayhem.

'Chemical and biological weapons are quintessentially weapons of terror," said Simon Wessely, a psychologist at Guy's, King's and St. Thomas' School of Medicine in

weapons is to wreak destruction via psychological means -- by inducing fear, confusion, and uncertainty in evervdav life. Judging by the anthrax scares

around the globe, the persistent images of spacesuit clad medics on television screens and cautious assurances uttered by shaken politicians to a jittery public, the psychological effects are already evident. "Even if the short-term conse-

quences of an attack with chemical or biological weapons turn out to be less than some of the apocalyptic scenarios being aired by the media, the long-term disruptions may be worse than anticipated," Wessely said in an editorial in the British

It is not clear if the anthrax-laced letters sent to news organisations politicians and others are linked to last month's attacks on New York and Washington, which the United States has blamed on the Afghan based Islamic militant Osama bin

The incidents have triggered what Wessely and co-authors Kenneth Craig Hyams of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington and Robert Bartholomew of James Cook University in Australia called "mass sociogenic illness" -- inappropriate reactions to supposed threats that add to their impact.

More anthrax cases confirmed

FBI, Postal service offer \$ 1m reward

An assistant who opens mail for CBS TV newsman Dan Rather in New York and a postal worker in New Jersey have contracted the skin form of anthrax, complicating the government's efforts to reassure anxious Americans that it is working aggressively against bioterrorism. The new cases Thursday

brought to six the confirmed infections stemming from anthrax spores mailed in letters to media

outlets and politicians in the United States since Oct. 4. Infections have hit all three major US TV networks. left one person dead. raised fears internationally of bioterrorism and prompted hoaxes and false alarms worldwide.

US officials have said there was no evidence yet of involvement by foreign terrorists. The FBI and the US Postal Service offered a dlrs 1 million reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of perpetrators of anthrax attacks. Attorney General John Ashcroft

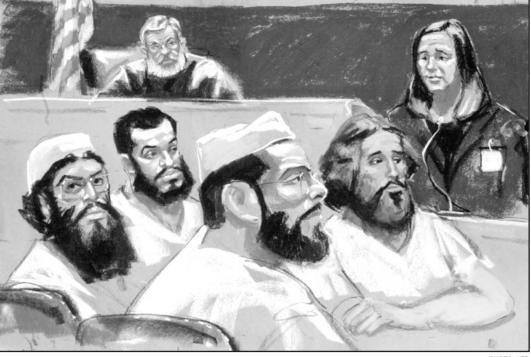
said the anthrax attacks could be the work of more than one homegrown terrorist. "It might well be that we have opportunists in the United States

or terrorists in the United States

who are acting in ways that are

unrelated," Ashcroft said. "Our antennae are up for all conceivable risks," said Tom Ridge, appointed the nation's first director of homeland security in the wake of Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that killed thousands in

New York and Washington.



This artist's sketch shows the sentencing of four followers of Osama bin Laden in the Federal Courthouse in Manhattan on Thursday. The four men were convicted in the 1998 bombings of two US Embassies in Africa. From left are Khalfan Khamis Mohamed, Wadih El-Hage, Mohamed Sadeek Odeh and Mohamed Rashed Daoud Al-'Owhali.

4 Laden followers get life term for 1998 embassy bombing

In a courthouse ringed by shotgun-toting marshals a few blocks from the smoking ruins of the World Trade Center, four followers of Osama bin Laden were sentenced to life without parole for the deadly 1998 bombings of two

The men were the first to be convicted by a US jury of carrying out bin Laden's 1998 religious edict to kill Americans wherever they are found. On Thursday, they got the maximum sentence as expected after US

District Judge Leonard B Sand called terrorism "one of the most serious threats to our society ... to the society of any civilised nation." He also ordered each of the defendants to pay dlrs 33 million in restitu-

tion, perhaps out of terrorist assets frozen by the US government in recent The near-simultaneous Aug 7, 1998, bombings in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya, killed 231 people, including 12 Americans Nearly two dozen people have been indicted in the case, including bin Laden, who is believed to be hiding out in Afghanistan and is also wanted for

the Sept 11 terrorist attacks. Prosecutors during the six-month trial accused bin Laden and his organisation of directing the bombings, using a satellite telephone from Afghanistan and messengers to communicate the orders.

"Al-Qaida stands charged, tried, convicted and sentenced for terrorism," Attorney General John Ashcroft said in Washington. "Today's sentence

sends a message: The United States will hunt terrorists down and make them pay a price for their evil acts of terrorism.'

Sand handed down identical sentences for Wadih El-Hage, 41, Khalfan Khamis Mohamed, 28, Mohamed Al-'O Whali, 24, and Mohamed Sadeek

The jury had considered and rejected the death penalty for Mohamed and Al-Owahali, in part to keep them from being viewed as martyrs. During the sentencing, El-Hage rose to condemn last month's attacks in

New York and Washington "The killing of innocent people is radical, extreme and cannot be tolerated by any religion, principles or values," said El-Hage, a Lebanese-born naturalised American. He maintained his innocence during the 30-minute

speech in federal court The government branded him a traitor and a liar, saying he raised money for bin Laden's al-Qaida organisation while living in Arlington, Texas. El-Hage "claims to be a citizen, but he's not an American," prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald said. "He betrayed his country, he betrayed his religion, he

betrayed humanity." Odeh, whose lawyer acknowledged that he "was a soldier in the military wing of al-Qaida," showed no remorse at sentencing, and asserted that terrorism was the result of US policies in the Middle East.

"I can only say to Allah we belong, and to him we'll return," he said. "God

help me in my calamity, and replace it with goodness.'