'al-Qaeda threatens bloodbath if Italy keeps Berlusconi as PM'

A statement posted yesterday on an Islamist website purported to be from the al-Qaeda terror network demanded that Italy withdraw its troops from Iraq, threatening otherwise a series of car bomb attacks.

"Either you junk the incompetent Berlusconi or we will really burn Italy," warned Friday's statement. It was signed in the name of the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades, which also claimed responsibility for the March 11 attacks in Madrid and the November 2003 bombings in

"O Italian people, your govern-ment has participated in the war on Iraq and sent troops and arsenal to our country. We urge you for the last time to demand that it withdraw peacefully from Iraq," said the

Dated July 17, it was signed "Khalid Ibn al-Walid Brigade, al-Qaeda". Its authenticity could not

"If your government does not obey, the solution lies in successive car

bomb" attacks, the statement said. A group calling itself the Islamic

Army in Iraq - Khalid Ibn al-Walid Brigade, is holding a Filipino hostage and has threatened to behead him if Manila does not push forward by a month the withdrawal of its contingent in Iraq.

It was not immediately clear if the same group issued Saturday's statement, posted on the website http://www.ansarnet.ws/vb.

We have sent messages in the past but the Italian government did not understand because it only understands the language of blood and jihad (holywar)," said the statement.

The group also sent "a second message to the Italian people and government" telling them to "bear the consequences" of rejecting a peace offer from Osama bin Laden.

An audiotaped statement issued April 15 by the terror chief gave European governments until July 15 to pull their troops out of Muslim

The ultimatum was later authenticated by the US Central Intelligence Agency

Grief, anger grip Kumbakonam

5 charged over Indian school inferno

Indian police said yesterday they had charged five people with negligence over the deaths of 88 children in a fire that engulfed a primary school in southern Tamil Nadu state.

The arrests of the school's headmistress and four other officials came a day after the fire swept through the third-storey thatchedroofed Saraswati Primary School in Kumbakonam on Friday and as anguished parents held funerals for their dead children.

The children were mostly aged between six and 10 years.

District Administrator J Radhakrishnan identified the five arrested as Shantha Lakshmi, headmistress of the school, and two other school managers, the school cook and the organiser of the noon meal

Funerals for most of the children

but some were performed late Friday in Kumbakonam, 350 km from Chennai, capital of Tamil Nadu.

"Some of the parents needed strong sedatives. They went into shock when they saw the horribly charred bodies of their little ones," said P. Kumar, a doctor at a state-run hospital which treated some vic-

"Most of them also can't get away from how terrible the end must have been for their children. Now they will have to steel themselves for the Newspapers splashed reports of

the fire across their front pages Saturday showing grim pictures of the twisted remains of the children lined up for their parents to identify. "Kitchen fire swallows school-

kids," said The Indian Express news-About 20 children were still battling for their lives in hospital

One injured boy, Ramesh, said from hospital that the fire started in the school kitchen which was preparing the noon meals and soon

"Our five teachers fled, leaving us behind," he said, his face contorted

"My son and daughter were late for school. I forced the guard to unlock the school gate and let them enter ... They would be alive if I had not done this," said a 30-year-old grief-stricken mother who did not want to be identified.

Firefighters said the victims stood no chance of survival as the blazing thatched roof collapsed on the trapped children. Heaps of bodies, some locked in

embrace, were found in the stairwell and classrooms. Tiny shoes and charred school books littered



A relative of a victim of a fire that engulfed a primary school in the southern Indian Tamil Nadu state cries over a grave in a burial ground yesterday in Kumbakonam.

al-Qaeda recruiting non-Arabs, says FBI

AP, Washington

The FBI is cautioning local authorities the al-Qaeda terror network may be recruiting non-Arabs less likely to attract notice as they carry out attacks in the United States.

al-Qaeda especially wants operatives who have American citizenship or legal residency sta-tus, the FBI's counterterrorism division said in its weekly bulletin to 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide.

"Finding operatives with US status would greatly facilitate al-)aeda's ability to carry out an attack within the United States," said the bulletin, obtained Friday by The Associated Press.

The new warning comes amid a continuous stream of intelligence indicating that al-Qaeda is determined to strike the United States in the summer or fall. Officials have said the terror network blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks hopes to inflict mass casualties again and disrupt the political process in this

Iraqi policemen rescue one of the victims of an explosion at the site of an attack targeting a convoy for the Iraqi Minister of Justice, Malek Dohan al-Hassan yesterday in Baghdad. A powerful bomb exploded early yesterday in the path of a convoy for Malek Dohan al-Hassan killing at least four people. The cause of the blast was attributed to a suicide car bomber by some people on the scene, but others said it was a powerful roadside device targeting the convoy.

Palestinians ask UNGA to press Israel on barrier

UN debate on Israeli wall diverting ME peace effort: US

AFP, United Nations

The Palestinians Friday asked the United Nations to press Israel to accept a world court ruling and tear down part of its West Bank security barrier, vowing to seek sanctions if it

does not comply.

Debating a draft UN General
Assembly resolution demanding that it heed the court decision, Palestinian representative Nasser al-Kidwa said Israel would become an "outlaw state" if it does not do so. But Israeli ambassador Dan

Gillerman lambasted his remarks, saying that nations in the Middle Fast other than Israel had no grounds for criticising its adherence to the law. For them to "lecture anyone

about the rule of law or accuse others of being outlaws, we have indeed reached a point where the inmates are running the asylum," Gillerman said.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has already said he would ignore the non-binding ruling of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the UN's highest tribunal.

The court said Israel must dismantle the parts of the controversial barrier that are built on Palestinian territory and pay the Palestinians reparations for damages.

The General Assembly, which

groups all 191 UN member states, is expected to pass the resolution, but Arab nations have been lobbying for days to get the European Union to addits support to the measure. The assembly will vote on the resolution on Monday.

General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding and Kidwa

vowed to push for a binding resolution at the UN Security Council, even though such a move would all but certainly draw a veto from the United States.

"The threat of veto will not thwart us, and all others who respect and uphold international law," Kidwa

He again denied that the Palestinians would wait to make a move to the Security Council until after the US presidential election in November, in hopes that a more Palestinian-friendly administration would be elected.

"We shall not exempt the Security Council of its responsibilities, irrespective of the threat of the use of veto," Kidwa said.

Meanwhile, the United States said Friday current UN debate on a draft resolution demanding Israel comply with a world court ruling and tear down part of its West Bank barrier was distracting efforts to achieve Middle East peace.

"Everybody should be looking at how their energy, their efforts and their voices can be added to the process of moving forward on the roadmap," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told



Palestinian security officers escort a French humanitarian worker (R) after she and another female were released by Palestinian gunmen at the Red Crescent Society headquarters in Khan Yunes refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip late Friday. Palestinian gunmen seized four French nationals, two men and two women, for several hours before releasing them unharmed.

8 states to get \$50m to fight trafficking: Bush

US President George W. Bush announced Friday that 50 million dollars would be given to eight countries to help them fight human The countries are Brazil, Cambodia,

India, Indonesia, Mexico, Moldova, Sierra Leone and Tanzania, the State Department said in a statement. It said that to underscore US

commitment to freeing people from modern-day slavery, Bush selected these countries for the "strategic anti-trafficking in persons assistance" programme.

"These countries face significant challenges with human trafficking, and they have been receptive to anti-trafficking cooperation," State

Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

Bush had pledged the money at the United Nations General Assembly last year as additional funding to support organisations that rescue women and children from bondage and give them shelter

and medical treatment in 2004. The State Department is coordinating this initiative, and some money is being distributed to fund

projects, Bouchersaid. He said so-called "anti-traffickingin-persons projects" will be imple mented by non-governmental organisations and US agencies working

abroad under the program.
The projects will focus primarily on fighting sex slavery, the fastest-growing category of trafficking, by increasing criminal prosecutions while rescuing, rehabilitating and reintegrating trafficking victims. The goal is to build the capacity

of non-governmental organisations and to work in partnership with governments in each country, President Bush's initiative is in

addition to other funds provided by the US to fight human trafficking, including about 70 million dollars in programmes abroad in the last fiscal year, Boucher said.

Meanwhile, the United States has a "particular duty" to lead the world-wide fight against illicit trade in persons for sex and forced labour, President George W. Bush said Friday, singling out Cuba as one of the world's worst violators.

Disease fear looms in S Asian flood zones

AFP, Guwahati

Authorities warned yesterday of an outbreak of diseases as surging floodwaters continued to ravage vast swathes of South Asia, killing hundreds and leaving millions stranded and hungry.

At least 23 million people have been hit by the floods in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal, which began with the annual monsoon rains mid-June, according to latest estimates by authorities in the four countries.

The total number of dead or missing in India stands at 178, in Nepal 86, in Bhutan three and 16 in Afghanistan, according to an AFP tally based on official figures. Media reports say the overall toll may be far

Tens of thousands of people in India's eastern Bihar and northeast- butold AFE 291010 1599

trapped on rooftops or high ground awaiting rescue, as the army and airforce mount massive operations to reach remote areas and airdrop food packets and water purifying

Police in Guwahati, the capital of

northeastern Assam state, said at

east six more people drowned overnight, including four children trying to escape the floodwaters in Assam's Kamrup district on a bamboo raft. Another two people were

drowned overnight when their boats capsized in separate incidents in the eastern Assam district "The flood situation still remains

very critical with nearly nine million people uprooted from their homes," Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi

'Filipino hostage's safety more important than foreign policy'

AFP, Manila

The Filipino hostage in Iraq has come to represent all Filipinos working overseas, and his safety justifies Manila's decision to pull its troops from Iraq despite commitments to foreign allies, the presidential spokesman said yesterday.

Spokesman Ignacio Bunye said in a statement that the hostage, truck driver Angelo de la Cruz, "has become the Filipino everyman. A symbol of the hardworking Filipino who has ventured to foreign lands to

earn an honest living." Bunye's statement, which will be carried as a column in state-owned newspapers, called on the public to "unite and save Angelo by supporting the government and President Gloria (Arroyo)."

De la Cruz's kidnappers have threatened to behead him if Manila doesn't pull its contingent from Iraq by the end of July. Arroyo's decision to withdraw the 51 Filipino soldiers and police officers ahead of schedule has drawn sharp criticism from

The United States and Australia have said the withdrawal amounts to capitulation to terrorism and warned that it will not buy Filipinos immunity from further attacks.

"Whatever the outcome of this hostage drama, we can assure everyone that President Gloria has done what needs to be done and she has delivered the optimum response to this issue both to the Filipino people and the world," Bunye said.



Indian army personnel rescue residents of Tetariya village in the Muzaffarpur district of the Indian state of Bihar, some 105km north of the sate capital, Patna yesterday. Bihar sent an SOS message Friday to the federal government seeking more help from the army to rescue millions of people trapped in flood-affected areas.

IRAQ INTELLIGENCE FAILURES

Bush, Blair face different political fallout

AFP, Washington

US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair both came under fire this week over pre-war intelligence on Iraq's unfound weapons of mass destruction, but they face different political fallout, US analysts said.

Both leaders, just days apart, have fielded questions raised by a US Senate report that was devastating for the CIA on Bush's side of the pond, and the results of an inquiry that was similarly hard on British intelligence on Blair's side.

The reports have thrown new light on the fragility of accusations surrounding Iraq's arsenal, which were for each the principal justification for going to war.

The reports spared Bush and Blair personal responsibility, at least for now, although they stand accused by a large part of the public of having exaggerated their cases for a war it says had already been plotted in advance. The US Senate committee will

not address whether Bush manipulated the intelligence until after November's general elections. But the British report left Blair off

Bush and Blair responded nearly in unison that despite the failures of their spymasters, the war was justi-"I cannot honestly say I believe

getting rid of Saddam was a mistake

at all," Blair said Wednesday. The dictator in Iraq was a threat. He was a threat to us, he was a threat to the free world, he was a threat to the people in the neighborhood, and he was a threat to his

Wednesday. Despite the solidarity, the strategies and constraints of Downing Street and the White House are different on several points.

own people," Bush said, also on

"Tony Blair accepted 'full personal responsibility' for 'the way the issue was presented and, therefore, for any errors made.' Mr. Bush, by contrast, took full personal irresponsibility," said columnist Maureen Dowd in Tuesday's New York Times.

"Bush and Blair are in a sense Siamese twins, but the circumstances they face and the choices they face are very different," said Simon Serfaty, of the Center for Strategic and International Studies

(CSIS) a Washington think-tank.

"The public in each case reacts quite differently. In the United States, opinion is less excited than in Europe, even in Great Britain, over the fact that the mountains of weapons of mass destruction have not been found," he said.

Thomas Carothers, of the Carnegie Foundation, also said "President Bush still operates with still at least 50 percent of the American people basically supporting the idea of the war, whereas Tony Blair operates with 10 to 20 percent of British people sharing that view."

On the other hand, criticism of the CIA is more worrisome for Bush than those weaker criticism against Britain's MI6, according to several newspapers and US commentators.

CIA director George Tenet has resigned, officially for personal reasons. The new head of MI6, John Scarlett, was exonerated by the British report.

In the midst of the "war on terror," which Bush has tackled as his own, he finds on his hands a spy network shaken to its foundation, one worry the Blair government

বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন

আগারগাঁও, শের-ই-বাংলানগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

সংশোধিত পুনঃ টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দৈনিক ইনকিলাব পত্রিকায় ১২-৭-২০০৪ তারিখে এবং দি ভেইলি স্টার পত্রিকায় ১৩-৭-২০০৪ তারিখে প্রকাশিত বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশনের "পুনঃ টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি"-র 'একটি নতুন কার ক্রয়া সংক্রান্ত অংশটি নিম্নোক্তভাবে সংশোধন করা হ'ল। আগ্রহী দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানকে পূর্বের বিজ্ঞপ্তির পরিবর্তে এই সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি অনুসরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হ'ল। বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য অংশ/শর্ত অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

একটি নতুন কার/জীপ ক্রয়

বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশনের জন্য একটি নতুন কার/জীপ ক্রয়ের বিষয়ে নিম্নের বিবরণ অনুযায়ী প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/পরিবেশকদের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচেছ। দর প্রস্তাবের সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালসন নাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ও আয়কর/ভ্যাট পরিশোধের সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং কোটেশনকৃত গাড়ির আমদানি/আয়কর/ভ্যাট পরিশোধ সংক্রান্ত কাগজপত্রাদি এবং বিস্তারিত টেকনিক্যাল স্পেসিফিকেশন থাকতে হবে। দরপত্রের সাথে উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের २.৫०% जार्नम्प्रेमानि विश्वविদ्याणग्र मध्यती कमिशन এत जनुकृत्व (अ-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে জমা দিতে হবে। নতুন গাড়ির দরপত্রের খামের উপর "নতুন গাড়ি ক্রয়" কথাটি লিখতে হবে। কার্যাদেশ প্রদান

করা হলে ০৩ দিনের মধ্যেই গাড়ি সরবরাহ করতে হবে। ক্রয়ের জন্য নতুন কার/জীপের বর্ণনাঃ

টয়োটা/মিংসবিসি/নিশান/সমমানের কোম্পানীর তৈরিকত ২০০০ সিসি হতে ২৫০০ সিসি, 4x4 WD চার/পাঁচ দরজা বিশিষ্ট হার্ডটপ সেলুন, জ্রাইভারসহ ন্যুনতম ৫(পাঁচ) আসন বিশিষ্ট, পেট্রোল চালিত, Autotransmission, all power সম্পূর্ণ নতুন কার/জীপ এসি ও অন্যান্য সর্বাধুনিক সুবিধাদিসহ সর্বশেষ মডেলের হতে হবে।

মোঃ খালেদ

উপ-সচিব (প্রশাসন)