

Fighting terrorism with technology



IKRAM SEHGAL
writes from Karachi

INCREASINGLY technology has become an essential weapon in the "war against terrorism", for both sides! Those fighting terrorism will not only use technology but will develop and enhance its effectiveness to counter terrorism. Conversely, the terrorists can acquire existing technology with relative ease and narrow the huge resource gap that they have to contend with in the form of the State's many resources and existing capability thereof. Developed countries with resources and in danger of being put to the "terrorist sword" are putting in considerable effort and time in developing technologies to counter terrorist activity. Without adequate resources or even a technological base third world countries like Pakistan tend to react to terrorist threat rather than pre-empt that possibility, what is required is real-time recognition of threat perception as well as constant effort to develop technologies in anticipation of possible future threats. However, on the bright side, the technological gap can be covered by "leapfrogging" over certain stages, provided the resources are adequate to acquire the technology.

Terrorists have an inherent advantage that they can (and do) use low-tech methods to carry out successful attacks against well-established, sophisticated and advanced systems, these are finding

it increasingly difficult to counter the surprise factor inherent in such attacks. The ready ability of terrorists to resort to "suicide bombing" has force-multiplied their potential for grand mayhem even with small amounts of explosives and with relatively primitive detonation methods. While snipers have their own dangerous ability to pick out selected targets, with asymmetrical similarity to those armed with automatic weapons and grenades targeting crowded places, there is also the vulnerability of the world's developing communications tech-

ber of possibilities, how does one begin to formulate a credible defence? A comprehensive defence plan has to, viz (1) identify the threat/s, (2) make a detailed analysis of their potential and (3) work out priorities in evaluating ways and means of countering such threats. Unless one can devise a comprehensive operational plan we cannot define the operational needs and without such precise definition, it would not be possible to even begin assessing the existing technological capabilities, what to talk about how these could be deployed to meet

and expertise of others to narrow the gap with those who already have technology as a counter to terrorism catered for in their threat perception. Countries like US may like to lead the effort in a coordinated way to focus the research and development of their available defence systems.

One needs to counter terrorism by having successive layers on defence, putting emphasis on the most dangerous threats and the likely targets thereof. Among the required capabilities for countering terrorism will be the ability to, viz (1)

these have to be adapted for anti-terrorist activity, they have also to be developed and produced in an economic manner. Some are basically protective materials e.g. material in bullet proof vests and vehicles; lighter material has to be produced in a cost-effective manner so that weight does not become an obstacle, particularly true in the protection of aircraft. Sophisticated use of software in advanced weapon systems can be crafted and converted for battlefield situations like the real-time identification of persons and/or systems used in an

vulnerable, we need to develop inexpensive sensors and integrate them into an effective early warning system, but even with this addition aircraft will continue to remain very indefensible against terrorist activity. Among the other things we need to do, data cross-referencing should incorporate the capability of voice and visual recognition. While this can be created with existing technology additional technological advances are required for cross-referencing with sensors for quick detection and identification of biological and chemical warfare materials.

What is immediately needed is viz (1) detection and identifying of explosives at some distance with a target for remote neutralisation of the same, the "jammers" saved Gen Musharraf in the first assassination attempt in Dec 2004, (2) developing adequate intelligence capability to respond to not only to constant queries but update the requirements from the data available, a start has been made by having a Crisis Management Cell (CMC), their potential needs substantial upgrading, (3) developing adequate defence of computer communications by homing in on critical national systems and pinpointing their weaknesses, (4) coordinating and cooperating with world institutions like the UN, Interpol, etc for monitoring and preventing the use of non-conventional terrorist matter and (5) constant monitoring of nuclear facilities by technologically advanced technological means and stopping the clandestine shipping of fissile materials.

There are many ways for fighting terrorism, while technology is obviously not the only means for waging a "war against terrorism", technology can be used as effectively to curb this burgeoning menace.

Ikram Sehgal, a former Major of Pakistan Army, is a political analyst and columnist.

AS I SEE IT

Some countries such as US, UK, France, Germany, Israel, etc already have trained and equipped units which specialise in handling immediate threats by using their available capabilities in personnel and training matched with technology. There are many ways for fighting terrorism, while technology is obviously not the only means for waging a "war against terrorism", technology can be used as effectively to curb this burgeoning menace.

nology to cyber-terrorism. Among the non-conventional terrorism capabilities one can include chemical, biological and radiological (CBR) means, not excluding the greatest tangible threat of all, the use of illegally acquired nuclear weapons. Some nations, Pakistan included, are suspected of passing on the know-how and capability to terrorist networks, even to so-called "rogue nations" sponsoring terrorism.

That some terrorist organisation can get hold of a nuclear device is a recurrent nightmare for anti-terrorist organisations! It is quite probable that instead of developing the weapon themselves, terrorist networks may acquire these illegally "off the shelf". Rigged in a crude way a small nuclear device can become, what is internationally known as, a "dirty-bomb".

Faced with such a myriad num-

ber of possibilities, how does one begin to formulate a credible defence?

Some countries such as US, UK, France, Germany, Israel, etc already have trained and equipped units which specialise in handling immediate threats by using their available capabilities in personnel and training matched with technology. Depending upon the nature of the threat and severity thereof, one can prioritise how to handle such threats. One can use the knowledge and experience available to translate this potential into development of technology to meet future threats. What is essential is to correctly assess the gap between the present and future requirements. Having evaluated the requirements, one can better allocate funds for technology conversion and development, this is easily possible in these countries where security is the top of the agenda. Countries like Pakistan have to rely on the achievements

potential existing and future threats. detect people organised in terrorist activity and identify them, and have the capability of simultaneously monitoring their movements, (2) detect the supply sources of explosive materials likely to be used, after all the terrorists have to procure it from somewhere, (3) mobilise one's defence capability to recognise and counter specific threats, (4) mobilise adequate and coordinated intelligence capability, utilising both human and electronic intelligence (5) focus on air, sea, rail and road travel as potential target areas and (6) guard the country's frontiers, this may involve monitoring and observation of thousands and thousands of miles of borders.

Many of the systems required have been developed and already incorporated into air-to-air missiles, anti-tank missiles, etc e.g. electro-optic and electronic sensors, radars, lasers, etc. Not only

attack and the immediate means for countering these. Command and control systems are already in use in many countries like Pakistan need to quickly adapt to this to give senior commanders inherent capability to map out both enemy and friendly forces so as to have real-time monitoring of terrorist activity and provide the necessary coordination in pre-empting their moves.

Electronic Intelligence (Elint) is already being used by armies in the battlefield, space technology is being applied in satellites and sensors in space and high-altitude drones. What was earmarked for strategic defence can be easily adapted to tactical anti-terrorist activity. However, new technological capabilities will be required for a complete system that can afford simultaneous detection and identification at reasonable cost.

Civilian aircraft are particularly

Deserved recognition for an excellent sportsman and coach

DR. FAKHRUDDIN AHMED writes
from Princeton, USA

IT was heartwarming to read in the November 24 edition of The Daily Star that sportsman par excellence in his heydays, and an outstanding sports coach and organizer ever since, Qazi Abdul Alim, is the recipient of the UNESCO Official Award for Physical Education and Sports for the Asia-Pacific region. Although I do not care much about UNESCO or foreign awards, any recognition of Qazi Abdul Alim's contribution to sports in Bangladesh is always welcome and very well deserved. I ought to know: Alim Bhai was my track coach when I was a member, and eventually the captains of Dhaka University and the then East Pakistan track teams. Alim Bhai had a lot to do with what little success I had in track.

It feels strange to hear that Alim Bhai is 70. Alim Bhai has been picking up awards ever since he was a wiry lad of ten. Being the recipient of an award, therefore, must have become second nature to him. When he picks up the latest one, however, I hope Alim Bhai will realise that there are so many lives that he has touched and has rewarded by just being his generous self.

I first came across this tall, fair and exceedingly handsome young man in the gymnasium of Dhaka University at the beginning of my freshman year. Alim Bhai was not affiliated with the University (he headed the National Sports Council, next to the Dhaka Stadium); yet, University is where he spent most of his spare time, scouting for talent and giving coaching tips. Everyone seemed to know him. As soon as he entered the gym, students would greet him, congregate around him

and seek remedies for physical or psychological maladies hampering their sports performance. Years later, Alim Bhai would joke to me: "I am like a doctor writing prescriptions!"

Slowly I began to learn more about Qazi Abdul Alim, the legend. He had won the individual championships at Salimullah Muslim Hall, Dhaka University and the then East Pakistan track championships for all his four years at the University. Several of his records at each of these championships remained unbroken, it appeared, for ever. He was just as good at jumping, hurdling, throwing and pole vaulting as he was in running. He was Pakistan champion in the pole vault. He even won boxing championships. For his enormous accomplishments in sports, in the 1950s the government of Pakistan sent him to the United States for further education and training.

Above all, Alim Bhai was a good mentor. I remember that in my freshman year, in March 1966, after representing "East Pakistan" at the Pakistan sports championship in Lahore, I was seriously considering transferring to Punjab University where the track facilities were far superior. I sought Alim Bhai's advice, and he dissuaded me. That is when he really took me under his wings. As in a "prescription," he wrote down exactly how I needed to weight train, how I should train for my main events (800 and 1500 meters) by running, in practice, shorter distances (100, 200 and 400 meters) at faster than the race pace. Thanks to him, I did succeed in breaking the Bangladesh record in

the 800 meters. If I did not achieve much more, it was due to my own shortcomings rather than Alim Bhai's lack of trying. Nevertheless, my winning Pakistan's only Rhodes Scholarship in 1970 had a lot to do with achievements in track, for which I shall always remain grateful to Alim Bhai. It was the running foundation that was built under the tutelage of Alim Bhai that enabled the writer to complete four New York City Marathons in his forties.

Even during the grueling practice sessions Alim Bhai was fun to be around. He was always cracking jokes, and sometimes out of frustration he would impersonate one of us to point out what we were doing wrong, much to the delight of the rest! Of course he had a wealth of knowledge about the Olympics and sports history. He described to us vividly the agony and ecstasy Roger Bannister felt while he became the first man to break the 4-minute barrier in the mile in 1954. "In the homestretch Bannister had nothing left," Alim Bhai recounted as though reading a suspense story to a bunch of awe-struck children. "But he knew he could not stop, because the whole world, possibly a knighthood, awaited him just beyond the finish line!" (Bannister was knighted in 1974). He would also tell us about the delight all the track and field people felt when the world's first two-time Olympic champion at decathlon (1948 and 1952), America's Bob Mathias, visited Dhaka. I shall forever cherish Alim Bhai's sports stories.

As we represented the then East Pakistan, I, as an athlete and he as a coach, in national/track champion-



ships at Lahore (1966), Rawalpindi (1967), Dhaka (1968), Peshawar (1969) and Karachi (1970), our friendship grew. I came to realise that Alim Bhai was the epitome of the ultimate perfect athlete. He never smoked. "Smoking is suicidal for an athlete; it destroys an athlete's stamina," he used to warn us. Thank God, smoking never tempted me. Occasionally, when I visited him in his office for a chat, I would have loved to have tea with him. Perhaps stretching the athlete's code a little too far, Alim Bhai never even drank tea! On rare occasions he would let his guard down. On one such occasion, while discussing the good things an athlete brings into a marriage, he said, "Athletes are better... (you know what!)"

Alim Bhai is an accomplished and a prolific writer, mostly on sports, but on other topics as well. I remember one of his Bengali books on quotations: "Bani Chirontoni." The sports gene runs through the entire Alim family. Two of his sisters were also Bangladesh champion-ship in track. It was my privilege to interview one of them in 1970 for a column I wrote for "Pakistan (Ban-

gladesh) Observer": "Veterans Calling." Of course it was my honour to interview my coach and mentor Alim Bhai for the same column.

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সিকিউরিটিজ ও এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
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No-SEC/Admin/20:01/93(part-VII)/ 28 November 2004

APPOINTMENT NOTICE

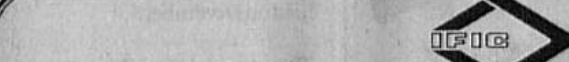
Securities and Exchange Commission, a statutory body under the Ministry of Finance, invites application from the Bangladeshi citizens for the appointment to the following vacant post:

- Name of post : Deputy Director.
- Pay scale : 9500-260*10-12100 along with other admissible allowances as per 5th grade of the National Pay Scale, 1997.
- Educational : At least 2nd class Master Degree in Finance, Business Administration, Accounting, Management, Economics or Statistics from any recognised university or Chartered Accountancy (Inter) or Cost and Management Accountancy certificate with at least 6 (six) years experience as a class-I officer in government or autonomous organisations or 6 (six) years experience as an Executive in reputed private sector financial or commercial organisations.
- Age : Not exceeding 35 years as on 01.01.2005.

Interested candidates are requested to apply in confidence along with latest CV, attested two passport size photographs, attested copies of all educational and experience certificates, citizenship certificate from the Union Council Chairman or Word Commissioner. Candidates having overseas degree/degrees must submit the copy of equivalency certificate from competent Bangladesh Authorities. The application must reach the Deputy Director (Admin), Securities & Exchange Commission, 15th Floor, Jiban Bima Tower, 10, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000 by 30 December 2004, after which no application will be received. Any persuasion or canvassing in any form will be treated as disqualification of the candidate. The candidates already in service with govt. or autonomous organisations must apply through proper channel. Only short-listed candidates will be called for test.

Md Mahbubul Alam
Deputy Director (Administration)
Securities and Exchange Commission

GD-752



INTERNATIONAL FINANCE INVESTMENT AND COMMERCE BANK LIMITED
Head Office : Shilpa Bank Bhavan (8th, 10th, 16th, 19th floors)
8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka- 1000.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The IFIC Bank Limited issued a notice to the shareholders and also published a notice in the local Daily newspapers for holding its 27th Annual General Meeting on 07.12.2004 but a shareholder of the Bank filed a suit in the 2nd Court of Asstt. Judge, Dhaka challenging the notice and the Hon'ble Court passed an Order of ad-interim Injunction not to hold the 27th Annual General Meeting of the Bank on 07.12.2004.

On behalf of IFIC Bank Limited

(A.K.M. Mozharul Hoque)
Company Secretary

2nd International Film Festival Bangladesh

at
STAR
Cineplex
2nd Dec. to 9th Dec. 2004

Date	Film	Morning	Mat 1	Mat 2	Evening 1	Evening 2
03-12-04 Thursday	Koi Mil Gaya (Hindi)	12:15 pm	2:15 pm	4:15 pm	6:15 pm	8:15 pm
	Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham (Hindi)	12:30 pm	3:30 pm	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	9:30 pm
	Munna Bhai M.B.B.S. (Hindi)	11:00 am	2:00 pm	5:00 pm	7:00 pm	9:00 pm
04-12-04 Friday	Munna Bhai M.B.B.S. (Hindi)	9:30 am	12:30 pm	3:30 pm	6:30 pm	9:30 pm
	Warish	11:30 am				
	Iti Srikant			2:30 pm	5:15 pm	8:00 pm
	Chokher Bali		4:45 pm			7:45 pm
	Homes Key	11:15 am				
04-12-04 Saturday	Shades of Ash		12:15 pm			
	Swing My Swinging, My Darling	11:15 am				
	Jail Gilt			4:00 pm	6:30 pm	9:30 pm
	Yuva (Hindi)	9:30 am	12:30 pm	3:30 pm	6:30 pm	9:30 pm
	Abar Ashibo Fire	11:30 am		2:10 pm	6:20 pm	
05-12-04 Sunday	Dil Chhata Hai (Hindi)	9:30 am	12:30 pm	3:30 pm	6:30 pm	9:30 pm
	JIVAN	11:30 am				
	Maria		1:30 pm			
	Shapner Ois				4:30 pm	7:30 pm
	The Year of The Devil				5:30 pm	
	Atlatayee					7:30 pm
	Travellers & Magicians	11:15 am				
	Distant		1:40 pm			
	Letter in the wind				6:00 pm	8:15 pm
	Python					9:30 pm
06-12-04 Monday	Phir Milenge (Hindi)	9:30 am	12:30 pm	3:30 pm	6:30 pm	9:30 pm
	Osama	11:30 am				
	The August Sun		1:30 pm			
	Falling Sky				5:30 pm	7:30 pm
	Teen Ekhe Teen	11:15 am				
	Little Man					
	Lalon		1:00 pm			
	Bedtime Fairytale for Crocodiles				5:40 pm	7:30 pm
	Candle in the Wind					7:30 pm
07-12-04 Tuesday	Bhagban (Hindi)	9:30 am	12:30 pm	3:30 pm	6:30 pm	9:30 pm
	Fifth Reaction	11:30 am				
	Two Women			2:00 pm		
	The Price of Forgiveness				5:00 pm	7:00 pm
	Joy Jatra					
	Lazaz	11:15 am				
	Hollway City			2:15 pm		
	Shankhanath				4:15 pm	6:15 pm
08-12-04 Wednesday	Rhakee	9:30 am	12:30 pm	3:30 pm	6:30 pm	9:30 pm
	Relationship	11:15 am				
	Love Without Border		1:45 pm			
	Ela				5:00 pm	
	Professional					7:00 pm
09-12-04 Thursday	Kal Ho Na Ho (Hindi)	9:30 am	12:30 pm	3:30 pm	6:30 pm	9:30 pm
	Moonlight	11:30 am				
	Blind Fight		1:00 pm			
	Mumbai Gangsters				9:30 pm	7:30 pm

Organized by Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies (BFFS)

STAR
Cineplex

Bashundhara City Shopping Mall, Level - 8, Panthapath, Dhaka-1205.
Tel: 9134098, 9138260. E-mail: showmotion@dhaka.net Web: www.cineplexbd.com

* Show times are subject to changes