

France to expel 10 radical Muslims

AFP, Paris

France will expel more than 10 radical Islamists by the end of next month including an Algerian who was to be deported as early as this week, Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said Thursday amid moves to tighten counter-terrorism measures.

"This week an Algerian national known for his hateful statements about our country and brother of a man who is in jail will be expelled," Sarkozy said in an interview with the newspaper Parisien to be published Friday.

"Ten other people, identified for promoting radical Islamist talk will be sent back to their country of origin by the end of August," he said.

After the July 7 bombings in London Sarkozy had said that France would expel radical Muslim clergymen who preach violence.

Sarkozy also pledged "zero tolerance" for Muslim leaders who encourage attacks such as the London carnage and said he would strip them of their French nationality.



PHOTO: AFP

The body of an Indian stampede victim is carried by neighbours and relatives before a funeral at the Nehru Nagar shantytown in Mumbai yesterday. Residents of a Mumbai shantytown stampeded on false rumours of a burst dam and tsunami waves advancing towards the coastleft more than 50 injured and 16 dead including seven children. Floods, landslides and building collapses caused by India's heaviest-ever recorded rainfall have now killed over 800 people in Maharashtra, including almost 300 in Mumbai which has been brought to a near-standstill.

Brazilian killed by UK cops mourned

De Menezes's visa expired in 2003: British Home Office

AFP, London

Friends and family of a young Brazilian man shot by anti-terrorist police in London remembered him, a week after his death, as investigators promised a full, independent inquiry into the bungled killing.

Almost all the 6,000 residents of De Menezes's home town of Gonzaga turned out to pay their respects as his body arrived home on Thursday. His funeral was scheduled for later Friday.

"This is a loss that all of Brazil has felt," said Luciano Batel da Silva, De Menezes' godfather.

Virtually the entire town massed in the streets of Gonzaga, many weeping and waving improvised white flags of surrender.

Alessandro Pereira, a cousin of Jean Charles de Menezes laid flowers at Stockwell Underground station in south London, where the

27-year-old electrician was chased before being shot dead on July 22.

Pereira was too overcome with emotion to speak, and a friend of the dead man paid tribute as mourners held hands in a circle and played music.

Police had followed De Menezes from an address they had been watching in connection with four failed suicide bomb attacks on subway trains and a bus the day before.

The head of Britain's Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) was also at Stockwell on Friday morning to help appeal for more witnesses to the shooting.

Nick Hardwick had unusually blunt words for officials at the Home Office, who on Thursday released information saying the Brazilian's visa had expired two years before his death, seen as a possible reason

why he seemingly tried to flee police.

Officials should "shut up" until the IPCC investigation reached its conclusions, Hardwick said.

"It's entirely irrelevant information. I'm rather surprised the Home Office should issue it," he said.

Home Office officials said they wished to end speculation over his immigration status but added it was not intended to influence any investigations.

The department's statement said Menezes arrived in the UK on 13 March 2002 and was granted entry for six months as a visitor.

He applied for leave to remain as a student, which was approved and he was granted leave to remain until 30 June 2003.

"We have no record of any further application or correspondence from Mr Menezes".

Karadzic's wife calls for him to surrender

AFP, Banja Luka

The wife of the fugitive Bosnian Serb wartime political leader Radovan Karadzic appealed Thursday for her husband to surrender to a UN war crimes tribunal to stand trial on genocide charges. "It is painful and difficult to ask you this, but nevertheless with all my heart and soul I beg you to surrender to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia," Ljiljana Karadzic said on Bosnian Serb television.

Her first such appeal for her husband to surrender during the decade he has been on the run from the UN war crimes tribunal coincided with increasing Western pressure on Serbia, Bosnian Serbs and the Karadzic family.

"It will be a sacrifice for us and our family... I ask you to take this decision and do it for us," she said, dressed all in black, through tears, holding her hands as if in prayer.

"In all my despair and powerlessness, it is the only thing I can do," she said.

MANMOHAN SINGH SAYS

Nuclear programme not harmed by US deal

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Premier Manmohan Singh told parliament Friday that a deal for access to civilian nuclear technology reached with the United States earlier this month would not limit the country's nuclear weapons program.

The basis of the agreement with the United States "was that India is a responsible nuclear power with an impeccable record on nuclear non-proliferation," Singh said.

"Our strategic assets are a source of national security and will continue to be so and remain outside the scope of our discussions with any external interlocutors," he said.

India first tested nuclear weapons in 1974 and then conducted a second round of tests in May 1998 which were matched by rival Pakistan. The tests brought economic sanctions from several countries, including the United States.

Most of the sanctions were lifted on India and Pakistan after the September 11, 2001 attacks in return for support in the "war on terror".

Singh statement's was his first to parliament since returning from a three-day state visit to the United States earlier this month where he reached an agreement with US President George W. Bush to increase cooperation in civilian nuclear technology to meet India's growing energy demands.

India is not a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which bars export of technology that could aid a nuclear program of any country that has not signed the treaty.

India has been denied access to large nuclear reactors and fuel for decades as a result of its refusal to sign the nuclear treaty.

The India-US civilian nuclear energy accord had evoked criticism in India with Singh's Communist allies and opposition groups accus-

ing him of giving away "flexibility" in deciding nuclear weapons strategy.

Chief among their arguments was that Bush had "merely made promises" with the US Congress had made "long-term and specific commitments" with serious security implications.

In the July accord, Singh had agreed to separate India's civilian and military nuclear programmes, open its facilities to International Atomic Energy Agency scrutiny and work to prevent nuclear proliferation.

On Friday, Singh said India's commitments were conditional on Washington fulfilling its promises on access to technology.

"Reciprocity is key to implementation of all steps in the joint statement," he said.

"Before voluntarily placing civilian facilities under international safeguards we will ensure all restrictions on India have been lifted," he said.

N Ireland awakes to new era of peace

AFP, Belfast

Northern Ireland woke up to the prospect of a lasting end to more than 30 years of violence after the IRA formally pledged to lay down its weapons and substitute the ballot box for the bullet.

The Irish Republican Army, which carried out shootings and bombings both in Northern Ireland and on the British mainland in its attempt to end London's rule of the territory, said it would now wage the struggle through peaceful means only.

"All IRA units have been ordered to dump arms," the Catholic paramilitary group said, a statement which, while long expected, was immediately hailed by the British, Irish and US governments as "historic".

The IRA move was welcomed around the world, with the European Union joining the chorus on Friday.

The EU's foreign policy chief Javier Solana, who was in Laos, called it a "historical event and we hope it will lead to a total finalization of that battle of the IRA."

Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Irish counterpart Bertie Ahern released separate and joint statements welcoming the breakthrough.

"If the IRA's words are borne out by actions, it will be a momentous and historic development," the two men said in a joint statement.

"This may be the day when finally after all the false dawns and dashed hopes, peace replaces war, politics replaces terror on the island of Ireland," added Blair in a separate comment. "This is a step of unparalleled magnitude in the recent history of Northern Ireland."

In an interview Friday with BBC Radio, Ahern said "I do not think we are going to build trust and confidence overnight and I don't think we'll do it in a matter of weeks."

"But I do hope that over a period of months as we see, hopefully, that all of these (disarmament) issues are fulfilled, it should allow us to get back to the business of trying to implement the Good Friday Agreement and the institutions."



PHOTO: AFP

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama hugs two girls on 28 July 2005 at the cure house of Wiesbaden, western Germany. A children's house will be built with German donations in Dharamsala, India, where the Dalai Lama is exiled.

Saddam questioned about Shias

AP, Baghdad

Saddam Hussein was called to a hearing where he was questioned about repression of the Shiite uprising in 1991, which erupted after US-led forces drove the Iraqi army out of Kuwait, the chief investigative judge said Friday.

Saddam was summoned Thursday, and answered questions alone during the 45-minute hearing, said Judge Raid Juhi of the Iraqi Special Tribunal, set up to try the former dictator.

Juhi said he expects to conclude the criminal investigation into

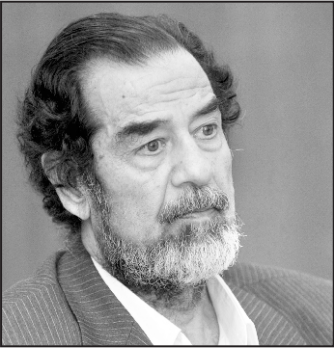


PHOTO: AFP

Saddam Hussein at the Iraq Special Tribunal.

Saddam's alleged crackdown against Shiites in southern Iraq, as well as his campaign in the late 1980s to force Iraqi Kurds from wide areas of the north. A trial date for the former dictator will be announced in the coming days, Juhi said.

Saddam is expected to stand trial in September for his alleged role in the 1982 massacre of Shiite Muslims in Dujail north of Baghdad. It will be the first of what are expected to be about a dozen trials involving Saddam and his key henchmen.

Hate crimes 'rise after UK bombs'

BBC NEWS ONLINE

The number of attacks on Asians has risen significantly since the London bombings, police and Muslim groups say. The number reported to the Islamic Human Rights Commission - not including those reported to police - has risen more than 13-fold, its chairman said.

The total number of "faith-related" attacks reported across London rose 500% compared with the same period last year, the Muslim Safety Forum says. This "backlash" is "exactly what those who promote terrorism want" police say.

Association of Chief Police Officers community and counter-terrorism head Assistant Chief Constable Rob Beckley told BBC News the police would protect Asians and Muslims.

"We have to, and we will, sustain a response to this."

The police have gone to great lengths to stress those suspected of involvement in the bombings are not from any single ethnic group.

But the Muslim Safety Forum, which works closely with the police monitoring the total number of incidents reported, blames "promi-

nent people within our society" and the media for saying all British Muslims share something in common with the bombers.

Islamic Human Rights Commission chairman Massoud Shadjareh is monitoring the number attacks on Asian people not reported to the police.

He told BBC News the commission was "extremely concerned at the escalation of backlash attacks against Muslims since 7/7".

"Normally we get something in the region of between six and seven every week."

"Now in less than two weeks we have had 170 reported to us alone."

The attacks, across the whole of the UK, covered "everything" from verbal abuse and spitting to arson, Mr Shadjareh added.

Nine mosques had been attacked, a garage firebombed, people assaulted in the street, and homes had had their windows broken, he told BBC News.

"It is really very worrying."

Three days after the 7 July bombings, Kamal Butt, 48, from Pakistan was murdered outside a corner shop in Nottingham.

Russia summons US envoy over Basayev interview

AFP, Moscow

Russia's foreign ministry summoned the US charge d'affaires Friday and expressed "strong indignation" over an interview aired on the ABC television network with radical Chechen rebel leader Shamil Basayev.

Daniel Russell, currently heading the Moscow embassy in the absence of the permanent ambassador, was summoned to hear "strong indignation with the fact of the airing of the Basayev interview on a national American television channel," a ministry spokesman told AFP.

Basayev, a veteran separatist guerrilla leader in the decade-old conflict with Russia, has claimed responsibility for several large-scale attacks on civilians, including last year's bloody mass hostage-taking at a school in Beslan, near Chechnya.

In his interview, thought to be the first face-to-face meeting with a journalist in years, Basayev said that similar attacks could be staged in the future.

FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM Pakistan agrees to work with 10 SE Asia nations

AFP, Vientiane

The country launched a crackdown on extremists after the three of the men behind the attacks on London's transport system on July 7 were found to have visited Pakistan before the bombings.

Authorities rounded up 600 suspected militants and Islamic clerics in a week-long crackdown after the bombings, officials said.

Pakistan is also a key US ally in its "war on terrorism", launched after the September 11 attacks on the United States.

The agreement with ASEAN "means we will be having a more cooperative exchange of information and intelligence-sharing between Pakistan and the ASEAN community," a Pakistani diplomat told AFP.

Terrorism is a particular concern for Pakistan, where Al Qaeda-linked militants are alleged to be hiding in remote tribal areas near the border with Afghanistan.

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PHOTO: AFP

World Health Organisation (WHO) and Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) Goodwill Ambassador Smriti Irani (C) holds a child being fed an ORS solution at a function to mark National ORS Day in New Delhi yesterday. Experts estimate that globally 2 million children will die due to dehydration from diarrhoea this year, mainly in developing countries. In India the figure is about 500,000 deaths per year.