

Man held for threatening to kill Obama

AFP, Washington

An elderly US veteran has been arrested for threatening to kill President Barack Obama in a murder-suicide, officials said yesterday.

Michael Bowden, from the southern state of South Carolina, told a nurse during a visit to a veterans' clinic that he "would like to shoot the president, then myself," according to a criminal complaint.

Bowden said he was "thinking of traveling to Washington, DC, to shoot the president because he is not doing enough to help African Americans," said a criminal complaint filed in a South Carolina court.

Secret Service spokesman Edwin Donovan said Bowden is 77 and white. He was arrested on November 18.

Authorities searched Bowden's home and found four fully loaded semi-automatic weapons near his bed, along with spare ammunition, the criminal complaint said.

Afghan 'peace talks' impostor paid by MI6

REUTERS, London

A man posing as a Taliban leader who had talks with Afghanistan's president was paid and promoted by British intelligence, a newspaper said yesterday.

British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) agents paid Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour from May this year, believing they had achieved an "historic breakthrough" in forging contacts between the Taliban and the Afghan government, The Times said.

"Far from being a former Taliban government minister, the individual concerned is now thought to have been a shopkeeper, a minor Taliban commander, or simply a well-connected chancer from the Pakistani border city of Quetta," it said.

"The British were convinced of the man's bona fides and flew 'Mansour' from Quetta to Kabul on a British C130 transport aircraft on a number of occasions," it reported.

Intelligence officers based in Islamabad made contact with the man and it was believed that the US had helped Britain check the man's bona fides, The Times reported.

He was then flown from the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta to Kabul on Royal Air Force

Hercules planes on several occasions, adds AFP.

Afghan officials told The Times that a meeting took place with Karzai in his Kabul palace, although Afghan President Karzai denied on Tuesday that there had been any such meeting.

Karzai said his government had not met anyone named Mansour.

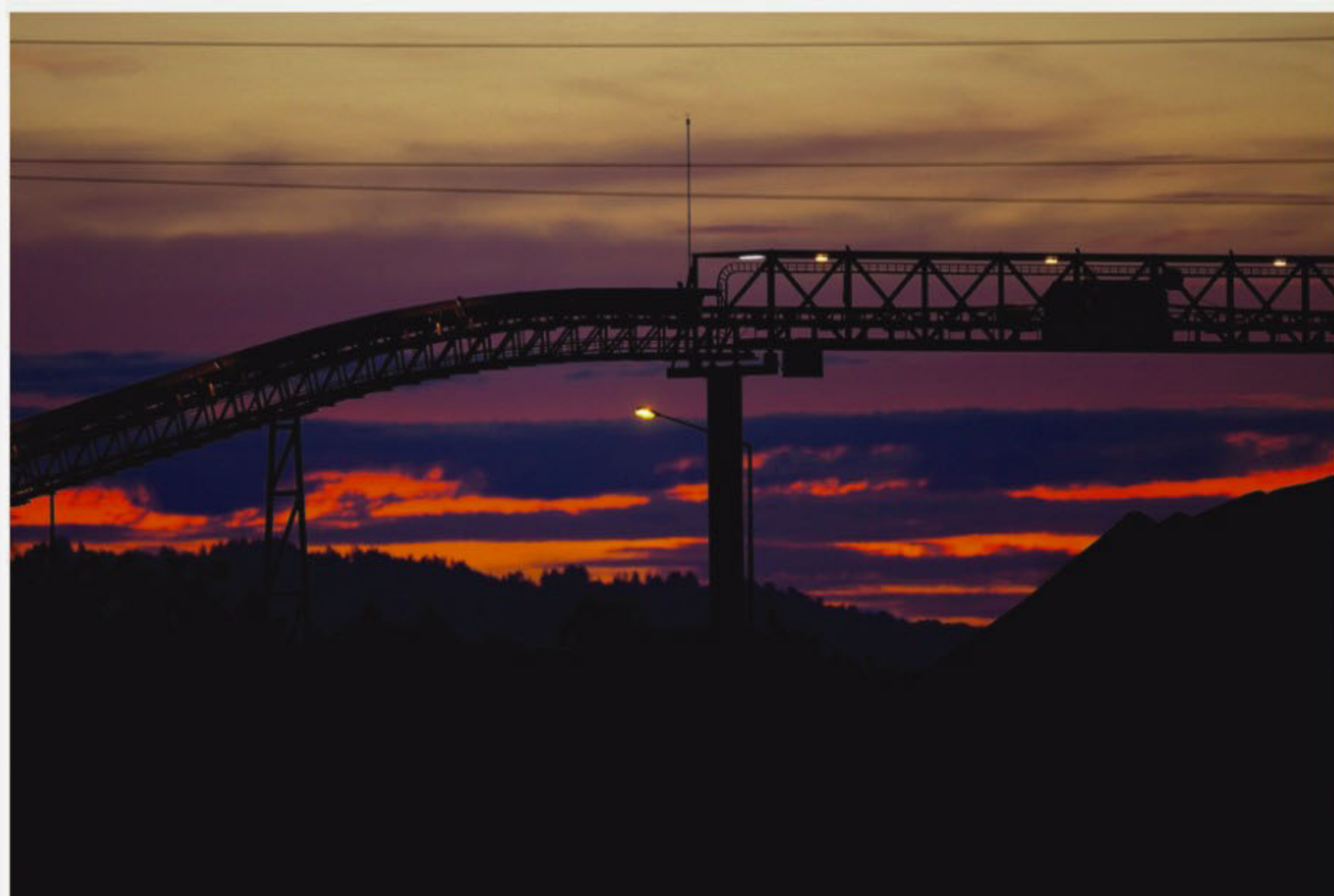
US newspapers including The New York Times said earlier this week that a man described as a "Taliban leader" who had taken part in "secret peace talks" with the Afghan government was in fact an impostor.

On Tuesday, The Washington Post reported two senior Afghan officials believed the man was a "lowly shopkeeper" from Quetta, the Pakistan town where the Taliban leadership fled in 2001.

Asked for comment, a Foreign Office spokesman said: "We can neither confirm nor deny details of operations."

Newspaper reports in the United States and Europe last month raised interest that high-level talks, sponsored by Nato, had been held between the Afghan government and Taliban leaders.

The Times quoted a senior Afghan government official as saying on Thursday: "British Intelligence was naive and there was wishful thinking on our part."



Machinery is seen at the Pike River coalmine as the recovery operation for the bodies of 29 coal miners trapped underground continues. A third explosion yesterday rocked a New Zealand colliery where the miners died in an earlier blast.

PHOTO: AFP

India marks Mumbai attack anniversary

AP, Mumbai

India marked the second anniversary of the Mumbai terror attack yesterday with sombre ceremonies and a renewed promise to seek justice for the 166 people slain in an assault that has set back peace efforts with archrival Pakistan.

The 60-hour siege by 10 Pakistani militants, which has been called India's 9/11, paralysed the financial capital and deeply wounded the national psyche.

The gunmen attacked ordinary commuters in a train station, targeted the rich and famous at luxury hotels, killed tourists at a popular cafe, overwhelmed the local police force and took over a Jewish centre.

The attack froze peace efforts between India and Pakistan to resolve their six-decade-old conflict.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday pledged to redouble efforts to bring the perpetrators of Mumbai attack to justice, adds Pallab Bhattacharya, our New Delhi correspondent.

In a statement on the remembrance day of the attack, he said, "We will never succumb to the designs of our enemies. We pledge to redouble our efforts to bring the perpetrators of this crime against humanity to justice."

"Two years ago this day, Mumbai was subjected to a brutal terrorist attack that claimed the lives of hundreds of innocent people. The nation joins the bereaved families in remember-



PHOTO: AFP

Children in Amritsar yesterday pay tribute to those killed in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

ing and mourning those who perished in this barbaric attack.

"On this day of remembrance, we salute the courage, unity and resolve of ordinary Mumbaikars and the brave and selfless actions of our men in uniform during the attack. It is this spirit and strength of character of the Indian people that will defeat such forces that seek to threaten our social fabric and way of life", he said.

The prime minister's remarks came a day after India sent a stern reminder to Pakistan on extradition of masterminds of the Mumbai terror attacks, including Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Sayeed and senior commander Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi.

Teenagers arrive in Fiji after Pacific ordeal

BBC ONLINE

Three teenage boys found alive after at least 50 days in a boat in the Pacific Ocean have arrived safely in Fiji.

The boys, from the Tokelau Islands, a New Zealand-administered territory in the South Pacific, had been given up for dead after an unsuccessful search.

The boys survived on coconuts, water they trapped on a tarpaulin and a seabird they managed to catch.

Tanu Filo, the father of one of the boys, described the rescue as a "miracle".

"The whole village, they were so excited and cried and they sang songs and were hugging each other in the road. Everybody was yelling and shouting the good news," he told New Zealand radio.

A public hospital with a difference

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group of dedicated doctors, said Project Director Dr Samanta Lal Sen.

Before its launch there were very few burn specialists and the patients hardly got treatment in an organised manner. But now there are some expert doctors, modern equipment and important medicines, he added.

Death rate at the unit was 17.94 percent in 2004, but it came down to 4.31 percent in 2009, according to statistics. As many as 1,020 patients were admitted to the unit in 2004 and 183 of them died, while the number of patients in 2009 was 11,112 and that of casualties 480.

Dr Sen believes the recovery rate can be increased to 60 percent if the unit got more modern equipment and an ICU able to accommodate more patients. In Japan which is the best in treating burn patients, the recovery rate is over 70 percent, he added.

On the specialised 50-bed unit, Dr Sen said in 1982 late professors Mohammad Shahidullah and Kabiruddin of DMCH felt the necessity for a coordinated treatment facility

for burn patients as many got their limbs deformed only because of minor burns.

They started finding burn patients from different wards and providing them with proper treatment. In February 1986 under the leadership of Prof Shahidullah they made a proposal to the government to set up a separate burn unit.

Despite many hurdles they continued pursuing the plan and finally their dream came true in December 2003 under a government project, said Dr Sen, who was a junior doctor under the two late professors and took over the responsibility from his teachers.

A separate eight-bed Intensive Care unit (ICU) has been added to the unit around five months ago, while it got five separate operating theatres (OTs) since its inception. Dr Sen said the OTs need to be fitted with more modern equipment for better treatment and the ICU should have 30 beds.

Now around 250 patients receive treatment at the 50-bed unit at the same time around the year.

Dr Sen also stressed the

need for further specialised training for doctors and nurses and increasing the number of doctors.

Patients say recovery of the burn patients mainly depend on proper dressing by a trained doctor. It is often done by outsiders who have gained some skill by the time. The insiders inform that such dressing sometimes causes excessive bleeding and infection leading to even death of the patients.

Dr Sen admitted the fact saying sometimes outsiders do that due to shortage of doctors.

Despite the laudable successes, there are some dark parts too. Relatives of patients often allege that hardly any doctors and nurses are found in the general wards. Allegations are also rife that doctors do not stay at the unit even during the office hours.

Asked, Dr Sen said he would look into the matter if he receives any specific complaint.

Apart from the DMCH unit, only Chittagong Medical College Hospital got a 10-bed burn unit this year.



Delivery Ceremony of Grona Ammersum & Grona Biessum

Friday, 26 November 2010

The largest vessels ever built in Bangladesh are to sail for Germany

Western Marine Shipyard in Chittagong is to create a milestone in the history of Bangladesh on 26th December 2010 by delivering the "Grona Ammersum" & "Grona Biessum" – two 5,200 DWT Multi-purpose vessels. These 100 meter long Ice-class vessels are the largest sister vessels ever built in Bangladesh at a time. These vessels will be delivered to its owner GRONA Shipping based in Leer, Germany from Chittagong marking a milestone in the country's emerging shipbuilding industry. These ships will sail in the seven seas with the sign "Made in Bangladesh", which will reflect the good image of our country in the entire world. These vessels will be recognized as a symbol that **Bangladesh is rising.**

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