

DUNNBOYZ



Police arrest 13 in anti-terror operation

By Beth Gardiner
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Police conducted anti-terrorism raids in London and several towns Tuesday, arresting 13 people believed involved in preparing terrorist acts.

London's Metropolitan Police said the afternoon and evening arrests were "part of a pre-planned, ongoing intelligence-led operation."

The men were detained "on suspicion of being concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism," the police statement said, without elaborating.

The arrests did not appear to be linked to information Pakistani authorities recently said they had uncovered about threats to Britain and America.

The police said the arrests were in northwest London, suburban Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and in Lancashire, northwestern England. The Lancashire raid was in the town of Blackburn and the Hertfordshire arrests were in Luton, police said.

Detectives were searching homes in all those places in operations expected to take time to finish, police said.

The suspects, who are all in their 20s and 30s, will be brought to a central London police station for questioning by anti-terrorism officers, police said. They declined to specify the men's nationalities, but the British Broadcasting Corp. said they were all of South Asian descent and some were

thought to be British citizens.

"Today's operation is part of continuing and extensive inquiries by police and the security service into alleged international terrorism," the police statement said.

Police suggested the raids were not linked to the terror threats disclosed by American authorities Sunday to financial industry buildings in New York, Washington D.C., and Newark, N.J.

Pakistan's information minister said Monday his country found plans for new attacks against the United States and Britain on a computer seized during the arrest last month of a senior al-Qaida suspect wanted for the 1998 U.S. embassy bombings in East Africa.

Asked whether the Tuesday raids were linked to the recent Pakistani discovery, police declined to answer directly, but noted that the investigation leading to the arrests had been underway for some time.

While British authorities say the threat from terrorism remains high, they have not warned of any specific threat like that announced in the United States. The intelligence behind the latest U.S. terror warnings was as much as four years old, and law enforcement officials are trying to determine whether the plot was current, with terrorists still trying to organize such an attack.

Police will have up to two weeks to hold the men before deciding whether to charge them, but courts grant that permission only a few days at a time.

Democrats

Continued from page 1

who questions the rationale behind the warnings. Ridge said the old intelligence was updated in January, but he didn't provide details to satisfy his skeptics.

"We don't do politics in the Department of Homeland Security," he said.

One top GOP operative, who works closely with Bush's political team, said the White House appeared to overplay its hand, and voters may smell politics behind the warning. A senior U.S.

intelligence official said there is no doubt that the United States is in constant danger, but he was concerned enough about the timing of the announcement to ask colleagues in a weekend meeting, "Why? Why now? Why are we raising alarms about this now?"

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared retribution from the White House.

What kept Kerry and his campaign quiet is a more complicated matter. The candidate quickly distanced himself from former rival Dean, telling CNN: "I haven't suggested that and I won't suggest that. I do not hold that opinion."

Campaign officials said Kerry would like to believe that Bush is acting in the nation's interest. Even if he didn't give Bush the benefit of the doubt, there are enormous political risks to Kerry questioning the president's motives, the officials said, because a subsequent terrorist strike would make him look politically craven and shortsighted.

Criticizing the commander in chief for putting the nation on alert also wouldn't

help Kerry persuade voters tough enough for the job, the said on condition of anonymity.

The Democratic strategy is the terrorism warnings to ante. Instead of questioning levels have been increased, Kerry's surrogates have tried to fight about what Bush has done — to do — to make the country since Sept. 11, 2001.

If Kerry strategists are correct both undercuts Bush's strong suit and burnishes the Democratic credentials as commander in chief.

"We are not going to get

... it's clear that the dangers we face are real and that we are not as safe as we can or should be.

— Brooke Anderson
deputy comm. director,
Kerry's national security team

debate over the announcement, politically because it's clear the dangers we face are real and that we are not as safe as we can or should be," Anderson, deputy communications director, Kerry's national security team, said Tuesday. A day earlier, he asked the president to implement the Commission's recommendations, with an article: "If the president has a sense of urgency, he would call the Congress to get the job done now."

By inference, Kerry was asking: How serious is Bush about terrorism warning if he would Congress to stay on summer vacation. In Iowa, Gov. Tom Vilsack said Ridge's warnings serious and vital, but he said they would be credible if the funding were the homeland security.

Retired Gen. Merrill A. McAuliffe, Kerry supporter who was Air chief of staff during the first Gulf War, said he did not think administration raised the alert for political reasons.

Motorcycle clubs shrug off gang image

By Daniel Lovering
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PATTAYA, Thailand — The pack cruises into town on machines gleaming with chrome, their revving engines startling bystanders. They wheel up to a local bar and park carefully, putting their iron steeds to rest.

The Black Rose Motorcycle Club has arrived.

This band of bikers — most of them Westerners clad in leather and denim — probably wouldn't attract much attention on the streets of San Francisco or Chicago. But on the palm-fringed roads of coastal Thailand, they are more than a touch exotic. Pedestrians gawk. A teenager gives a thumbs-up.

The group is one of the 20 to 30 motorcycle clubs thought to be operating in this

Southeast Asian country, many of which count among their members dozens of Westerners, including oil industry workers, soldiers, pilots, mechanics and musicians.

"We're riding fools," says Lewis Underwood, 55, of San Francisco, who co-founded The Jesters Motorcycle Club in 1996 in Pattaya, a southeastern Thai resort notorious for its tawdry nightclubs and sex businesses. A bar owner, Underwood has lived in Thailand for more than 20 years.

Motorcycle clubs like the Black Rose Club cater to bikers of all ilk, but several — like Underwood's — are dedicated to riders of classic American-style cruisers, particularly those made by Harley-Davidson.

As recently as the 1980s, Harleys were rare in Thailand, often imported by individual enthusiasts. But demand for the bikes grew along with Thailand's

economy, which boomed for a decade starting in the mid-1980s. A dealership opened in the capital, Bangkok, in 1996.

When the local baht currency tumbled during the region's 1997 financial crisis, many foreigners in Thailand rushed to buy Harleys at rock-bottom prices, and the ranks of biker clubs swelled.

The big American motorcycles remain out of reach for most Thais. New Harleys cost as much as \$24,500.

The biker clubs project a roughish image, with names that evoke the street gang culture of 1950s America: The Jesters, The Immortals, Heaven's Devils, The Ravens. But despite their tough appearance, many foreign bikers reject the lawlessness associated with motorcycle gangs like the Hell's Angels. The goal of riding is fun, companionship and even fund-raising for charity, they say.

Commons

Continued from page 1

Stone Willy's pizza, Chick-fil-A and Common Denominator Grill & Deli, will remain in operation.

The changes are taking place because the number of students eating at the dining center was decreasing, and it has been running a deficit for the past three years, Beard said.

Beard said that only two out of 10 Southside residents regularly eat at the dining center, while five out of 10 consistently eat the "fast food" upstairs. Three out of 10 eat their meals elsewhere on campus, including Sbsa and the Memorial Student Center, he said. Beard said the number of students eating breakfast at the Commons Dining

Center dropped from 900 students before 2001 to 450 students in the past two years. The number of students eating lunch or dinner dropped 1,700 students before 2001 to 700 the past two years.

Beard said that a Southside student forum in March 2003 and surveys showed that students value grab-and-go food and convenience more than all-you-can-eat cafeteria.

Southside students want a food court similar to the Underground, which is located near the Northside dorms, Beard said.

Fire safety codes also contributed to the decision to move upstairs, Beard said. It would have cost \$16 million more than it cost to renovate Southside to redo the Commons Dining Center, Beard said.

Ford

Continued from page 1

spark new insights and collaborations."

Ford studies the adsorption and transport of microporous materials. This knowledge helps create optimal adsorbent materials for separation and reaction processes in the chemical industry. Primarily, he builds models of systems on a small scale. Based on how the molecules interact, he makes predictions about how material will behave on a visible scale, Ford said.

"In lay terms, he is modeling physical phenomena and chemical processes at the most basic level," said Dr. M. Sam Mannan, director of Mary Kay O'Conner Process Safety Center. "To be able to look at how things behave and understand it at the molecular level is really a frontier of research."

Ford's work is noteworthy because he combines scientific work, research and theory to develop

research tools that will advance the scientific enterprise, Ford said.

Ford is also the third chemical engineer to receive the prestigious P.E.C.A.S.E. award in 2000 after receiving the Career Award in that year as well. Only a handful of engineers receive the P.E.C.A.S.E. award from the White House, which is selected by the president's science adviser, Mannan said.

Ford graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1991 with a degree in chemical engineering. He later obtained his master's degree and doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. Ford has been at Texas A&M since 1997.

"At the symposium, (Ford) will be able to give the fruits of his research to the people who need it out there," Mannan said. "People of his caliber from all over the nation are coming, and it's a big recognition issue for A&M. Things are happening there, and for A&M to be at that table is a good thing."

Crash

Continued from page 1

"It was devastating, to actually see it happen and know that there probably would not be a survivor," he said. "I suppose he was having engine problems. I think that's what it was. He just couldn't gain the altitude."

Ann Lowe, 19, who lives across the fairway from where the plane crashed said she heard the plane fly low over her house and then saw it disappear below the treeline. She ran outside, heard screams and then noticed her neighbor's house.

"I felt the heat and heard windows exploding in the house," she said.

Five bodies were recovered from the wreckage, but emergency crews were still working Tuesday afternoon to get the sixth

from the smoldering home, Manges said. The plane hit a 3- to 4-foot retaining wall between the home and the golf course, plopped into the home's back patio area, plane's cockpit is lodged in the charred blackened rear of the house and small pieces of it litter the yard.

Todd Moore, who lives about 600 feet from the house, was golfing when the plane crashed. He said he ran to the house, seeing a plume of smoke to see if the couple who lived there was OK. He declined to name the couple, but Brown identified them as Laurence and Jacqueline Elliott.

He said neighbors told him Elliott's plane approaching as he stood on the patio, and he ran to his wife in the house, grabbed her and ran out of the house. Apparently an appliance repairman was in the home, witnesses said.

Aggieland Depot
Diploma Framing
www.aggieland-depot.com
Post Oak Village • 900 Harvey Road
695-1422

If You Have Something To Sell,
Remember Classifieds Can Do It!
Call 845-0569
THE BATTALION

Why bother with parking when you can walk to TAMU?
- New LOWER prices
- Only 2 blocks from TAMU
- Now preleasing for summer/fall

Casa Del Sol
696-3455

FREE RENT

Texas A&M	
University Dr	College Main
Church St	
Stacy St	
Nipple St	
Cross St	Casa Del Sol

aggie.inn@verizon.net

what's **in** at inspirations this week...

Post Oak Mall
764-4444

THE BATTALION

Joshua Hobson, Editor in Chief

Elizabeth Webb, Managing Editor
Brian Cain, News Editor
Julie Bone, AggieLife Editor
Jordan Meserole, Sports Editor
Sara Foley, Opinion Editor

Lauren Rouse, Copy Chief
Ruben DeLuna, Graphics Editor
JP Beato III, Photo Editor
Kendra Kingsley, Radio Producer
Yen Cao, Webmaster

STAFF MEMBERS

AGGIELIFE — Lydia Adams, David Barry, Daniel Chapman, Jose Cruz, Amber Gray, Jimmy Hissong, Will Knous, Carrie Pierce, Jay Slovacek, Christina Teichman, Teresa Weaver
CRUISE — Joanna Jamison, Shawn Millender, Carrie Pierce, Michael Player, Erin Price, Pammy Ramji, Miles Sasser, Chelsea Sledge, James Twine, Natalie Younts
COPIES — Tori Foster, Lindsey Forson, Nikki Knight, Kara Ryan, Rachel Valencia
GRAPHICS — Gracie Arenas, Andrew Burleson, Rylie Deyoe, Ivan Flores, Will Lloyd, Tony Piedra
OPINION — John David Blakley, Kristina Blum, Nicholas Davis, George Deutsch, Chris Lively, Matt Maddox, Clint Rainey, Cody Smith, David Shoemaker, Jonathan Smith, Joseph Steed, Kelley Sweeney, Mike Walters
PHOTO — Sharon Aeschbach, Heath Cravens, Randal Ford, Whitney Martin, Alejandra Martinez, David Morris, Evan O'Connell, Brian Willis
SPORTS — Ryan Irby, Nikki Knight
NEWS/AGGIELIFE — Kyle Carter, Bobby Reynoso
ADVERTISING — Michael Bingham, Scott Dennis, Lauren Schulman

THE BATTALION (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Periodicals Postage Paid at College Station, TX 77840. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, 1111 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Media. News offices are in 014 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647; E-mail: news@thebattalion.net; Web site: http://www.thebatt.com

Advertising: Publication of advertising does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by The Battalion. For campus, local, and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald Building and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-2678.

Subscriptions: A part of the Student Services Fee entitles each Texas A&M student to pick up a single copy of The Battalion. First copy free, additional copies \$25. Mail subscriptions are \$60 per school year, \$30 for the fall or spring semester, \$17.50 for the summer or \$10 a month. To charge by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express, call 845-2611.