

NEW DELHI: David Coleman Headley, the Pakistan-origin US national who is suspected of plotting another version of 26/11, showed his feelings for

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India in emails to his old schoolmates. Writing about India earlier this year, after the Mumbai attacks when ties between India and Pakistan were particularly low, Headley is reported to have said, "We will retaliate against India." (Watch Video)

These messages were sent by Headley to a Yahoo groups site with his former schoolmates from Hasan Abdal military school in Pakistan. The students call themselves 'Abdalians'. These remarks were part of impassioned discussions about politics and Islam, a report in the New York Times said.

In the aftermath of the Mumbai blasts, when Pakistan feared that India would attack it, terror group leaders like Baitullah Mehsud openly came out to say that they would fight against India on the side of Pakistan if hostilities broke out. Headley was clearly of the same persuasion.

The NYT report said that in his email chats, Headley also complained about "NATO criminal vermin dropping 22,000 lbs bombs on unsuspecting, unarmed Afghan villagers" or "napalming southeast Asian farmers".

When a Polish engineer was beheaded by the Taliban in Pakistan, Headley wrote, "The best way for a man to die is with the sword." The FBI indictment against Headley, the report said, shows that Headley was at ease being both Islamic Pakistani and American. But somewhere along the line, though he embraced the American name David Headley, his beliefs were hardening into more extremist directions.

His uncle William Headley, who owns a day care centre in Nottingham, Pennsylvania, was quoted as saying, "Most people have contradictions in their lives but they learn to reconcile them. But Daood could never do that. The left side does not speak to the right side. And that's the problem." A news report by New York Times paints terror accused David Coleman Headley as someone with a Pakistani Muslim wife in Chicago but a make-up artist as a girlfriend in New York.

In an email posting to his schoolmates, he said, "Some of us are saying that 'terrorism' is the weapon of the cowardly... I will say that you may call it barbaric or immoral or cruel, but never cowardly." He added, "Courage is, by and large, exclusive to the Muslim nation."

The cases of Headley and the Fort Hood shooter Major Nidal Hasan has focused attention on home-grown Islamism in the US.

Headley, like 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, did not come from the poor, indoctrinated madrasas of Pakistan, instead hailed from a more educated westernised background. Headley was born in Washington to parents who worked as diplomats and officials at the Pakistani embassy. Not long after their wedding, Headley's mother Serill left Pakistan because she could not reconcile to the life there and moved back to the US. Headley was brought back to the US by his mother in 1977 to live as an American.

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David Coleman Headley, also known as Daood Sayed Gilani, made frequent visits to the Indian city where he mixed with the Bollywood set as a cover for his activities, it is claimed.

He joined a local gym in the upmarket Breach Candy area and stayed at the Taj Mahal hotel, one of the targets, in April and May 2007.

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Britain at risk from Mumbai-style shootings In fact, according to a US indictment, Headley, 49, was a freelance reconnaissance agent for terrorist groups including Lashkar-e-Taiba, the group behind the Mumbai attacks a year ago that killed 173 people.

Sources have told the Daily Telegraph that the British collected vital information that identified Headley, a US citizen living in Chicago who was arrested in October. They declined to give further details for operational reasons.

British intelligence was responsible for the arrest of another US terrorist suspect, Najibullah Zazi, 24, who was allegedly planning attacks on the New York subway when he was arrested in Denver in September.

Investigators in India are still trying to piece together Headley's activity in the country around the crucial period, when he posed as a businessman running an immigration service.

He is said to have befriended a man called "Rahul" who has identified himself to Indian police as Rahul Bhatt, a young actor from one of Bollywood's leading families.

Apart from his visit to the Taj in 2007, when he stayed in the heritage building attacked by the terrorists the following year, he also visited Delhi, staying in the city's Paharganj area, in October 2007 and March 2009.

He is reported to have rented an apartment close to his gym in Mumbai from April 2008, where his landlady has described him as a "sweet and charming man."

His alleged associate, Tahawwur Hussain Rana, 48, a Canadian living in Chicago, stayed in a guest house in south Mumbai close to the Chhatrapati Shivaji railway station, another target, until November 21 last year, five days before the attacks, when he returned to North America.

Headley himself was in Pakistan at the time of the attacks working on another plan he called the "Mickey Mouse Project."

Headley and Rana, both attended the Hasan Abdal Cadet College in Pakistan and were members of an internet group called the Abdalians.

Five Pakistani army officers were arrested this week in connection with their activities. One Pakistani officer, referred to in US legal documents as "Individual A," is said to have acted as Headley's link to LeT and another group called Harakat ul- Jihad Islami, both of which are associated with al-Qaeda.

Headley, whose father was a Pakistani diplomat, and mother an American embassy worker, moved back to America with his mother as a teenager and has a conviction for heroin trafficking.

While investigations continue into Headley's activities in India he has been charged in Chicago with a number of other terrorist offences.

He is accused of plotting an attack on the culture editor and cartoonist who published cartoons of the prophet Mohammed in the Jyllands-Posten newspaper in Denmark.

Headley allegedly exchanged emails about the Danish plot, which he named the "Mickey Mouse Project," in 2008 before making a reconnaissance trip to Copenhagen and Arhus, Denmark in January 2009.

He then traveled to the tribal areas of Pakistan, allegedly to meet his handler, Ilyas Kashmiri, leader of the al-Qaeda linked group Harakat ul-Jihad Islami, before returning to the US six months later.

When reports circulated that Kashmiri had died in a drone attack in September, Headley allegedly returned to talking to a senior member of LeT.

Documents reveal he was asked to scout out another target in India as a follow-up to the Mumbai attacks.

He was arrested after discovering Kashmiri was still alive and trying to fly out to Pakistan to meet him.

In an intercepted phone call to a family member shortly before his arrest Headley was allegedly caught telling them in code that he did not care which terrorist organisation he worked for, adding: "I don't care if I am working for Microsoft or I am working for any...GE or Philips. I don't care, as long as I am making money [said to mean launching attacks]. I don't give a s**"

3.

NEW DELHI: In a shocking disclosure, it has come to light that the hoax caller who tried to spark off a war between India and Pakistan by

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threatening Pakistani President Asif Zardari pretending to be foreign minister Pranab Mukherjee was British jihadi and Daniel Pearl's killer Omar Sheikh. (Watch Video)

Sheikh, currently in Hyderabad jail in Pakistan after being convicted for the murder of Pearl, the American journalist who was working on an expose of Pak-based terror groups, used a UK registered SIM card to place a call to Zardari, according to a report in Dawn, a Pakistani English daily newspaper. The report also mentions that the London School of Economics-trained jihadi tried to also speak to Mukherjee pretending to be Zardari. Though Sheikh could not get through to Mukherjee, he managed to speak with the chief of Pakistan army, Ashfaq Kiyani.

The hoax call was made in the immediate aftermath of 26/11 when tensions between India and Pakistan ran high. The revelation ties in with the assessment of US agencies that the Mumbai attack was designed to provoke hostilities between the two neighbours so as Pakistan army got an alibi to stop helping US's drive against Taliban.

The deception had caused considerable consternation for the ease with which the caller managed to get through to Zardari as well as for the belief that the man issuing threats was the Indian minister himself.

After his release in the infamous Kandahar swap along with Jaish-e-Mohammed leader Masood Azhar and Mushtaq Zargar, Sheikh had immediately surfaced in Pakistan and got back to his jihadi ways. While Azhar set up the terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed with the backing of the Pakistani military establishment, the LSE-trained Sheikh had baited and then brutally killed Pearl.

If the Dawn report is accurate, Sheikh was able to procure and use a western SIM despite being in the dock for a serious and well-publicised crime. He called both Zardari and army chief Ashfaq Kayani after the Mumbai attacks in what is suspected to be an attempt to trigger a showdown between India and Pakistan when tensions were running extremely high.

He called Mukherjee's office saying that he was president of Pakistan but failed to get through to the foreign minister. "Omar Saeed Sheikh was the hoax caller. It was he who threatened the civilian and military leaderships of Pakistan over telephone. And he did so from inside Hyderabad jail," said the paper quoting investigators.

After the hoax calls last year, the Pakistani leaders had gone to town claiming that Mukherjee had threatened to strike Pakistan. The newspaper report cited the raid in Hyderabad jail on November 29 in which 12 SIM cards were seized along with mobile phones.

"I don't know much but it is true that some mobile SIMs and mobile sets were recovered from Omar Saeed Sheikh when he was in Hyderabad jail. I got him transferred to Karachi jail because that is a far better place for such high-profile terrorists," the paper quoted Allauddin Abbasi, DIG Prisons, Hyderabad, as saying.

After his release in 1999, Sheikh is supposed to have developed close links with LeT commander Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and Ilyas Kashmiri, the man who also handled David Coleman Headley. The Pakistan military spokesperson, however, denied the report saying that it couldn't be true.

Sheikh, who was in jail in India before Kandahar for his role in the 1994 kidnapping of western nationals, is said to have called up Mukherjee late in the evening on November 28.

"He told an operator handling Mr Mukherjee's calls that he was the President of Pakistan. Indian officials started verification as part of security precautions and, after some time, the operator informed Omar Saeed (who was posing to be Pakistan's president) that the foreign minister would get in touch with him soon. Omar now made a call to President Asif Ali Zardari and then the Chief of Army Staff," the paper said quoting anonymous sources. It added that Sheikh also made an attempt to talk to the US secretary of state.

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NEW DELHI: It's a plot that could be straight out of the bluff-and-double-bluff worlds created by John le Carre and Frederick Forsyth. Only, it

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seems to have played out in real life, to the tragic misfortune of hundreds of innocent people. The tantalising possibility that David Coleman Headley may have been a US undercover agent who turned rogue is vexing many here as American authorities keep the US-based Lashkar jihadi out of the reach of Indian investigators.

To make the tale even more dramatic, Headley may just have provided American intelligence agencies information that prevented a Lashkar attack on Mumbai in September. The theory -- and it's still a theory -- is that Headley was used to infiltrate the Lashkar, but gradually went astray under the influence of the very terrorists he was supposed to be spying upon.

Torn between conflicting loyalties, he may have continued to give information to his American handlers, and a tip-off by him may even have helped avert a Lashkar attack originally planned for September. But he seems to have committed fully to Lashkar shortly after that, which could be one reason why American agencies were caught napping by 26/11.

During his interactions in India, Headley frequently introduced himself as a CIA agent. But suspicions that he's a rogue agent stem more from the just-released information that Headley, a man with one

green and one brown eye, could straddle America and Pakistan with ease despite a run-in with the law in the US.

A recent profile in the New York Times said that in 1998, Headley (then known as Daood Gilani) was convicted of conspiring to smuggle heroin into US from Pakistan. "Court records show that after his arrest, he provided so much information about his own involvement with drug trafficking which stretched back more than a decade and about his Pakistani suppliers that he was sentenced to less than two years in jail and later went to Pakistan to conduct undercover surveillance operations for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)," the NYT report said.

This suggests that Headley had a deal with authorities in the US who allowed him to get away with mild punishment in exchange for a promise of cooperation.

To many here, that also implies that he was a known entity to the counter-terror and drug enforcement authorities in the US. After 9/11, the walls between these agencies had come down because of the links between drugs and terrorism, particularly in the context of Pakistan-Afghanistan where there is a huge overlap between the functions of the DEA and CIA. Surprisingly, the FBI affidavit against Headley doesn't mention his tryst with the DEA.

FBI's affidavit against Headley says that he changed his name from Daood Gilani to David Coleman Headley in 2006 to hide his history as an offender. As he told border police in August 2009, it was to give himself the freedom to travel undetected -- he said the new name aroused much less suspicion when he travelled.

It is a fact that terrorists are masking their religious identity to get past the counter-terror surveillance, with terror groups seeking to recruit Caucasians for fresh strikes. But many doubt here that the mere switching of names could have worked in Headley's case given his brush with law but more because of the destinations he was flying to.

Given Pakistan's unquestioned reputation as the hub of global terror, people travelling to and from the country automatically pop up on the scanner at airports across the globe. Headley, to boot, would often meet his contacts in UAE -- a known rendezvous for terrorists and smugglers and a place that is of immense interest to law enforcement agencies.

The doubters found it intriguing that ultra-sensitive agencies in the US did not find anything amiss about the entries on Headley's US passport. While the sceptics don't think they have an answer yet,

they are inclined to look at the possibility of Headley being an undercover agent who, torn between the competing demands of the jihadi outfits he had been asked to infiltrate and his American handlers, went astray.

Headley, by his own confession, joined Lashkar-e-Taiba in 2006 and received training in one of the terror camps run by the jihadi outfit.

Those who subscribe to the "rogue agent" theory are inclined to believe that this was known to the Americans, always anxious to ferret out information from hard-to-penetrate terror groups. They also feel that US agencies were perhaps aware that last year, Headley was in India to recce targets for a Lashkar attack that it had originally planned for September -- as confirmed by Ajbil Kasab in his testimony -- and which was finally carried out on 26/11. Rather, they also suspect that Headley might have been the source of information that helped Americans warn of the attack planned for September last year.

In their warning, which was passed on to Maharashtra government by Intelligence Bureau, the Americans had said that prominent installations in Mumbai were on the jihadis' target. As a matter of fact, the FBI alert made a specific mention of Taj and other hotels -- Marriott, Land's End and Sea Rock.

It is felt that Headley's defection happened immediately afterwards and that is perhaps one of the reasons why Americans could not, unlike in September, sniff 26/11. The suspicion is reinforced by the fact that it was around this time that FBI put Headley under its surveillance, leading to his arrest on October 3 this year.

Suspensions are getting stronger as Americans delay giving Indian investigators access to Headley. The hope here is that Indian agencies would get their turn to talk to the terrorist after charges -- indictment in the American lexicon -- are framed against him on January 1. There is also the possibility that Headley has promised to sing on the condition that he is not exposed to interrogators from India.

But during interactions on the issue, FBI has been unusually cagey about discussing Headley in detail -- odd on the part of the agency which swiftly warned of the attack Lashkar had planned in September and without whose help the breakthrough in the 26/11 probe would not have happened.

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5

Headley's HuJI partner may be detained in Pak

TNN 24 November 2009, 03:23am ISTText Size: | Topics:FBI

HuJI

NEW DELHI: Ilyas Kashmiri, the dreaded Harakat-ul-Jihad-Islami (HuJI) commander who along with US-based LeT duo David Coleman Headley and Tahawwur

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Hussain Rana had planned to attack India and Denmark, is learnt to have been detained by Pakistan at the behest of FBI.

Though Pakistan has so far not shared any details about Kashmiri with India, intelligence agencies here believe that the HuJI commander — who earlier served in Special Service Group of the Pakistani army — is one of the seven persons detained by Pakistan following the arrest of Rana and Headley by FBI last month.

Besides Headley and Rana, Kashmiri is among the five players listed by FBI in its affidavits against the terror duo in a Chicago court. Former commander in the Afghan jihad, Kashmiri was first arrested in October 2005 on charges of attacks against then Pakistan president Pervez Musharraf in 2003. He was, however, released and has since been coordinating with LeT members for their terror operations through well-trained and educated jihadis.

It was his tactic to rope in Pakistan-born anglicised youths like Headley and another HuJI commander Omar Saeed Sheikh. While he could have come in contact with Headley only three-four years ago, his association with Sheikh — who was released in exchange for passengers aboard the hijacked IC-814 plane at Kandahar — has been traced back to the early 90s.

Kashmiri, who headed the infamous 313 brigade that carried out a number of attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, had once fled India while dodging security officials in Ghaziabad amid a fierce gunbattle in 1994. It was in that gunbattle that his trusted lieutenant Omar Sheikh was injured and arrested. The

gang was in Ghaziabad to set up a terror module by recruiting locals to carry out attacks on mainland India.

Although Kashmiri did not enter mainland India after that, his journey across the LoC continued and he oversaw a number of operations in J&K by pushing trained infiltrators. He was once arrested in J&K but escaped from jail in 1998. Upon his return to Pakistan, Kashmiri continued to conduct operations against India.

6

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan army has arrested a retired Major for his alleged links with terror suspects David Coleman Headley and Tahawwur Hussain Rana,

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nabbed by FBI on charges of plotting attacks against India and Denmark.

Chief military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas said the Major, who retired two years ago, has been arrested and is currently being questioned by intelligence agencies.

He was held as he was "in communication" with Headley and Rana, Abbas said.

However, Abbas denied a report that five army officers, including two serving Colonels and a retired Brigadier, had been detained by authorities, describing it as a "fabrication" by those running a "campaign" to embarrass the Pakistan Army.

The retired Major, who was not identified, was reportedly arrested in the garrison city of Rawalpindi that houses the Pakistan Army's General Headquarters. He was taken into custody after FBI gathered information that he was in e-mail and telephonic contact with Pakistani-origin Chicago resident Headley (49) and Pakistan-born Canadian national Rana (48).

Headley and Rana were in contact with the Lashker-e-Taiba and militant commander Ilyas Kashmiri, the FBI has said.

According to documents filed in court by the FBI, Headley travelled to Pakistan to meet a man identified only as 'individual A' and they together visited Kashmiri in the restive tribal belt bordering Afghanistan.

The FBI said Headley travelled to Pakistan this year and was headed there again when he was arrested on October 3 at Chicago's O'Hare Airport.

7

When Federal agents detained him at Chicago's O' Hare airport on October 3, just as he was to board a flight for Philadelphia, David Coleman David Coleman Headley is a US citizen whose father was a Pakistani and mother an American. He attended a military school in Pakistan in a place called Hasan Abdal till he was pulled out by his mother, Serrill Headley, who brought him to Philadelphia.

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Headley, a Pakistan-born American national of mixed parentage, would have experienced a sense of shock. Not just at his detention, but at what he had thought was an elaborate cover, strewn with codes and dead ends, being blown moments before he was about to set out on his most important journey.

At the end of a flight that would eventually take him to Pakistan, he would have met up with Ilyas Kashmiri, a highly-wanted jihadi with a \$ 50 million-reward on his head. This was a rendezvous Headley had been looking forward to with barely-controlled anticipation. He would have also met a senior Lashkar-e-Toiba leader, widely thought to be Sajid Mir, who looks after the Lashkar's overseas

operations, and had previously dispatched a French jihadi of Caribbean descent, Willy Brigitte, to target a nuclear plant in Australia in 2003. Mir is understood to have even met Richard Reid, the man who concealed explosives in his shoes in an attempt to set off a mid-air plane explosion. He failed, but the plot changed the rules of air travel drastically after that, with fliers being asked to take off their footwear thereon.

What Headley did not realise was that his terror links were by then fairly well known to FBI sleuths who were tracking him for more than a year. For, even while ensuring an elaborate cover, he had attracted the FBI's attention for more than one reason. In 2006, he suddenly dropped his original name Daood Ghilani - given by his Pakistani father - to embrace one derived from the side of his American mother. Obviously, this was done to dodge the profiling that Muslims have been subjected to in the US after 9/11.

The identity feint failed because Headley, quite uncharacteristically for someone drafted for a high-value mission by leaders of Lashkar, left holes in the cover for the FBI to develop an interest in him. He had no job except the one that he pretended to be doing for First World Immigration Service, a concern owned by fellow Lashkar jihadi Tahawwur Hussain Rana. His home, in fact, even his cell phone, was leased in the name of deceased persons. And, for more than a year, Headley had frequently left his Chicago home to make multiple trips to Pakistan, India, UAE and various other countries in Europe. His flights to Pakistan and from India invariably went through the UAE.

Their surveillance soon convinced the FBI that the job with First World was a poor alibi as Headley hardly did any work for Rana's concern. He travelled twice to Denmark to stake out the office of Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten - which had enraged Muslims by publishing cartoons of Prophet Mohammad in 2005 - pretending to inquire how he was to place advertisements of a First World office planned in Copenhagen. A search of his luggage by the Customs and Border Patrol would reveal no documents needed to back up his claim of being on a genuine business trip.

Moreover, his multiple trips to Pakistan - a 'radioactive' entry on anyone's passport in terror-wary Western capitals - would itself have deepened the FBI's suspicions. These slip-ups and his contacts with Pakistan-based jihadis showed up in counter-terrorism intercepts that the FBI monitors so carefully, particularly telephone and email communication. Though Headley, Rana and their handlers used heavily-coded language, their allusions became apparent to operatives eavesdropping on the conversations. The references to "projects" (targets), "marriage" and "heart attack" (death of a militant), "investments" (targets), "business and action" (strikes), "doctor" (Rana or Kashmiri), and frequent use of the Islamic terms for reward (ajr), good deed (amal), oaths of allegiance (baaith) were dead giveaways.

On top of all this, he went and posted an angry message on a Yahoo! group called Abdalians - named after a military school in Hasan Abdual, Pakistan - calling for violence against Danish newspapers and others "slandering" Islam. This did not fit in with his new nomenclature. No wonder, by the time he returned to the US after his visit to Copenhagen , the FBI was firmly on his trail and had identified him as a Lashkar link and conduit to Kashmiri. Though Headley's involvement in a terror attack is not known - not as yet - he was regarded as a key player in the plan that was going on against Jyllands Posten.

Headley made optimum use of his English name and US passport, which helped dramatically lower his profile as a likely terrorist, while he was on the loose. His Caucasian appearance too helped a lot. On top of all this, his social skills allowed him to move into exclusive circles as his friendship with Rahul Bhatt would indicate. With all these advantages , plus his innate qualities as a meticulous planner, Headley became a key Lashkar operative for assaults on foreign targets. Before visiting the Jyllands Posten office, for instance, he had made a checklist of factors that would be vital for those launching an attack on the newspaper. The list he stored in his own email account mentioned "complete area coverage, counter surveillance (magic eye), lunch + coffee spots, security (armed?) zoom, foreman residence, entry and exist method in the house, uniform" .

8

Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Tayiba's [Images] recent attempt to recruit an American national to carry out terrorist attacks against targets in India, including individuals and institutions, is yet another tangible manifestation of its global reach, now extending even into America, intelligence sources have said.

These sources told rediff.com that while the linkage between LeT and Al Qaeda [Images] was well known for some years now, the Lashkar had now metamorphosed into an integral operational arm of the Al Qaeda with the Pakistan intelligence service ISI-trained Ilyas Kashmiri being the latter's key operatives.

Last month, the Chicago Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism [Images] Task Force arrested a man identified as David Coleman Headley, 49, a US citizen who changed his name from Daood Gilani in 2008, at O'Hare International Airport before boarding a flight to Philadelphia intending to travel to Pakistan.

He was charged with one count of conspiracy to commit terrorist acts involving murder and maiming outside the United States and one count of conspiracy to provide material support to that overseas terrorism conspiracy.

Also arrested was Tahawwur Hussain Rana, 48, a Pakistani national and citizen of Canada [Images] who like Headley, resides in Chicago.

Rana, the owner of several businesses, was apprehended at his home by federal agents and charged with one count of conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorism conspiracy that involved Headley and at least three other specific individuals in Pakistan.

As part of the conspiracy to provide material support to terrorism, Rana, according to the FBI, allegedly helped arrange Headley's travels overseas and conceal their true nature and purpose to survey potential terror targets overseas, and discussed potential targets for attack with Headley.

The FBI affidavit said that Headley allegedly reported and attempted to report on his overseas surveillance to other conspirators, including Ilyas Kashmir [Images], which the US agency identified as the operational chief of the Azad Kashmir (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) section of Pakistan-based terror outfit Harakat-ul Jihad Islami.

The sources said that LeT, conceived, armed and trained by the ISI to launch attacks in Kashmir against Indian military forces and civilians, had now become a "jihadi Frankenstein" beyond the control of ISI, and had now graduated to much broader attacks, including within India, and were now operating under the guidance of Al Qaeda.

Although there were some rogue elements from ISI and the Pakistani military involved with it, the latter no longer held the reins of the LeT and couldn't rein it in or unleash it as in the past.

The FBI's affidavit had disclosed that Headley was part of a conspiracy to bomb India's National Defence College in New Delhi [Images], as well as two prominent boarding schools --Doon School in Dehra Dun and Woodstock in Mussoorie.

It also said that Headley, Rana and Aman Rashid (Pakistan's consul general in Chicago), who would interact regularly with Rana, all hailed from the same school in Pakistan.

Earlier, Bruce Riedel, an erstwhile CIA official, had told rediff.com, "Since 9/11, several key Al Qaeda operatives arrested in Pakistan have been found in safe houses run by the LeT."

In fact the first major Al Qaeda lieutenant caught after 9/11, was apprehended in an LeT safe house in Faisalabad, he added.

Intelligence sources also continued to point to how Gary Schroen, who served as CIA station chief in Pakistan and led the first CIA team into Afghanistan after 9/11, had consistently pointed to the Al Qaeda-LeT connection, and spoken of how in the aftermath of 9/11, whenever a raid was conducted in Pakistan against Al Qaeda, the outfit's members were found being hosted by militant Pakistanis, primarily from the LeT.

They spoke of the LeT, however, at that time under the control of the ISI, even though the had Al Qaeda connections but that over a period of time the ISI reins on the LeT dissipated and it was as an Al Qaeda operational arm that it began to outreach globally and begin active recruitment outside of Pakistan.

In an affidavit filed on November 3, the FBI in a motion for detention pending trial of Rana, said Rana and Headley 'actively discussed the efforts to communicate with Kashmiri'.

The FBI noted how Rana and Headley had discussed the need to get Headley's 'reports' and 'notes' to Kashmiri.

Riedel, in talking about Kashmiri said his life story 'helps us address one of the big questions in the current debate -- the nature of the economy'.

"He is a Kashmiri, obviously born in Pakistan Kashmir. He joined the struggle against India in Kashmir in 1994, where he began by taking American, British and Israeli hostages, some of which were killed."

Riedel said Kashmiri "went on to have a spectacular career in supporting the struggle against the Indian Army [Images] in Kashmir".

Pakistani Army's Special Security Forces -- the equivalent of the American Green Berets -- trained him. He was captured by the Indians but escaped.

"Then he was toasted by the Pakistani Army and the Pakistani intelligence services as a hero," but in 2005, Riedel said, "he joined the Al Qaeda. He became a convert to the global Islamic Jihad, and Al Qaeda sent him to Afghanistan, where he was critical in teaching the Taliban [Images] the tactics of small-unit warfare, ambushes and patrols, which they have been successful in using in the last several years."

Kashmiri, who was now focused on conspiring attacks on India, was also simultaneously active in Pakistan.

Riedel said that it was Kashmiri who was "responsible for the murder of a former commander in the Special Security Group in 2008, and he has plotted attacks on Chief of Army Staff (General Ashfaq) Kayani. He's number two on the Pakistan's most wanted list today and he is almost certainly involved in the attacks that are going on in Pakistan today."

But he said, "My point here is that he is a classic demonstration of how the terrorists refuse to stay in lane. We want to keep them in little boxes, but they don't want to stay in their boxes. They interact with each other. It's the syndicate of terrorism that we are facing in Afghanistan and Pakistan that is so difficult to deal with."

9

McHenry County Blog doesn't usually look at terrorist plots unless they are in Illinois.

In this case, for the Skinner family, it's a two-for.

Taj Mahal smoke CNN
We were in Disney World for Thanksgiving week when the western hotel in Mumbai, India (know as Bombay to those of us out of school a long time ago) was attacked. That's pretty much all that was on CNN.

Now, a U.S. citizen from Chicago, a participant in the plots, is cooperating with Federal authorities, according to the press release from the Chicago U.S. Attorney's Office, which is below.

Now named David Headley, until February 15, 2008, he was known as Daood Gilani. He changed his name in order to present himself in India, where he scoped out the Taj Mahal and Oberoi hotels and

other potential targets, as an American who was neither Muslim nor Pakistani. He was a member of Lashkar, the "Army of the Good."

CHICAGOAN DAVID HEADLEY CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY IN 2008 MUMBAI ATTACKS IN ADDITION TO FOREIGN TERROR PLOT IN DENMARK

Additional charges unsealed alleging retired Pakistani major conspired in Danish plot

CHICAGO — New federal charges filed today allege that a Chicago man, who was arrested in October for planning terrorist attacks against a Danish newspaper and two of its employees, also conducted extensive surveillance of targets in Mumbai for more than two years preceding the November 2008 terrorist attack on India's largest city that killed approximately 170 people, including six Americans, and injured hundreds more.

The defendant, David Coleman Headley, a U.S. citizen, earlier this decade allegedly attended terrorism training camps in Pakistan maintained by Lashkar e Tayyiba (Lashkar), and conspired with its members and others in planning and executing the attacks in both Denmark and India, federal law enforcement officials announced today.

Also today, a criminal complaint was unsealed in Federal Court in Chicago charging Abdur Rehman Hashim Syed (Abdur Rehman), a retired major in the Pakistani military, with conspiracy in planning to attack the Danish newspaper and its employees.

Another Chicago man, Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a Canadian citizen and native of Pakistan, was arrested in October on federal charges filed in Chicago relating to the Danish terrorism plot.

Through his attorneys, Headley has authorized the Justice Department to disclose that he is cooperating in the ongoing investigation of both the Danish and Indian terror plots. He has remained in federal custody without bond since he was arrested in Chicago on Oct. 3, 2009. No date has been set yet for his arraignment in U.S. District Court in Chicago.

Headley, 49, was charged in a 12-count criminal information with six counts of conspiracy to bomb public places in India, to murder and maim persons in India and Denmark, to provide material

support to foreign terrorist plots, and to provide material support to Lashkar, and six counts of aiding and abetting the murder of U.S. citizens in India.

The charges were announced by Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Robert D. Grant, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California and the FBI's offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., are also participating in the case.

"This investigation remains active and ongoing. The team of prosecutors and agents will continue to seek charges against the other persons responsible for these attacks. I continue to express my deep appreciation to the FBI agents and other members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force for their extremely hard work on this matter," said Mr. Fitzgerald.

"This case serves as a reminder that the terrorist threat is global in nature and requires constant vigilance at home and abroad," said David Kris, Assistant Attorney General for National Security. "We continue to share leads developed in this investigation with our foreign and domestic law enforcement partners as we work together on this important matter."

FBI Director Robert S. Mueller, III, said: "This case illustrates the importance of continued global cooperation to combat terrorism around the world. The FBI continues to strengthen relationships and to foster collaboration with our international partners to best ensure our collective ability to identify and disrupt international terror networks."

Mumbai Terror Attacks

According to the charges, after learning from members of Lashkar in late 2005 that he would be traveling to India to perform surveillance for Lashkar, Headley changed his name from Daood Gilani on Feb. 15, 2006, in Philadelphia, in order to present himself in India as an American who was neither Muslim nor Pakistani. He later made five extended trips to Mumbai — in September 2006, February and September 2007, and April and July 2008 — each time taking pictures and making videotapes of various targets, including those attacked in November 2008.

Taj Mahal fire from 2 windows Starting Nov. 26, 2008, and continuing through Nov. 28, 2008, 10 attackers trained by Lashkar carried out multiple assaults with firearms, grenades and improvised explosive devices against multiple targets in Mumbai, including the Taj Mahal and Oberoi hotels, the

Leopold Café, the Nariman House and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus train station, each of which Headley allegedly had scouted in advance, killing approximately 170 victims.

The six Americans killed during the three-day siege are identified in the charges as Ben Zion Chroman, Gavriel Holtzberg, Sandeep Jeswani, Alan Scherr, his daughter Naomi Scherr, and Aryeh Leibish Teitelbaum.

Lashkar (the "Army of the Good") operated in Pakistan for the principal purpose of fighting to separate from India portions of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. It was designated by the United States as a foreign terrorist organization on Dec. 26, 2001. Headley allegedly attended Lashkar training camps in Pakistan that began in February and August 2002 and August and December 2003.

After being tasked in late 2005 with gathering surveillance in Mumbai and changing his name in early 2006, the charges allege that Headley traveled to Chicago in June 2006 and advised a person identified in the charges as Individual A of his assignment. Headley obtained Individual A's approval to open an office of First World Immigration Services in Mumbai in 2006 as cover for his surveillance activities, the charges allege.

Headley allegedly misrepresented his birth name, father's true name and the purpose of his travel in his visa application.

After each trip that Headley took to India between September 2006 and July 2008, he allegedly returned to Pakistan, met with other co-conspirators and provided them with photographs, videos and oral descriptions of various locations.

In March 2008, Headley and his co-conspirators discussed potential landing sites for a team of attackers who would arrive by sea in Mumbai, and he was instructed to take boat trips in and around the Mumbai harbor and take surveillance video, which he did during his visit to India starting in April 2008, the charges allege.

At various times, Headley allegedly conducted surveillance of other locations in Mumbai and elsewhere in India of facilities and locations that were not attacked in November 2008, including the National Defense College in Delhi, India.

Denmark Terror Plot

Regarding the Denmark terror plot, Headley allegedly conspired between October 2008 and Oct. 3, 2009, with Ilyas Kashmiri, as well as a person identified as Individual A, members of Lashkar and others to plan and carry out terrorist attacks, including murder and maiming, against the facilities of the Morgenavisen Jyllands-Posten, a Danish newspaper, and two of its employees, Editor A and Cartoonist A. In 2005, the newspaper published cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed, to which many Muslims took great offense.

Mirroring the initial charges filed against Headley in October, today's charges allege that he met with co-conspirators while he was in Pakistan in late 2008 and discussed planning for the attack, including extensive surveillance work that he would perform.

In late December and early January 2008, after advising Individual A of the planned attack and his intended travel to Denmark to perform surveillance of the newspaper's facilities, Headley obtained Individual A's approval and assistance to identify himself as a representative of First World and gain access to the newspaper by falsely expressing interest in advertising the business in the newspaper. At the same time, while in Chicago, Headley exchanged emails with co-conspirators to continue planning for the attack and coordinate his travel to Denmark to conduct surveillance. Before departing Chicago, Headley obtained business cards that identified him as a representative of First World, according to the charges.

Headley allegedly traveled in January 2009 from Chicago to Copenhagen, Denmark, to conduct surveillance of the Jyllands Posten newspaper offices in Copenhagen and Aarhus and videotaped the surrounding areas.

From January through May 2009, Headley met with co-conspirators, including Kashmiri, on multiple occasions in Pakistan to review his surveillance and discuss plans for the attack, the charges allege, adding that Headley traveled in August 2009 from Chicago to Copenhagen to conduct additional surveillance and made approximately 13 videos.

On Oct. 3, 2009, Headley was arrested at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, intending ultimately to travel to Pakistan to meet with, and deliver, the approximately 13 surveillance videos to co-conspirators, including Kashmiri.

The charges identify Kashmiri as an influential leader of Harakat-ul Jihad Islami (HUJI), an organization that trained terrorists and executed attacks in the state of Jammu and Kashmir under

Indian control and other areas. Kashmiri based his operations from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of western Pakistan, and area which served as a haven for terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda and the Taliban. Headley allegedly was introduced to Kashmiri as early as February 2009, and understood that Kashmiri was in regular communication with the senior leadership of al Qaeda.

Abdur Rehman complaint.

The two-count complaint unsealed against Abdur Rehman, which was filed on Oct. 20, 2009, charges him with conspiracy to murder and maim persons in a foreign country, and providing material support to that foreign terrorism conspiracy. Abdur Rehman allegedly participated in the planning of a terrorist attack in Denmark, coordinated surveillance of the intended targets, and facilitated communications regarding the surveillance and planning with a member of Lashkar and Kashmiri.

Abdur Rehman, who was not named previously but whose alleged participation was described in the initial charges against Headley and Rana, allegedly played the central role in communicating with Headley and facilitating contacts with other co-conspirators in Pakistan, including members of Lashkar. During Headley's trip to Pakistan in January 2009, Abdur Rehman took him to the FATA region of Pakistan to meet with Kashmiri and solicit the participation of Kashmiri and his organization in the planned attack on the Danish newspaper, according to the complaint against Abdur Rehman. A search of Headley's luggage when he was arrested revealed a list of phone numbers, including a Pakistani number that he allegedly had used to contact Abdur Rehman.

The count against Headley charging conspiracy to bomb public places in India that resulted in deaths carries a maximum statutory penalty of life imprisonment or death. All of the other counts against Headley carry a maximum of life imprisonment, except providing material support to the Denmark terror plot, which carries a maximum prison term of 15 years.

The conspiracy to murder or maim persons in a foreign country charge against Abdur Rehman carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, and the count of conspiracy to provide material support to terrorism carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

The prosecution of Headley and Abdur Rehman is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Daniel Collins and Victoria J. Peters from the Northern District of Illinois, with assistance from the Counterterrorism Section of the Justice Department's National Security Division. The investigation into the Mumbai attacks is continuing with the active participation of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles.

The public is reminded that criminal charging documents contain mere allegations that are not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

10.

WASHINGTON: A Lahore-based retired Major has emerged as a key link between Mumbai terror attack suspect David Coleman Headley and his Pakistani

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handlers who guided him in planning and plotting strikes in India.

Retd Major Abdur Rehman Hashim Syed, also known as Pasha or major, has been charged by the FBI in a Chicago court on two counts of conspiring terror attacks in association with Headley, the US national of Pakistani-origin, and two other Pakistan-based terrorists.

Abdur Rehman coordinated with HuJI leader Ilyas Kashmiri and a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative to commit terrorist acts involving murder and maiming outside the US, and conspired within and outside the US to provide material support to that conspiracy, the FBI said in its 42-page charge sheet.

Headley, arrested on Oct 3, has been charged with criminal conspiracy in Mumbai terror attacks and having links with Rehman who liaised between him and terror groups including LeT and HuJI, according to an FBI charge sheet. Rehman has also been charged with participating in planning a terrorist attack in Denmark, and coordinating with Headley in his surveillance of the intended targets.

Pasha, referred to as individual A in FBI documents, also facilitated communication on planning of an attack between Headley and another terrorist leader identified as LeT Member A and Ilyas Kashmiri, a leader of Harakat-ul Jihad-al Islami.

According to the FBI charge sheet, Rehman corresponded with Headley beginning late 2008 by email or telephone in coded language regarding the "Micky Mouse Project" -- their plot to attack the facilities of a Danish newspaper.

After travelling to Copenhagen, Headley visited Pakistan wherein Rehman took him to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) region in northwestern Pakistan to solicit Kashmiri's participation in the plot.

Following his return from Pakistan, Headley communicated with the LeT leader, who now had shifted his plan from Denmark to India, which has referred as "new investment plan".

The FBI has also released transcripts of a series of telephone calls between Headley and Rehman on reports of Kashmiri's death in a drone attack in FATA.

In his conversation, Rehman assured Individual A (Headley), telling him that "this is business sir; these types of things happen," the FBI says. Kashmiri has been referred to as "doctor" in these recorded conversations.

Rehman was arrested by Pakistani authorities in the summer of this year, but was later released.

"You, you have invested in the business, after that you must show some patience, which is necessary," Rehman said in a telephonic conversation on August 22.

The conversation also made clear that "property," "investments" and other business terms were used as cover terms for violent actions, the charge sheet said.

The FBI chargesheet says that LeT shifted its focus from Denmark to potential terrorist attack in India, which is reflected in the series of emails and telephonic conversations that Headley had with Rana, Abdur Rehman and the LeT member.

Telling Rehman that he would make himself available to perform their operation in Mumbai, Headley said: "I like the option B. I can do it on my own that is it... I am qualified I have studied accounting... I do not need anybody's help".

Headley not only made several trips to Mumbai between 2005 and 2008 capturing video and pictures of possible targets and a boat ride to identify the sea route for terrorists, but also travelled to other cities taking videos of several possible terrorist targets, federal prosecutors said.

In March 2008, the FBI alleged that Headley met with other co-conspirators, and discussed potential landing sites for a team of attackers who would arrive by sea in Mumbai.

He was instructed to take boat trips in and around the Mumbai harbour and take surveillance video, which Headley did during his stay in India starting in April 2008. Headley has also been charged on six counts for the murder of six American nationals who died in the Mumbai terrorist attack.

11.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistani officials have arrested a retired Pakistani army major for his suspected role in an alleged plot that was hatched in the U.S. to assassinate the creator of controversial Danish cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad, the Pakistani army said Tuesday.

The news will fuel growing fears about the radicalization of Pakistan's army, and particularly the links between former army officers and Islamic extremists.

Two men of Pakistani origin, U.S. citizen David Coleman Headley and Canadian national Tahawwur Hussain Rana, were charged in Chicago with planning an armed attack in Denmark . Their target was the cartoonist and Jyllands-Posten, the Danish newspaper that published the cartoons in 2005.

The U.S. indictment said the two had been in contact with the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba and also with Pakistani extremist Ilyas Kashmiri — the first time that Kashmiri and Lashkar have been firmly linked to an alleged plot in the West.

The group, which has long had links to Pakistan's military and its powerful Inter-Services Intelligence agency, is thought to be responsible for the terrorist attack that killed more than 160 people in the Indian city of Mumbai last year.

The Pakistani army said the major, who retired two years ago, was arrested a couple of months ago. Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas, the chief army spokesman, denied that any others were detained in connection with the Danish cartoons plot.

"He (the retired major) was in communication with those guys (Headley and Rana) in the States," Abbas said, adding: "Once you leave the army, you become a private citizen."

The Associated Press reported that five officers were detained, including at least two serving lieutenant colonels. Abbas called the AP account, which said that those arrested also included a retired brigadier general, a "fabrication" by those running a "campaign" to embarrass the Pakistan army.

The retired major was arrested in Rawalpindi, the garrison city that houses the Pakistan's military headquarters, according to a Pakistani security official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media.

Now being held by Pakistani intelligence, the retired officer may have been taken into custody on information the FBI gathered from its interrogation of the suspects in Chicago . It appears that he was in e-mail and telephone contact with the two men in Chicago .

According to the criminal complaint against Headley, he was in regular contact with an "individual A" and traveled to Pakistan to meet him, and together they visited Kashmiri in the country's lawless tribal area.

While discipline within the ranks of the army has remained strong, a number of former officers have been involved in terrorist groups, including some who've attacked the Pakistani army. A former army medical orderly led an assault on the military headquarters last month.

The FBI said Headley traveled to Pakistan this year and was headed there again when he was arrested on Oct. 3 at Chicago's O'Hare Airport . Headley changed his name from Daood Gilani in 2006 in order to disguise his Muslim identity and to make international travel easier, an FBI affidavit said. He and Rana are charged with conspiring to provide material support to terrorism and providing material support to terrorism.

(Shah is a McClatchy special correspondent)

امریکی حکام نے زیر حراست پاکستانی نژاد امریکی شہری ڈیوڈ کولمن ہیڈلی پر نومبر 08 کے ممبئی حملوں کی سازش میں ملوث ہونے اور شدت پسندوں کو اہداف کی نشاندہی کرنے کی فرد جرم عائد کی ہے۔

چھبیس نومبر دو ہزار آٹھ کو ممبئی میں ہونے والے حملوں میں کم سے کم ایک سو ستر افراد ہلاک اور دیگر سینکڑوں زخمی ہو گئے تھے۔

اکتوبر کے مہینے میں ہیڈلی اور ایک دیگر پاکستانی نژاد کینیڈین شہری تھور علی رانا پر ڈنمارک کے اس اخبار کے خلاف حملہ کرنے کی منصوبہ بندی کا الزام عائد کیا گیا تھا جس نے سب دو ہزار پانچ میں پیغمبر اسلام کے متنازع خاکے چھاپے تھے۔ اب امریکی اہلکاروں نے یہ کہا ہے کہ ایک ریٹائر پاکستانی فوجی میجر عبدالرحمن ہاشم سید بھی ڈنمارک کے اخبار پر حملے کی سازش میں ملوث تھے۔

امریکی محکمہ انصاف کے بیان کے مطابق پیر کے روز امریکی استغاثہ نے نئی فرد جرم پیش کی جس کے مطابق ہیڈلی نے گزشتہ برس ہونے والے ممبئی حملوں سے قبل دو برس تک ہندوستان میں اہداف کے دورے کیے اور ان کی نشاندہی کی۔ بی بی سی اردو کے حسن مجتبیٰ کے مطابق یہ الزامات شکاگو میں ایف بی آئی کے حکام کی طرف سے لگائے گئے ہیں۔

ان افراد کیخلاف کارروائی اس بات کی گواہ ہے کہ دنیا بھر میں دہشتگردی کیخلاف جنگ امریکہ میں اپنے شراکت دار ملکوں کے تعاون سے چوکس و چوکنا ہے۔

رابرٹ ملر

اس موقع پر ایف بی آئی کے سربراہ رابرٹ ملر نے کہا ہے کہ ان افراد کیخلاف کارروائی اس بات کی گواہ ہے کہ دنیا بھر میں دہشتگردی کیخلاف جنگ امریکہ میں اپنے شراکت دار ملکوں کے تعاون سے چوکس و چوکنا ہے۔

فرد جرم میں سرکاری وکیل نے کہا ہے کہ یہ تحقیقات ابھی جاری ہیں اور سازش میں ملوث دیگر افراد کے خلاف بھی فرد جرم عائد کی جا سکتی ہے۔ عائد کی جانے والی فرد جرم میں ہیڈلی پر بھارت اور ڈنمارک میں دہشتگردی، حملوں اور قتل کرنے کے چھ الزامات عائد کیے گئے ہیں جبکہ اس کے علاوہ انہیں سازش میں ملوث ہونے، لشکر طیبہ کو مادی مدد فراہم کرنے اور ہندوستان میں امریکی شہریوں کو قتل کرنے کے چھ دیگر جرائم کا ملزم بھی قرار دیا گیا ہے۔

حکام نے بتایا ہے کہ گرفتاری کے بعد ہیڈلی دونوں تحقیقات کے حوالے سے تعاون کر رہا ہے۔

انچاس سالہ ہیڈلی نے سب دو ہزار چھ میں داؤد گیلانی سے اپنا نام بدل کر ڈیوڈ کولمن ہیڈلی رکھ لیا تھا اور انہیں رواں سال تین اکتوبر کو اس وقت گرفتار کیا گیا جب وہ پاکستان جانے کے لیے تیار تھے۔ انہیں امریکی خفیہ ادارے ایف بی آئی اور ڈنمارک کی سکیورٹی اور انٹیلی جنس سروس کی مشترکہ تحقیقات کے نتیجے میں گرفتار کیا گیا تھا۔

12.

w Delhi: David Coleman Headley and Tahawwura Hussain Rana, the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives arrested in the US for planning attacks in India and Denmark, were linked to a Bangladesh-based

terror network that was involved in several attacks in South India, sources in the security establishment have told DNA.

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Mumbai under attack

It is also learnt that Headley -- who operated an immigration service in Mumbai between 2006 and 2008 as reported by DNA on Sunday -- had allegedly posed as a Jew during his time in the city and even had people buying into his claim.

The Bangladesh-Pakistan network is headed by Syed Abdul Rahman, the unidentified LeT leader in the criminal complaint filed by the FBI in Headley's arrest, before a US court a few days ago.

Shahid Bilal, a Hyderabad-born terrorist who masterminded several terror strikes in India (including the twin-blasts in Hyderabad in 2007) and who was mysteriously killed

in Karachi in August 2007, was also part of the same network, American and Indian investigators believe.

This network -- which includes members from the LeT as well as HuJI -- could have played a role in the Mumbai attacks through Headley and others, some investigators are now beginning to believe.

Investigating officers have fanned out in Mumbai and elsewhere to piece together details of Headley's activities. Details of Rana's visits to India are also being probed. As was reported on Sunday, Rana left Mumbai just five days before the 26/11 attacks, while Headley was in Mumbai on several occasions between 2006 and 2008. There are indications that Rana may have travelled to Gujarat during his visit to India.

Several aspects of Headley's operations in Mumbai during that period are also emerging as investigators interview people who were familiar with him during those days. Apart from the finding about him posing as Jew, it has also been learnt that Headley used rarely used mobile phones and computers.

Details of his mobile phone as well as that of a Tata Indicom landline number he used while operating his business -- a firm named Immigrant Law Centre from AC Market, Tardeo in Mumbai - are now with the investigating team. Officially, his job was to facilitate visas for the US and Canada for semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

Headley preferred to pay salaries and make other payments in cash. He rarely used banking channels, sources also indicate. Headley spent hardly two hours in the morning and a couple of hours in the evening in the office while in Mumbai.

Meanwhile, in New Delhi, Union home secretary GK Pillai confirmed that Headley had made repeated visits to India. "We do know that Headley had visited India a number of times. That is being investigated," Pillai told reporters.

On Sunday, DNA had reported that the two terror suspects arrested in the US few days ago, Headley and Rana, had travelled to India in the run-up to the Mumbai attacks and that investigations are on to establish their role in the 26/11 carnage.

13.

Militants change tack in Pakistan

By Syed Saleem Shahzad

ISLAMABAD - After a month of operations against militants in the South Waziristan tribal area on the border with Afghanistan, Pakistan's military establishment realizes it is chasing shadows; the adversary has simply melted into the vastness of the inhospitable surrounding territory.

Unlike in previous operations in other troubled tribal areas, though, there is unlikely to be any peace agreement. The militants, headed by the Pakistani Taliban - the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) - are bent on a long-term insurgency against the security apparatus, which they now see as heretic as the United States forces in Afghanistan.

In the past, the militants viewed the military as "firing friendly fire" under duress, mostly from the United States. In a fundamental

shift, this is no longer the case and the militants will step up their activities.

The implications for Pakistan are profound. The civilian government headed by President Asif Ali Zardari is under relentless pressure from the US to crack down on militants, which includes al-Qaeda. If the militants carry through with their new attitude towards the military, and if the government steps up its efforts, ever-bloodier and broadening clashes are inevitable.

In the latest move, according to a report in the New York Times, US President Barack Obama said in a letter to Zardari that he "expected him to rally the nation's political and national security institutions in a united campaign against extremists". Obama's national security adviser, General James Jones, reportedly handed over the letter in Pakistan on Friday.

According to the report, Jones also warned Pakistani officials that Washington's new Afghanistan strategy would work only if Pakistan broadened its fight beyond the militants attacking its cities to groups using havens in Pakistan for plotting attacks against US troops in Afghanistan.

This is what the military had hoped to achieve when it ventured into South Waziristan, which serves as a staging point for the insurgency in Afghanistan. But by the time the troops reached strongholds of the TTP, they were mostly deserted.

"The militants are applying the same strategy which they were trained to use by the Pakistani security forces against the Indian army in [Indian-administered] Kashmir during the 1990s," a senior Pakistani military official told Asia Times Online on the condition of anonymity. "That included a pattern of not confronting a regular army once it was mobilized; rather, the militants dodged it and opened a new front far from the point of the army's concentration."

Much the same has happened in Pakistan over the past month, with a string of deadly suicide bomb attacks in various parts of the country, including in Peshawar, the capital of North-West Frontier Province (NWFP).

In the most recent attack, militants blew up a girls' school in the Khyber district about 20 kilometers south of Peshawar in the early hours of Tuesday. The school was badly damaged, but there were no casualties. But attacks in just the past week have killed more than 50 people, including 11 who died on Saturday when a suicide car bomber attacked a checkpoint near Peshawar.

In another stunning attack at the weekend, militants struck at the well-guarded command office of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in Peshawar. On Sunday, militants opened fire on the house of an anti-Taliban mayor in a town near Peshawar. The attack was repulsed.

The army's South Waziristan operation followed moderately successful ones in the Malakand Division in NWFP and the tribal areas of Bajaur and Mohmand. After these, the militants, under the command of Ibn-i-Amin, a former Jaish-e-Mohammad commander who had earlier been arrested in connection with an attack on former president Pervez Musharraf, slowly had his men disperse into the remote region of Chitral. From here, his men crossed the border into the Afghan province of Nuristan, where they solidified the command of Qari Ziaur Rahman, allowing him subsequently to take effective control of the province.

A US-based website, the Long War Journal, has documented in detail [1] that the Taliban are openly and unchallenged governing the province. The report cited al-Jazeera footage that showed the Taliban had also appointed a governor, Dost Muhammad. According to the footage, the Taliban had US arms, which they had seized from abandoned American bases. The North Atlantic Treaty

Organization confirmed that the arms showed in the footage belonged to US forces. This report followed Asia Times Online first breaking the story of the Taliban's control of Nuristan on October 29. (See Taliban take over Afghan province.)

While these events were unfolding, across the border, elite commandos and the crack Mangla Strike Corps were going after the Taliban, but the leaders of the TTP had already moved to neighboring North Waziristan. They left behind only a few pockets of fighters, who also steadily withdrew after brief engagements.

They regrouped in Bajaur and Mohmand and seized lost ground. They also gathered in Orakzai and Dara Adam Khel, from where they unleashed the flood of suicide attackers into Peshawar and beyond. Peshawar was hit from all sides, compelling traders to shut down. Private schools are also closed.

Under American pressure, preparations are being made to enter North Waziristan, where al-Qaeda is believed to have its headquarters and from where the most dangerous insurgent networks, the Haqqani and the Hafiz Gul Bahadur, operate.

In turn, the militants will focus on the security forces, whose assets have been under reconnaissance for several months. The current insurgents do not have any separatist agenda. They simply want to punish the Pakistani military, which they now see as an extension of the US military in South Asia.

The militants have lost faith in their fellow "sons of the soil", whom they previously saw as being reluctantly coerced into the "war on terror". They will listen to no more lies from the Pakistani establishment, which undermine the image of the security forces.

For instance, US Predator drone missile attacks have eliminated several top Taliban and al-Qaeda figures in the tribal areas since 2008. Pakistan condemned this drone policy until late last year when it was proved that it was a joint venture between the intelligence agencies of Pakistan and the US. Pakistan's ISI provided information to the US, which then launched the remote-controlled drones from bases in Pakistan to carry out strikes.

The Pakistani military establishment ran a huge and hostile anti-American campaign against the Kerry-Lugar Bill, which last month was approved in the US to provide Pakistan with billions of dollars in non-military aid over the next five years. Conditions attached to the bill were said to be onerous to

Pakistan, such as those related to non-proliferation and the meddling of the Pakistani armed forces in civilian affairs.

But soon after US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit to Pakistan, during which she reassured the top brass that for the US, the army, not any democratically elected government, was important, the whole campaign died down.

Militants are concerned over the close collaboration between the ISI and the US. The ISI has established a Counter-Terrorism (CT) cell, which works strictly in coordination with the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency against the Taliban and al-Qaeda in Pakistan. The CT is completely segregated from the ISI's top hierarchy.

Background interviews with several detainees from ISI centers suggest they were interrogated in closed rooms by Pakistanis with headphones seemingly being guided in the questions they asked. Asia Times Online has been told that the recent attacks on ISI offices in Peshawar and Lahore were undertaken by militants who had been interrogated jointly by Americans and Pakistanis.

The Pakistan army is looking for familiar options under which it battles the militants in their strongholds of South Waziristan and North Waziristan, and then strikes ceasefire deals. This is no longer likely to work.

14.

Transnational Terror: Lashkar-e-Taiba's Chicago Plot

By Animesh Roul

Three names have been doing the rounds in India these days: Maulana Ilyas Kashmiri, David Coleman Headley (a.k.a. Dauod Geelani) and Tahawur Hussein Rana; one hard core veteran Jehadi and two motivated 'would be' terrorists. They are in the news for plotting major assaults in India. Among them, Ilyas Kashmiri who was rumored to be dead early this year, in fact survived three drone attacks in Pakistan's Waziristan region, belongs to the Al Qaeda- Harkat-ul- Jihad- Al-Islami (HuJI) lineage and heads Al Qaeda's deadly 313 brigade. He still carries a head money of US \$ 600,000 dollars. His name resurfaced when a report was published in the Asia Times last month. The semi-biographical report titled, "Al-Qaeda's guerrilla chief lays out strategy" was written by Syed Saleem Shahzad of Pakistan who interviewed Ilyas Kashmiri about his future terror plans at his den and on his invitation.

In early September 2009, Pakistani officials and Western intelligence agencies believed that Ilyas Kashmir, Al Qaeda/HuJI operations chief in Pakistan and another close aide of Bin Laden, a Uzbek terrorist commander identified as Nazimuddin Zalalov (a.k.a. Yahyo) have been killed in missile attacks in Turrikhel area of North Waziristan.

The other two names, Headly and Rana came as a bit of surprise to many in India and in the US. But their plan made one thing clear about the intention and capability of terrorist outfits (like LeT, Al Qaeda and JeM) that have transnational reach and global Jihadi agenda. These two men are part of a Lashkar-e-Taiba plot to attack major landmarks in India and Denmark. The US investigating agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have so far neutralized what is now dubbed as LeT's 'Chicago Terror Plot'. Headley was arrested early in October 2009 by the Joint Terrorism Task Force at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. He was reportedly planning to travel to Pakistan in near future to meet Ilyas Kashmiri and other terrorist leaders. His accomplice and co plotter Rana was arrested from Chicago later in that month.

According to FBI affidavit filed in a Chicago court, Headley had visited Pakistan a number of times before and constantly in touch with his LeT handlers (two Pakistan based LeT terrorists are still to be identified) in Pakistan through emails. As per the FBI the email communications revealed that a LeT mastermind in Pakistan was placing a higher priority on using Headley to assist in planning a new attack in India than on completing the planned attack in Denmark (facilities of Jyllands-Posten, the Danish newspaper which carried a cartoon strip of Prophet Muhammad in 2005 and perhaps (I suspect) a commando type assault during the upcoming Climate Summit). Any audacious attacks on these spots (and in India) would have given Lashkar-e-Taiba a position parallel to Al Qaeda in the international terrorism arena.

In June 2003, FBI made a similar breakthrough arresting at least seven Lashkar sympathizers or would be terrorists from in and around Washington region (3 from Maryland, 3 from Virginia and one in Pennsylvania), for providing material support to LeT.

The latest foiled LeT plot targeted vital landmarks, installations and elite boarding schools, as per the FBI investigations. The LeT is obviously planning Nov 2008 Mumbai type assaults in India and the possible targets were National Defense College, New Delhi, Doon School in Dehradun and Woodstock School in Mussoorie. It has been reported also that these terrorists have major plans to target the American and the Israeli nationals in India.

We find nothing new about the latest and earlier Lashkar planning to target India, Israelis and Americans. The threat emanates from LeT is still vivid in public memory: during October 2000 annual convention of the LeT in Lahore's Gulshan-i-Iqbal park where LeT chief Hafiz Saeed uttered anti India

and Anti Israel rhetoric following a blast that took place near the venue. He held India and Israel responsible for the blast and threatened revenge; and of course his infamous utterances that LeT would plant the 'flag of Islam' in Washington, Tel Aviv and New Delhi.

Barely twenty more days to go when India will observe the first anniversary of Mumbai terror mayhem (26/11, 2008). The memory of that sixty odd hours of ordeal will again haunt us for some time and then 'business as usual'. The question to ponder here is how far we have progressed so far since 26/11, especially to fight the menace like Mumbai or Chicago type assaults and plots.

15.

ممبئی حملوں اور سویڈن کے ایک اخبار پر حملے کی سازش کے الزامات کے تحت امریکہ میں گرفتار پاکستانی نژاد امریکی شہری ڈیوڈ کولمن ہیڈلی نے خود پر لگائے گئے الزامات سے انکار کیا ہے۔

شکاگو کی ایک عدالت میں ہیڈلی کے وکیل نے اپنے مؤکل کی جانب سے پیش کی جانے والی درخواست میں بتایا ہے کہ ہیڈلی نے خود پر لگائے جانے والے تمام الزامات میں خود کو بے قصور بتایا ہے۔

ہیڈلی پر امریکی استغاثہ نے ایک برس قبل ہونے والے ممبئی حملوں کی سازش میں ملوث ہونے اور شدت پسندوں کو اہداف کی نشاندہی کرنے کی فرد جرم عائد کی تھی۔ گزشتہ برس نومبر میں ہونے والے ممبئی حملوں میں چھ امریکیوں سمیت کم از کم ایک سو ستر افراد ہلاک ہوئے تھے جبکہ سینکڑوں دیگر زخمی ہو گئے تھے۔

سال رواں اکتوبر کے مہینے میں ہیڈلی پر ایک اور پاکستانی نژاد کینیڈیائی شہری توہر رعنا کے ہمراہ ڈنمارک کے اس اخبار کے خلاف حملہ کرنے کی منصوبہ بندی کا الزام عائد کیا گیا تھا جس نے دو ہزار پانچ میں پیغمبر اسلام کے متنازع خاکے چھاپے تھے۔

امریکی اہلکاروں نے یہ بھی کہا کہ ایک ریٹائر پاکستانی فوجی میجر عبدالرحمن ہاشم سید بھی ڈنمارک کے اخبار پر حملے کی سازش میں ملوث تھے۔

امریکی استغاثہ کی فرد جرم کے مطابق ہیڈلی نے گزشتہ برس ہونے والے ممبئی حملوں سے قبل دو برس تک ہندوستان میں اہداف کے دورے کیے اور ان کی نشاندہی کی۔

ایچاس برس کے ہیڈلی نے سن دو ہزار چھ میں داؤد گیلانی سے اپنا نام بدل کر ڈیوڈ کولمن ہیڈلی رکھ لیا تھا۔ امریکی حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ داؤد گیلانی نے نام اس لئے تبدیل کیا تھا تاکہ اس کو ہندوستان میں خود کو امریکی کے طور پر پیش کر سکیں اور اہداف کے معائنے میں ان کو دشواری نہ ہو۔

استغاثہ کے مطابق ہیڈلی کے لشکر طیم سے روایت تھے اور انہوں نے افغانستان یا پاکستان میں تربیت بھی لی تھی۔

ان پر ہندوستان اور ڈنمارک میں دہشتگردی، حملوں اور قتل کرنے کے چھ الزامات عائد کیے گئے ہیں جبکہ سازش میں ملوث ہونے اور لشکر طیبہ کو مادی مدد فراہم کرنے اور ہندوستان میں امریکی شہریوں کو قتل کرنے کے چھ دیگر الزامات عائد کیے گئے ہیں۔

16.

B Raman deciphers the FBI affidavit against Tahawwur Hussain Rana, the Pakistan-origin Canadian arrested with David Headley in Chicago for alleged Lashkar-e-Tayiba [Images] connections.

The affidavit filed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation against Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a Canadian national of Pakistani origin, who was running an immigration consultancy firm, a company for the supply of meat to Muslims and a grocery shop in Chicago, makes for interesting reading.

He was arrested by the FBI at Chicago on October 18, on a charge of being an accomplice of David Coleman Headley in plans to carry out terrorist strikes in Denmark and India [Images]. Headley had earlier been arrested on October 3, when he was about to leave on a visit to Pakistan to discuss the plans for the Denmark attack with Ilyas Kashmiri of the Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami in Pakistan.

The FBI recovered from his checked-in baggage video recordings made by Headley during two preparatory visits to Denmark after October 2008. The affidavit was filed by the FBI in the Northern District court of Illinois.

According to the affidavit, after his arrest, Rana made the following confessions to the FBI:

1. He was aware that Headley had been affiliated with the Lashkar-e-Tayiba terrorist organisation for the past few years.
2. He was aware that Headley had received training from the Lashkar.
3. He was aware that Headley had met with Ilyas Kashmiri within the past year.
4. He was aware that Headley communicated with Individual A and Lashkar Member A. (both not identified in the affidavits against Headley and Rana).

5. He was aware that Headley was angry about the cartoon depictions of the Prophet Mohammed.

6. He was offended by the cartoon depictions of the Prophet Mohammed.

7. He had discussed the cartoonist and editor of the Jyllands-Posten of Denmark, which had published the cartoons, with Headley.

A perusal of the affidavit against Rana indicates the following:

1. He enabled Headley to travel twice to Denmark as a representative of his immigration consultancy company.

2. He arranged air tickets for Headley's overseas travels.

3. He interceded with the Pakistani consul general in Chicago in an attempt to get a five-year visa for Headley whom he falsely described as a 'white American'. The consul general, Rana and Headley had attended the Punjab [Images] government's army cadet school at Hasan Abdal.

The consul general had known Headley by his pre-2006 Pakistani name of Daood Gilani. He did not know that Gilani, whom he had known, and Headley, 'the white American' about whom Rana had spoken to him over telephone were one and the same. Rana wanted a five-year visa to be issued to Headley without Headley having to visit the consulate.

4. Most of the contacts of Individual A and Lashkar member A were with Headley and not with Rana. Rana did have some contacts with Individual A, but not with Lashkar member A.

5. In the FBI affidavit against Headley, there are indications that he had visited India in the past -- between 2006 and 2008. In the affidavit against Rana, there are no references to any visits made by him to India.

6. In one of the conversations between Headley and Rana, a 'defence college' had figured as a possible target. It was not referred to as the 'National Defence College'. Nor was there any reference to its location. It needs to be underlined that additional information obtained during the interrogations of Headley and Rana does not figure in the two affidavits. The two affidavits largely summarise technical intelligence, which justified the two arrests.

7. When the FBI checked Headley's baggage after his arrest on October 3, they found video-recordings of landmarks in Copenhagen made by him during his two visits to Denmark. There is no reference to any video recordings made by him in India.

8. The affidavit against Headley contains references to his past visits to Pakistan. The affidavit against Rana has no reference to any past visits to Pakistan.

The identities of the two Pakistanis referred to by the FBI affidavit against Headley as Individual A and Lashkar member A remain unclear. The only clue figuring in the two affidavits is that Individual A was close to Major Haroon Ashiq, the principal accused in the case relating to the November 2008 assassination of Major General Amir Faisal Alvi, who headed the Special Services Group till 2005.

He was sacked by then president Pervez Musharraf [Images] on a charge of unworthy conduct, which has not been specified so far. The two affidavits also indicate that Individual A was also arrested during the investigation of the case, but was released subsequently.

A check of past Pakistani media reports relating to the case indicates that one Major (retired) Abdul Basit of Karachi was arrested during the investigation into Haroon's activities on behalf of Ilyas Kashmiri, but was not prosecuted. It is not clear whether Major Basit and Individual A are one and the same.

Another likely figure is Qari Saifullah Akhtar, amir of HUII, whom Benazir Bhutto [Images] had suspected as behind the failed attempt to kill her in Karachi when she returned from political exile on October 17, 2007, but there were no Pakistani media reports of his having been arrested and released during the investigation of Alvi's murder.

It is, however, clear that Individual A is an important person, who enjoys the confidence of Ilyas Kashmiri and could speak with authority on Ilyas's behalf. Headley's conversations with Individual A clearly bring out his admiration for Ilyas Kashmiri and his preference for working with Ilyas than with the Lashkar.

He describes the Lashkar as an organisation with 'rotten guts', which is not prepared to take risks. This is apparently because the Lashkar is interested only in terrorist attacks in India and does not want to get involved in a terrorist attack in Denmark or in any other Western country.

B Raman

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