

briefly

IRAN Group admits to scientist killings

Iranian state television on Monday showed several Iranians alleged to be part of a group of 13 who "confessed" to killing four Iranian nuclear scientists after being trained by Israeli intelligence.

It said the network received orders from "Washington and London".

The television report showed the suspects speaking of how they purportedly prepared to murder the scientists, and broadcast a re-enactment of assassins on a motorbike fixing a magnetic bomb to a victim's car, while dramatic music played in the background.

It also showed images of a number of prefabricated temporary buildings in an arid area and said the site was an Israeli military camp used for their training.

SOUTH AFRICA Clinton meets with Mandela

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited with Nelson Mandela at his home on Monday to pay her respects to the aging South African icon.

Clinton and a small group flew to the 94-year-old Mandela's home village of Qunu, where they reminisced and had a small private lunch.

Clinton and Mandela's wife, Graca Machel, talked as photographers snapped pictures and Mandela looked on smiling from his wingback chair.

YEMEN 4 suspects held in suicide attack

Militiamen who sided with the Yemeni army in battling al-Qaida "arrested" four jihadists allegedly involved in a suicide bombing that killed 45 people over the weekend, a local official said on Monday.

"The Popular Resistance Committees, in cooperation with the army, arrested four al-Qaida members suspected of involvement in Saturday's suicide attack," local official Mohsen bin Jamila said.

One of the four suspects was "disguised as a woman" when he was arrested, he said without giving further details.

TURKEY Blast interrupts flow to pipeline

An overnight blast in southeastern Turkey interrupted oil flow from Iraq, with Kurdish rebels suspected to be behind the explosions, Turkish authorities said on Monday.

The blast hit the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline in Mardin province close to Turkey's border with Syria and repairs are expected to take up to 10 days, an energy ministry official said on customary condition of anonymity.

The incident, believed to be an act of sabotage by the Kurdish rebels, also sparked a fire that was brought under control on Monday, according to another source from the ministry.

AFP-AP

Gunman kills 6 at US Sikh temple

By AGENCIES
in Oak Creek, Wisconsin and Washington

Witnesses said the shooter who attacked a Sikh temple in the US looked like he had a purpose and knew where he was going. Authorities on Monday scrambled to find a motive for the attack that left seven people, including the gunman, dead and three critically wounded. Police called it an act of domestic terrorism.

Terrified congregants ran for cover on Sunday morning when the shooting began at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin. The gunfire finally ended in a shootout between the gunman and police outside.

Satpal Kaleka, wife of the temple's president, Satwant Singh Kaleka, saw the gunman enter, according to Harpreet Singh, their nephew.

"He did not speak, he just began shooting," said Singh, relaying her description.

Worshippers said they had never seen the 1.83-meter tall bald man at the temple before.

Federal authorities described the suspect as a white man in his 40s, but neither provided further details nor suggested a possible motive.

"We never thought this could happen to our community," said Devendar Nagra, 48, whose sister escaped injury by hiding as the gunman fired in the temple's kitchen. "We never did anything wrong to anyone."

Late on Sunday, the investigation appeared to move beyond



A man comforts his daughter during a candle light vigil for the victims of the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin shooting in Milwaukee on Sunday.

JEFFREY PHELPS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

the temple as police, federal agents and the county sheriff's bomb squad swarmed a nearby neighborhood, evacuated several homes and searched a duplex. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agent Tom Ahern said warrants were being served at the gunman's home. Residents were allowed to return on Monday.

Oak Creek Police Chief John Edwards said police expected to release more information on Monday. He said the FBI will lead the investigation because the shootings are being treated as domestic terrorism, or an attack

that originated inside the US.

"While the FBI is investigating whether this matter might be an act of domestic terrorism, no motive has been determined at this time," Teresa Carlson, special agent in charge with the agency's Milwaukee division, said in a statement on Sunday night.

The gunman suspected of the attack and killing was a former US army "psychological operations specialist", the Pentagon said on Monday.

Wade Michael Page, who was himself shot dead by police during the incident, was a 40-year-old who had served between

April 1992 and October 1998, ending his career at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

During a chaotic few hours after the first shots were fired around 10:30 am, police in tactical gear and carrying assault rifles surrounded the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin with armored vehicles and ambulances. Witnesses struggled with unrealized fears that several shooters were holding women and children hostage inside.

Edwards said the gunman "ambushed" one of the first officers to arrive at the temple as the officer tended to a vic-

VIOLENT ATTACKS SINCE 9/11

In the United States, especially since the attacks of Sept 11, 2001, Sikhs have sometimes been confused publicly with Muslims, but they are not Muslim. Here are some of the incidents against Sikhs in the US since the 2001 attacks:

- **In September 2001**, an Arizona gas station owner, Balbir Singh Sodhi, was shot five times and killed by a man who mistook him for a Muslim and was seeking revenge for the hijacked plane attacks on the US.
- **In July 2004**, Rajinder Singh Khalsa and his cousin, Gurcharan Singh, were beaten while walking to a restaurant in New York by intoxicated assailants who shouted profanities at them and insulted their turbans. Khalsa sustained multiple fractures to his face.
- **In January 2008**, Baljeet Singh, 63, suffered a broken jaw and nose in a beating while walking to a gurdwara, or Sikh house of worship, in Jamaica, New York.
- **In November 2010**, cab driver Harbhajan Singh was attacked in West Sacramento by a passenger who shouted racial epithets at him, called him a Muslim and punched him in the face several times. He suffered spinal and facial fractures. The two men involved pleaded no contest to assault charges.
- **In March 2011**, two Sikh men were shot while taking an afternoon walk in Elk Grove, California, near Sacramento. Surinder Singh, 65, died at the scene and Gurmej Atwal died six weeks later. No one has been charged in connection with the deaths.
- **In February 2012**, a gurdwara in Michigan was defaced with graffiti.

REUTERS

tim outside. A second officer then exchanged gunfire with the suspect, who was fatally shot. Police had earlier said the officer who was shot killed the suspected shooter.

The wounded officer was in critical condition along with two other victims on Sunday night, authorities said. Police said the officer was expected to survive.

Tactical units went through the temple and found four people dead inside and two outside, in addition to the shooter.

The Milwaukee County

Medical Examiner's Office has received the bodies of the seven dead and autopsies was scheduled to be conducted on Monday morning, Medical Examiner spokeswoman Karen Domagalski.

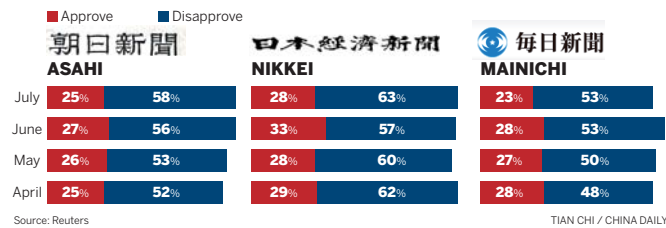
Jatinder Mangat, 38, another nephew of the temple's president, said his uncle was among those shot, but he didn't know the extent of his injuries. When Mangat later learned people had died, he said "it was like the heart just sat down".

AP-APF

Support for Japanese PM hits record low: Poll

By WANG CHENYAN
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POLL RESULTS OF JAPAN'S THREE NATIONWIDE NEWSPAPERS ON THE POPULARITY OF THE DPJ GOVERNMENT



A new poll shows that Japanese voters' support for the government of Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda has hit a record low, but experts agree that none of the major parties in Japan would be powerful enough to govern alone if a general election was called now.

Conducted by the nationwide Asahi newspaper, the poll showed a decline in popularity for the Democratic Party of Japan for the fifth consecutive month. The poll results, released on Monday, showed support dropping from 28 percent in April to 22 percent in August.

Voters in favor of opposition parties remained at 58 percent.

Twenty-three percent chose the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party when asked which party they would vote for when electing members of the lower house of parliament. And 48 percent said they were undecided.

Zhou Yongsheng, an expert on Japanese studies at China Foreign Affairs University, said the poll indicates that the DPJ government is "shaky".

"The popularity of both par-

ties is comparable now," Zhou said, recalling that in August 2009, the DPJ took office in a historic landslide.

As trouble piles up for the DPJ, the main opposition party is pressing for an early election.

Sadakazu Tanigaki, head of the LDP, told reporters in Hiroshima on Monday that "it is about time" that Noda's government decided to seek the public's judgment, urging the

government to give assurances that it will call a general election ahead of the forthcoming parliamentary vote on a controversial tax increase bill.

And Tanigaki's party, so keen for an early poll, is threatening to submit a non-binding censure motion against Noda in the opposition-controlled upper chamber or present a motion of no confidence in the powerful lower house, if the current prime minister refuses to make such a promise.

But Noda, who was also in Hiroshima to attend a ceremony marking the 67th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of the city, brushed aside Tanigaki's request, saying that he will dissolve the lower house at an "appropriate time" at his

own discretion, according to Kyodo News.

In the Asahi poll, voters were split over the timing of the election, with 41 percent seeking dissolution versus 45 percent against.

"It is hard to say which side would be more likely to win if Japan's lower house was dissolved as early as the opposition party has requested. Neither the ruling nor the opposition party will enjoy an overwhelming victory to form a cabinet alone," Zhou said, pointing out that a coalition government is highly possible.

Wang Ping, an expert on Japanese studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, agreed and said there are "two possible formulas" if a coalition government comes into being

after the general election, to be held at the end of September.

"One is multiparty government, and the other is a coalition government of the DPJ and LDP," Wang said, adding that Noda is much more likely to fall from power "within weeks".

Zhou said the DPJ might win "by a slim majority" since it has more political stars than the LDP.

"However, since the DPJ is going to find it hard to maintain a majority in the lower house after the general election and since its policy is lacking coherence and consistency, it will only become more difficult for the party to carry out its administration, even if it keeps its ruling position," Zhou said.

Reuters contributed to this story.

Al-Qaida prisoners try to tunnel out of Iraqi jail

By ASEEL KAMI
Reuters

A group of al-Qaida prisoners was caught trying to tunnel out of Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison, an official said on Sunday, after the militants said they would step up their fight against the government.

Iraq's Shiite-led government is concerned that Sunni Muslim militants will get a boost from the insurgency in neighboring Syria, where mainly Sunni rebels are battling President Bashar al-Assad.

Jail breaks are common in Iraq and security at prisons was beefed up this week after five militants stormed a police counterterrorism headquarters on Tuesday in an attempt to free al-Qaida prisoners. All five were killed in a long gun battle.

A spokesman for the justice ministry, Haider al-Saadi, said in a statement that 11 "dangerous prisoners" at Abu Ghraib dug down three meters and had tunneled along 20 meters using a frying pan and part of

a ceiling fan before they were discovered.

They had fashioned breathing apparatus from soft-drink cans stuck end to end.

Another official in the ministry told Reuters that the men were al-Qaida members. The high security prison, notorious for abuse both during the rule of Saddam Hussein and under US occupation, houses several thousand convicted militants.

"The late shift guard around midnight on Saturday heard some banging and digging under the concrete," Saadi said. "The guards then conducted an arrest operation ... in a professional way by filling the tunnel with water to force them out."

Al-Qaida's Iraqi wing, the Islamic State of Iraq, warned last month that it planned to revitalize its campaign, weakened after years of losses against US troops and Iraqi allies.

Iraqi Sunni Muslim militants have traveled to Syria to support the rebels, security experts say, and the ISI is reaping funds

and recruits and fighters are criss-crossing the border.

Sunni insurgents often attack Shiite targets in Iraq to try to reignite the sectarian violence

that killed tens of thousands of people in 2006-07, and topple the Shiite-led government of Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

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