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A Palestinian youth uses a drum in Balata refugee camp in the West Bank city of Nablus on Monday, to wake up the faithful for the Suhoor meal, before the start of the daily fasting in the holy month of Ramadan. — AP

Pak Forces Foil Terror Attacks

Clues to funding as 13 are held in pre-emptive raids

Asif Shahzad

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani authorities arrested 13 militants in separate raids that police said on Monday foiled major terrorist attacks and provided clues to how drug sales from Singapore to the Middle East help fund the Taliban.

Police seized heroin and bomb-making material in one bust in the southern city of Karachi, the country's commercial centre and a hotbed of extremist activity. In the country's east, authorities captured a main Taliban recruiter of suicide bombers in one of two raids.

Pakistan is battling Taliban and Al Qaeda-linked militants blamed for scores of terrorist attacks over the last two years. On August 5, the campaign got a major boost when Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud was believed to have been killed in a US missile strike close to the Afghan border, where the militants are strongest.

Police in Karachi arrested seven members of the banned Lashkar-e-Jhangvi movement in a raid on Sunday in the teeming port city of more than 16 million, police officer Fayyaz Khan said. The Al Qaeda-linked movement is blamed for two failed assassination attempts against former President Pervez Musharraf and the beheading of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl. The Karachi cell was planning attacks on government officials, police

and offices of intelligence agencies in the city, police officer Saud Mirza said. He would not be more specific about the targets, saying it could jeopardise an ongoing investigation.

Police seized 2 kilograms of heroin plus three suicide vests and 15 kilograms of explosives in the raid, police said.

Khan said the gang shipped the heroin to China, Malaysia, Singapore and Middle East countries, and brought the profits back to Pakistan. From there, he said, the money headed to the border with Afghanistan, which supplies 93 per cent of the world's opium, the main ingredient of heroin and one of the main sources of Taliban funding.

Part of the profits were transferred to a Taliban commander named Abdul Samad in Chaman, an area on Pakistan's southwestern border with Afghanistan, he said.

"It is often talked about that militants do drug business to finance their needs, but this is the first time we have arrested such a gang," Khan said. In the city of Sargodha, police arrested six militants on Monday in two raids, police chief Usman Anwar said.

He said they were linked to Mehsud's Taliban and had planned to launch strikes next week on at least two places of worship, foreigners, politicians and minorities in the city. He said the raids had "prevented mayhem," giving no more details.

Among the six was Zaid Mustafa, who Anwar said recruited potential suicide bombers for training in Afghanistan. — AP >> SEE PAGE 16

The Wireless Ways of Fly-by-night Operators

Martin Croucher

DUBAI — Mobile phones and email addresses of UAE residents have come under a deluge of scams.

Hasan Al Nashash was expecting to meet a fellow Canadian professor in Dubai to discuss his academic research. Instead, he got a desperate plea for financial assistance from the airport.

The man calling himself Dr Al Awaidi said he had lost his plane tickets and passport.

"I was thinking humanely and I wanted to help this person if I could," said Al Nashash, a professor of electrical engineering in Sharjah.

However, minutes before he was to have wired the money, he received a call from the chairman of a regional academic body, who confirmed that none by the name of Al Awaidi was registered with them.

"I was 100 metres away from the desk where I was going to wire the money to him," he said.

"He was talking to me a few days earlier about the technical areas of my research and sounded completely professional. I had no reason to assume that he was a conman."

Al Nashash said that he heard that a few months later a colleague had fallen victim to the same ruse and sent the money. Officials have vowed to crack

down on the problem. Last year, residents were cheated out of Dh150,000 by confidence tricksters, police said in May. The Ministry of Interior announced last week that it would be circulating pamphlets to raise awareness of the problem.

However, experts believe that the fraudsters are becoming more sophisticated in a bid to cheat wary customers out of their cash.

"People get hundreds of spam emails every week," said Dr Fadi Aloul, Assistant Professor of Computer Engineering at the American University of Sharjah.

"A few fraudsters are now going to great lengths to try and con people."

Last month, a reporter from the *Khaleej Times* received a spam email that was apparently signed by a well-known doctor from a respected Dubai hospital.

The email claimed that a patient named Lena Morrison was close to death and was looking to bequeath Dh17 million to an American citizen, who will use the funds for "humanitarian assistance".

However, when contacted the doctor denied that he had any links to the email. "This has absolutely nothing to do with him," said a spokesman for the hospital's nor the doctor's name be used. >> TURN TO PAGE 4

Ministry Probing Death of H1N1-infected Qatari

Staff Reporter

ABU DHABI — The Ministry of Health said on Monday it was investigating the death of a Qatari citizen who is said to have contracted the H1N1 virus during a visit to the UAE.

It is not clear how or where he contracted it, but the deceased is reported to have visited an unnamed hospital in the UAE before returning to his homeland. State news agency Wam, quoting a health ministry source, said investigations so far show the deceased Qatari national had also visited a hospital in

Qatar prior to his UAE visit.

However, he is not reported to have not tested positive before arriving in the UAE. The health ministry is following up with its Qatari counterpart to obtain more information and confirm the accuracy of data it has received.

Upon his death in the first week of August, the media in Qatar had called it the first in the country to swine flu-related causes.

Media reports in Qatar said the man was in the UAE the week prior and had visited a hospital twice, but the infection remained undetected.

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'Space Music' Could Take Off

Martin Croucher

DUBAI — Space exploration may yet be in its nascent stages in the UAE, but it is not too early to inform our aesthetic tastes.

A type of electronic music, called "space music", is being promoted in the UAE in the hope that it will attract a new, cosmically-aware population.

Abdul Ismail, director of UK-based Interplanetary Expeditions, is promoting artists such as John Serrie, Robert Rich and Michael Stearns to play in concerts in Dubai.

With the launch of the UAE's first government satellite and talk of establishing a space agency here, Ismail believes the time is right for space music.

"It seems as though the majority of those interested in the space sector are also interested in some way or other in space music," he said.

Ismail said that space music uses a variety of ambient sounds and instruments that contribute toward "visualising emptiness".

He said that listening to the music,

coupled with the light and effects in a concert situation, is surprisingly relaxing. "I've been travelling to Dubai for over 10 years and it seems to me that the sheer cost of living coupled with the traffic can prove to be incredibly stressful for many," he said.

He said that he is currently in talks with several organisations in the UAE in a bid to stage a concert.

"Besides, there is also possibility for the composers I represent to play at opening ceremonies for space companies, organisations, exhibitions and gala dinners," he said.

Ismail said that he is also hoping to include an educational element, by holding a three to five day workshop for students prior to a concert.

"For the younger generation who are perhaps uncomfortable of performing in public or as part of a team, learning to compose electronic music can assist the student to express themselves." "Although I don't expect the levels of people attracted by Shakira and Kylie Minogue, I do expect a reasonable level of interest," he said.

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Ramadan Kareem

IFTAR
18:46

IMSAK
04:28 (WEDNESDAY)

Add 4 minutes for Abu Dhabi, deduct 4 minutes for Rak and 6 minutes for Fujairah

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Metro!

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Setting the pace

Underneath Bur Dubai, one of the largest Dubai Metro stations sprawls. Office workers on 'Bank Street' and mall goers to BurJuman Centre are keenly awaiting the launch day. >> SEE PAGE 4

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the **PURE WHOLESOME GOODNESS** of *Ramadan*

Authentic Paneer Makhni

KDD Thick Cream adds an authentic, luxurious taste to scrumptious snacks, glorious gravies, magnificent mains and divine desserts. When it comes to authentic home cooking there's no limit to what you can do with...
...the original thick cream.

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