

The Courier Mail

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TERROUR LINK ON OUR DOORSTEP



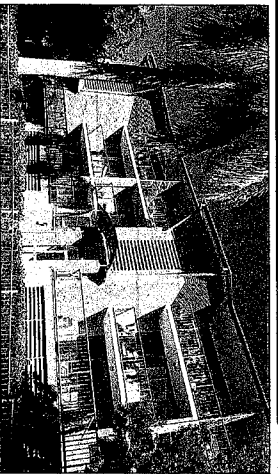
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A GOLD Coast doctor arrested at Brisbane International Airport over alleged links to international terrorists told colleagues he was leaving the country to be with his wife and new baby.

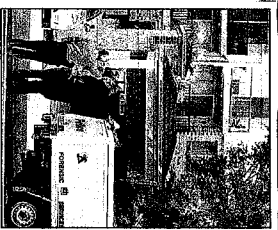
Gold Coast Hospital colleagues of Mohamed Haneef, 47, said he "checked out" of his job on Monday and used the birth of his child as a reason to be excused from duties.

Australian Federal Police investigators last night were also questioning Haneef's former Liverpool flatmate and Gold Coast Hospital colleague Dr Mohammed Asif Ali, pictured at top.

When Haneef was arrested by a joint AFP and Queensland Police Service operation on Monday night—becoming the eighth person arrested in relation to last week's British terror attacks—he had a one-way ticket to India.



HOME bases ... the Southport base of Dr Mohamed Haneef in Pohman St, left, and Mohammed Asif Ali's home at Spendlove St, Southport.



Haneef for a further 12 hours. Pictures: Peter Bull and Tim Marsden

Six of the eight suspects are doctors of a similar age to Haneef — the perfect cover, experts said yesterday, for terrorists operating in Western nations.

AFP investigators are believed to have found correspondence and evidence of telephone communication between Haneef and some of the

British suspects. Raids were yesterday carried out at Gold Coast Hospital and several addresses, including Haneef's Southport unit.

Police seized items that would not confirm their nature, but might allow AFP investigators to detain

Haneef for a further 12 hours.

But Prime Minister John Howard insisted there was no increased terrorism threat to Australia.

He urged the public to keep an open mind about the pair being questioned, saying neither had been charged with any offence.

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Let's Maroon
make it a **MARROON**

WAZZERS

INSIDE SPORT
Special 12-page Origin fitout
Locker ready to shine
Tugbit banned for two weeks

ORIGIN
Wooling class man

Weather

Brisbane	Fine	25
Cairns	Fine	25
Townsville	Fine	23
Mackay	Fine	23
Toowoomba	Fine	20
Sunshine Os	Fine	24
Gold Coast	Fine	24

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First



SE News
HD **TERROR LINK ON OUR DOORSTEP**

BY Michael Wray, Renee Viellaris, Greg Stolz, Additional reporting Janelle Miles, Rosanne Barrett and Paul Syvret
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LP A GOLD Coast doctor arrested at Brisbane International Airport over alleged links to international terrorists told colleagues he was leaving the country to be with his wife and new baby.

Gold Coast Hospital colleagues of Mohamed Haneef, 27, said the junior doctor was "in a hurry to get home" and used the birth of his child as a reason to be excused from duties.

TD Australian Federal Police investigators last night were also questioning Haneef's former Liverpool flatmate and Gold Coast Hospital colleague Dr Mohammed Asif Ali, pictured at top.

When Haneef was arrested by a joint AFP and Queensland Police Service operation on Monday night -- becoming the eighth person arrested in relation to last week's British terror attacks -- he had a one-way ticket to India.

Six of the eight suspects are doctors of a similar age to Haneef -- the perfect cover, experts said yesterday, for terrorists operating in Western nations.

AFP investigators are believed to have found correspondence and evidence of telephone communication between Haneef and some of the British suspects. Raids were yesterday carried out at Gold Coast Hospital and several southeast Queensland addresses, including Haneef's Southport unit.

Police seized items but would not confirm their nature.

A Brisbane magistrate last night allowed AFP investigators to detain Haneef for a further 12 hours.

But Prime Minister John Howard insisted there was no increased terrorism threat to Australia.

He urged the public to keep an open mind about the pair being questioned, saying neither had been charged with any offence.

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TERROR LINK ON OUR DOORSTEP: THE SUSPECTS

Doctors 'quietly spoken and nice' - Suspects' colleagues claim actions did not raise any alarm

From P1

Colleagues and neighbours yesterday painted a picture of a mild-mannered junior doctor who did nothing to raise alarm.

Haneef received his medical degree in India, but was training in London when he applied for a job in Queensland last year via an ad placed by the Beattie Government in the British Medical Journal.

His move to Australia on a 457 visa was sponsored by Queensland Health.

Haneef told colleagues on Monday he was going home for seven to 10 days, despite not having any scheduled holidays on his roster between June 4 and August 10.

"He was in a hurry to get home," said one doctor.

"He didn't mention anything to me about the leave so maybe it was a quick decision to go to India."

Mohammed Asif Ali, the second Indian doctor detained, had just returned from a long holiday in India.

Haneef worked in Gold Coast Hospital's oncology unit and Ali was in the emergency department. "I'm shocked. They are quite nice guys actually, very softly spoken," the doctor said. "I'm not sure if they would think about such things as terrorism. They are very friendly."

Haneef lived near the hospital in a nondescript unit.

According to unit manager Steve Bosher, he spoke "perfect English" with a British accent and was always polite.

"There was no hint of anything like this terrorism stuff.

"The only time we saw him was when we passed him in the foyer or the stairwell, or when he wanted something fixed in his unit.

"I was meant to fix his dishwasher for him -- he had accidentally put dishwashing liquid instead of powder in there -- but when I called in on Saturday, he wasn't there."

Neighbours also were shocked that they had a terror suspect living in their midst.

"I suppose they have to live somewhere," said Luke Pettet, who lived across the hall from the doctor.

"He was a pretty quiet sort of guy -- certainly not someone you'd pick as a terrorist."

Dr Ali lived near the hospital in a one-bedroom, furnished unit. He paid his \$220-a-week rent on time and was halfway through a 12-month lease, the building manager said.

Authorities said last night the two doctors had "quality" medical qualifications, were specialist trainees with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, and had worked at the hospital since late last year.

"I have faith in their medical and educational qualifications," said college chief executive Craig Patterson.

Dr Haneef is understood to have graduated in medicine from Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences in 2002 and Dr Ali from Mysore University in 2001.

"What's scary . . . about this, if these people are found to be guilty, is they are good quality doctors," Mr Patterson said.

Any potential immigrant to Australia must undergo stringent character checks by the Department of Immigration. They will fail that test if "they have a substantial criminal record" or "they have, or have had, an association with an individual, group or organisation suspected of having been, or being, involved in criminal conduct".

With six of the eight people so far arrested over the terror plots reported to be doctors, questions have been raised over the apparent contradiction between the altruistic medical profession and the violent acts over which they are accused.

Sydney clinical psychologist Ian Cohen said there were reasons why people could become involved with acts that seemed contradictory to their "normal" life.

"It's a little bit Jeckyl and Hyde," he said.

The psychologist with myhealthmatters.com.au said alienation combined with strong convictions could trigger the change from an everyday citizen to an extremist. Moving from another country and being socially isolated could galvanise strong beliefs.

How events unfolded

* All events are GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) except those in Australia.

Friday, June 29, 1am

Ambulance crews respond to a sick reveller at the Tiger Tiger nightclub in London's Haymarket district and notice smoke coming from a green Mercedes parked outside.

Friday, June 29, 2am

Bomb disposal experts find gas canisters and nails inside the car. Police later reveal the vehicle was rigged with a mobile phone detonator, which failed to work despite several attempts by would-be bombers.

Friday, June 29, 3pm

A second vehicle is discovered in an underground parking lot near Hyde Park. The blue Mercedes, which also contained gas canisters and nails, had been parked near the Tiger, Tiger club before it was given parking tickets and towed.

Saturday, June 30, 11am

Scotland Yard's counter-terrorism unit meet to discuss security; two hours later, Haymarket district and Piccadilly Underground are reopened.

Saturday, June 30, 3:15pm

A green jeep Cherokee packed with petrol and gas rams into Glasgow Airport.

Part of the main terminal is set aflame.

Police arrest the two vehicle occupants - an Iraqi doctor, Dr Bilal Abdulla, and a yet unidentified Iraqi doctor burned on 90 per cent of his body.

RF [CML_T-20070704-1-001-815225]

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