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OPINION
GREG SHERIDAN
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THURSDAY, JULY 5 2007

KEEPING THE NATION INFORMED

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Back in play: the AFL star who fought cancer and won



Markus Romanos
AFLA Romanos is a remarkable young man about to complete a life-threatening journey. Brisbane midfielder will line up for his first AFL game in more than two years, after battling a third bout of cancer, but 171. Like the opportunity with open arms, the 26-year-old said at his press conference yesterday: "I put a lot of things to bed for me."

Bankers said admitted for his check that number part of the club as a specialist coach and mentor while the threatening journey. Brisbane midfielder will line up for his first AFL game in more than two years, after battling a third bout of cancer, but 171. Like the opportunity with open arms, the 26-year-old said at his press conference yesterday: "I put a lot of things to bed for me."

celebrate his 25th game against Geelong tomorrow night during the last year of a highly successful career. "We all sat there in shock, emotional, but we couldn't believe what was happening. In that room, we would have loved to see him walk out on the field and play for us. He's a great player, but it's a greater relief for me because I know it means he's back in the game."

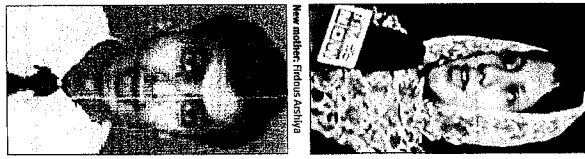
Defence warns of terror nuke threat

Parula Walters
National security editor
JOHN Howard will today rule out an imminent withdrawal of Australian combat troops from Iraq, stating on the cover of the Middle East.
The Prime Minister will spell out a submission on Australian military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan.



From a recent speech, Mr Howard will stress the stark consequences of a failure by the US and its allies to secure Iraq. The coalition cannot allow weapons proliferation or political conversion to deter strategy in Iraq. Forces will not be withdrawn until the Iraqi Government says they are no longer required.

THOUSANDS of parents surprised of not registering their children for school will be under a new federal government plan to enforce parental responsibility and Community Services Minister Mal Brough said yesterday. "I don't know the numbers. We have to find that out and we have to find out who are living in and what we can do to assist them and bring the people that they can't reach."



Student, Mohammed Hanef

Joy of homecoming turns to trauma

Roshni Varghese
Parula Walters
IT should have been a joyous homecoming for a young man who spent a year in a middle-class apartment in a middle-class suburb of Melbourne. Hanef, who came to Australia from the Taliban, will take many years.

Dr Hanef's brother to visit because he had been ill, because plane fares were cheaper in that. "I was very happy to see him."

He is honourable. Look, he is a good person. He is a good person, and he is a good person. He is a good person, and he is a good person. He is a good person, and he is a good person.

Mr Howard today will launch a new defence policy. The strategic importance of the Middle East to global security and Australia's global environment facing Australia's national interests are not spread uniformly across the globe, but nor do they decline "our sovereignty".

For the foreseeable future, there will have to be a defence posture in the Middle East. "The nature of these include contributions - their impact according to circumstances."

The 2007 defence update, the 2000 white paper says Australia must plan prudently for threats from small-scale terrorism operations. "We are well-placed to play a greater regional and global role than we have in the past."

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SE Local
HD **Doctor member of sleeper cell'**
BY Hedley Thomas, Mark Dodd, Patrick Walters
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LP **POLICE have told Gold Coast Hospital staff** who worked with young doctor Mohamed Haneef that he may have been part of a terrorist sleeper cell in Australia with connections to the British car bombing plot.

While no charges have been laid against Dr Haneef, who has been in custody since Monday night, his colleagues have expressed alarm at how seriously police are taking the investigation, which will be boosted by the arrival today of a chief inspector from the Metropolitan Police's counter-terrorism command.

TD Senior government sources last night declined to rule out the possibility that the Indian doctor may have been a facilitator or part of a possible "sleeper" cell connected to the doctors now in detention in Britain.

The alleged involvement of doctors in the foiled terror attacks in London and Glasgow prompted a British cleric to claim yesterday he had been told that al-Qaida was recruiting medical professionals.

Canon Andrew White told The Times that he had been warned by a senior al-Qaida figure in Iraq in April that "those who cure you will kill you".

The claim comes as British police question seven suspects, all of whom appear to be doctors or have medical links, in connection with the botched car bombings.

Another report from London

Continued -- Page 8

From Page 1

suggested the prime suspect in the bombings, Mohammed Asha, was found to have had contact with Dr Haneef via email and text messages. But the Indian High Commission and Dr Haneef's wife insist he innocently left his mobile phone SIM card with another doctor in Britain who is now a suspect.

Dr Haneef had worked in the English city of Liverpool before applying for a job in Queensland. While his British registration expired on March 14, 2006, his Queensland registration did not commence until September 4 and it is unclear what Dr Haneef did in the intervening six months.

After moving to the Gold Coast, Dr Haneef initially lived with his wife but she returned to Bangalore, India, to give birth. After his daughter was born last week, the 27-year-old father obtained emergency leave on Monday and booked a one-way ticket to India but was arrested at Brisbane Airport that night, having reportedly been under surveillance for several days.

"He's being linked to this case only because of this SIM card," Dr Haneef's wife Firdaus was reported as saying yesterday. "He is innocent — he was just coming to see his daughter."

AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty said on Tuesday that Dr Haneef was detained on suspicion of being "connected to a terrorist group," based on information received from British authorities at the weekend. Dr Haneef's friend and colleague, Mohammed Asif Ali, was also interviewed by police and released without charge. Dr Haneef is understood to have left his laptop with Dr Ali.

In interviews with police yesterday, hospital staff were told it was vital they provide any information that might shed light on Dr Haneef's contacts and interests since he arrived.

"They were explaining why they needed to talk to us. They said they were worried about the potential for sleeper cells," a senior hospital source told The Australian. "They said the biggest concern was the existence of a sleeper cell. They said they were taking it very seriously."

British authorities have made no request to extradite Dr Haneef, who is being held at the Brisbane watch-house under Australia's controversial counter-terrorism laws.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown last night responded to the failed car bombings by announcing Britain would step up its background checks on all skilled migrant workers and review the way the National Health Service recruited foreign staff.

Mr Brown told parliament the Government would expand its watch list of potential terrorists to warn other countries faster about the movements of people who could prove dangerous.

John Howard did not rule out changes to the federal immigration scheme but said they would only occur if problems were discovered in the vetting system.

"We have to get more information to see whether this incident has exposed any flaws because nothing has been established," the Prime Minister said.

Mr Howard warned that background checks would not detect people who did not have criminal records or any association with criminals or terrorists.

"There are other people who are complete cleanskins when they have their first involvement with terrorism, they've had no previous association with terrorism," Mr Howard said. "And no matter what checks and procedures you have, if a person has had no previous known association with a terrorist activity, the first time he is involved in a terrorist act, the authorities don't have any history against which to judge his conduct."

Dr Haneef's recruitment to Queensland came after a backlash against overseas-trained doctors over the Jayant Patel case, and a call for a recruitment drive by an official inquiry.

The Beattie Government placed job advertisements in overseas publications, including the British Medical Journal.

Dr Haneef responded to a BMJ advertisement in March last year -- ahead of Premier Peter Beattie's visit to Britain in May to host a series of recruitment seminars -- and was offered a job on June 20.

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