

Scotland Yard to question Haneef

Yard to question Haneef

Mark Peck

A SENIOR counter terrorism officer from Scotland Yard is expected to begin inquiries in Brisbane today to establish whether the Australian-born man involved in last week's bomb attack in Britain.

The federal investigator, a chief counter-terrorism commander, who is heading a small team of British police officers, is expected to arrive on Tuesday night over three weeks' work.

As the investigation continued yesterday, Australian police court approved to continue the raiding Dr Haneef, pending the arrival of the British officer.

Dr Haneef was held for four hours for questioning after which police was granted by a federal magistrate. His detention hours occurred for four hours on Tuesday morning.

Police claim alarms Gold Coast hospital

His friend and colleague, Dr Mohamed Asif Ali, was also interviewed by police but released after questioning yesterday.

Suggested the prime suspect in the case was Dr Haneef, who was found to have had contact with Dr Haneef at a hotel in Brisbane. Dr Haneef's wife had just moved into a new apartment in Brisbane.

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Boxer bruised during 'torture' interviews



Tough time: Ahmed Emzar, left, and Mohammad Basal after being released yesterday from days in military custody in Lebanon.

A FORMER Australian intelligence officer has been interviewed by Lebanese military intelligence officers about the Sydney Islamic centre.

The claims by Australian police officers that the Sydney Islamic centre was a front for terrorism have been challenged with any defence, despite his incoherence under the federal questioning.

Howard to stand firm on Iraq

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UK authorities have made no attempt to extradite Dr Haneef, who is being held at the Brisbane Victorian Immigration Detention Centre.

Bomb-link doctor besieged

ONE of the two doctors questioned by federal police in connection with the attempted car bombing in Brisbane last month after spending yesterday besieged in his home.

Dr Ali said he was free to go home after questioning on Tuesday night. He said he was not involved in the bombing.

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Indian officials to meet suspect

OFFICIALS from the Indian High Commission were flying to Brisbane from Canberra last night to meet a suspect in the counter-terrorism investigation.

The meeting comes after Queensland State-Domin Singh said despite repeated calls, federal police had been struggling to identify the suspect.

Dr Haneef's family had been contacted by the police to allow them to meet with the suspect in Brisbane last night.

Family reeling from the arrest of their golden boy

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brother's phone call from Australia on Tuesday night. The family was in a state of shock and confusion.

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SE Local
HD Scotland Yard to question Haneef - TERROR ARRESTS

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LP **A SENIOR counter-terrorism investigator from New Scotland Yard is expected to begin inquiries in Brisbane today to establish whether Indian doctor Mohammed Haneef was involved in last week's bomb attacks in Britain.**

The female investigator, a chief inspector from the British counter-terrorism command, who is leading a small team of British police, is this morning expected to gain access to Dr Haneef, arrested on Tuesday night over links with the bombers. .

TD No request has been made by British authorities for the extradition of the Indian national, but they remain interested in hunting down every contact Dr Haneef, 27, has had with the terror suspects arrested at the weekend.

Senior government sources last night declined to rule out the possibility that he was a facilitator or part of a "sleeper" cell connected to the doctors detained in Britain.

As the investigation continued yesterday, Australian police used anti-terrorism laws to win court approval to continue detaining Dr Haneef, pending further interviews.

He was held at an undisclosed location in Brisbane under Section 23CB (2) of the Crimes Act, amended in 2004-05 to incorporate anti-terror legislation, an Australian Federal Police spokesman said last night.

"He actually hasn't been arrested; he's been detained," the spokesman said. "No charges have been laid."

After his initial arrest, Dr Haneef was held for four hours for questioning, after which police sought a 20-hour extension, which was granted by a federal magistrate. His detention was again extended for eight hours after authorisation by a Brisbane magistrate on Tuesday morning.

At a closed hearing at 11.30pm on Tuesday, a Brisbane magistrate granted the AFP a further 48 hours under the "dead time" provisions, which allow police to stop the clock ticking on the custodial time-limit to conduct inquiries with overseas counterparts.

"This recognises that terrorism investigations can be complex and there may be legitimate reasons for extended periods of detention for suspects in such matters," the AFP spokesman said.

The legislation does not specify a limit to the dead time, but does require any extension to be reasonable and necessary.

AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty said the anti-terrorism powers allowed police to hold Dr Haneef for as long as they believed necessary.

"We can hold him for as long as a justice approves us to hold him," Mr Keelty said.

"We have to have reasonable grounds to hold him and at the moment he is co-operating with us.

"But I think it is important that the message gets out that at the end of the day, he may well be free to leave."

Speaking in Bega yesterday, John Howard said it was important to be aware that Dr Haneef had not been charged with any offence, despite his incarceration under the federal Government's special anti-terror powers.

"Until he is (charged) -- and he may not be, it will depend very much on how the investigations go -- it is appropriate to extend

to him a presumption of innocence," the Prime Minister said.

Mr Howard said he was yet to speak to British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

"Our two offices are arranging for a phone call for later this week," he said.

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