

# NEWS

## National and world news in brief

By Patrick Webster  
assistant managing editor  
paw175@psu.edu

### Osama bin Laden releases new tape

WASHINGTON: A new tape recording released by Al-Qaeda to the Al-Jazeera television network contains a message purportedly made by Osama bin Laden, threatening new terror attacks in the United States and offering a bilateral truce.

Officials from the Central Intelligence Agency said that the voice on the tape is difficult to positively identify, but sounds just like the leader of Al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden.

The person on the tape made several statements regarding the war in Iraq and recent terrorist events in Europe and renewed promises of action unless the U.S. stopped interfering in the Middle East.

"The war against America and its allies will not be confined to Iraq," the voice said. "Iraq has become a magnet for attracting and training talented fighters...our mujahedeen were able to overcome all the security measures in European countries, and you saw their operation in major European capitals."

After a long monologue about a willingness to fight, the voice on the tape made claims against the Bush administration and offered a "long-term" truce between peoples who don't really want to fight each other:

"In response to the substance of the polls in the U.S., which indicate that Americans do not want to fight Muslims on Muslim land, nor do they want Muslims to fight them on their land, we do not mind offering a long-term truce based on just conditions that we will stick to...we are a nation that God banned from lying and stabbing others in the back. Hence, both parties of the truce will enjoy stability and security to rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan, which were destroyed by war...there is no problem in this solution, but it will prevent hundreds of billions [of dollars] from going to influential people and warlords in America -- those who supported Bush's electoral campaign. And from this, we can understand Bush and his gang's insistence on continuing the war," the voice concluded.

In a press conference, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said that there was no possibility of accepting the truce offer, and that "we must confront threats before it is too late...before the attacks reach our shores."

If finally determined to have originated from bin Laden, it will have been the first confirmed communication from the Al-Qaeda leader since December 2004. Though the tape claims that terror operations in the United States are in their "planning stages" and "only a matter of time," the White House has not increased the terror alert level.



Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

### Russia in midst of deadly cold snap

MOSCOW, Russia: Devastatingly cold temperatures have held the country to a near-standstill on Thursday for the fourth day straight as temperatures dropped to new sustained lows.

Many motorists stranded on frozen streets have succumbed to hypothermia as the temperatures remained deathly cold at around -24 degrees Fahrenheit. The car batteries of many vehicles in Russia froze and were inoperable as many citizens either ineffectively tried to jumpstart their vehicles or took their batteries into their homes every night to ensure that they would work in the morning.

The Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry is considering tapping into strategic fuel reserves as electricity use has reached record highs as Russians struggle to keep their homes warm at night.

"This is what happens when it's minus 30 out -- when is this going to end?" said a Russian taxi driver.

Rupturing water lines have caused major problems in many parts of Russia, as they simultaneously deprived residents of water and damaged the underground electricity lines that are providing life-saving heat and power to millions of citizens across the countryside.

The temperatures are the lowest recorded since 1927.

### UN peacekeepers forced to withdraw in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast: The escalating civil war in the Ivory Coast reached new levels of violence as United Nations peacekeepers were forced to evacuate UN employees from the country.

A group of 300 UN troops came under attack by a large mob while it was in transit to a more fortified UN position in the country's capital and were compelled to engage the crowd of rebels or risk envelopment and destruction.

"They had to defend themselves," said Captain Gilles Combarieu, a UN military observer, giving no details on the possible numbers of dead or wounded.

While there were no reports of renewed violence in the rebel-held northern provinces of the country, government forces have been less and less able to disperse crowds of both rebel- and government-supporters in or near the country's capital.

The UN peacekeepers have been involved in skirmishes with both sides on the conflict.

"The secretary-general demands an immediate end to these attacks which contravene Ivorian law and seriously endanger the peace process as set out by the African Union and the Security Council," United Nations spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

## Andaleeb receives third Fulbright

By Jonny Evans  
staff writer  
mc252@psu.edu

An improvement in the Bangladesh public school system is the light at the end of the tunnel for Penn State Erie Marketing Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb. Professor Andaleeb, along with 25 other professionals, will travel to Brac University in Bangladesh for three weeks in March to come up with research methodologies and proposals in the hope to help identify and fix problems in their public school system.

Professor Andaleeb has just received his third Fulbright Grant,

which will be used toward funding the work ahead in Bangladesh.

Dr. Andaleeb has pushed toward helping the country by working as an advisor for the Health Economics Unit, and also worked with the Bangladesh Planning Commission. With the Bangladesh Planning Commission, he held an important position by taking part in writing the "Education Sector Paper" and also focused on the "Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper," and the "Millennium Development Goals."

Dr. Andaleeb spent time in Bangladesh with East West University as a Fulbright Senior Scholar during the 2003-2004 school year. During this time, he did

research on the country's health system in order to improve service delivery. He also taught graduate and undergraduate courses and "built research capacity among faculty members of both private and public universities."

The Fulbright scholarship was created to "increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries." It was created in 1946 following World War II and was sponsored by U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright. Each year the U.S. Student Program awards 1000 grants to U.S. citizens to study overseas.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Professor Andaleeb will be traveling to Bangladesh after receiving his third Fulbright grant.

### Interested in a career in writing or journalism?

### Write for The Behrend Beacon and find out what it's all about!

Contact Annie Sevin at [editorinchief@psu.edu](mailto:editorinchief@psu.edu) or visit our office in the Reed Union Building for details.

## Classifieds

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

-Aesop, Greek fabulist

Janet Neff Sample Center  
for Manners & Civility



## Behrend Briefs

As part of the King holiday observance, Meeghan Hollis, coordinator of residence life, is organizing a school supply drive to benefit the college child care center and Diehl and Irving elementary schools. To participate, contact Meeghan Hollis ([mat209@psu.edu](mailto:mat209@psu.edu) or ext. 6111). All donations will be collected before noon on Friday, Jan. 27.

Trio Johannes will appear at Penn State Erie as part of the college's Music at Night: The Logan Series on Tuesday, Jan. 31. The performance will begin at 7 p.m. in McGarvey Commons. Tickets are required.

## Police and Safety

1/12/2006  
Complainant reported that items were stolen from his room over break.

1/14/2006  
Complainant reported a hit and run incident. She was traveling north on Jordan Rd. when a red vehicle came up from behind her and hit her rear causing her to spin out and then come across the road and hit the guardrail. Other vehicle took off.

1/16/2006  
Report of unresponsive female on first floor west wing of Niagara Hall. Upon arrival found it to be alcohol related. Student sent to hospital. Refer to incident report for complete details.

1/16/2006  
Complainant reported receiving threats from another student during the past weekend.