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Final Edition

Anchorage Daily News

Friday, March 12, 2004

ALASKA'S NEWSPAPER

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Madrid bombs kill 190

Blasts at train stations wound more than 1,400 commuters



PETER DEJONG / The Associated Press

Rescue workers remove victims at Atocha train station, one of three railway stations in Madrid that were rocked by explosions Thursday, just three days before Spain's general elections. Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar appeared on television and called the attacks mass murder. He said Spain would never negotiate with "these assassins."

AL-QAIDA SUSPECTED: Some Spaniards are calling the carnage their country's Sept. 11.

By ELAINE SCIOLINO
The New York Times

MADRID, Spain — In the bloodiest terrorist attack in modern Spanish history, 10 bombs exploded during Thursday morning's rush hour in three commuter train stations here. The Interior Ministry said more than 190 people were killed and more than 1,400 were wounded.

The highly coordinated explosions went off within 10 minutes. Three other bombs were discovered and detonated by the police.

As the country struggled to absorb the carnage just three days before general elections, Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar appeared on television and called the attacks "mass murder." He vowed that Spain would never negotiate with "these assassins."

Aznar added, "March 11 now has its place in the history of infamy."

Already some Spaniards are calling the attacks the country's Sept. 11, and the front page of a special edition of the biggest daily newspaper, El Pais, ran the headline "11-M."

There was no warning of the attacks. At first, the Spanish authorities blamed ETA, the Basque separatist group that has been seeking independence from Spain for more than three decades.

Later Thursday, however, the Interior Ministry said the police had found a van with detonators

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INVESTIGATION: Officials who at first attributed the attacks to Basque terrorists say they have not ruled out al-Qaida or other suspects.

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and an Arabic-language tape of Koranic verses, according to news agencies, and said that it was considering all lines of investigation.

An Arabic newspaper, al-Quds al-Arabi, said it had received a claim of culpability for the train bombings issued in the name of al-Qaida.

The five-page e-mail claim, signed by the shadowy Brigade of Abu Hafs al-Masri, was received at the paper's London offices. It said the brigade's "death squad" had penetrated "one of the pillars of the crusade alliance, Spain."

"This is part of settling old accounts with Spain, the crusader, and America's ally in its war against Islam," the claim said.

The government declared a three-day period of mourning, and political parties participating in the elections called off all remaining campaign events, though elections will proceed as scheduled.

"All of Spain is suffering," said Mariano Rajoy, the front-runner and leader of the governing Popular Party, who has made the war on terrorism a centerpiece of his campaign and pledged to follow Aznar's policies. "This is a moment to put aside

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"I saw people flying. There was a security guard dripping with blood. People were pushing and running. I escaped with my life by a hair."

— Amet Oulabid

Former Alaskan linked to Iraqis

SUSAN LINDAUER: She is suspected of taking pay from enemy.

By LARRY NEUMEISTER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A former news reporter and press secretary for four members of Congress was charged Thursday with being a paid Iraqi intelligence agent and trying to contact her distant cousin — the White House chief of staff — to alter U.S. policy.

Susan Lindauer, 41-year-old daughter of former state legislator John Lindauer, was taken into custody in her hometown of Takoma Park, Md., and made a brief court appearance in Baltimore, where a federal magistrate ordered a psychiatric evaluation and released her to a halfway house, pending the posting of \$500,000 bail.

"I'm an anti-war activist, and I'm innocent," Lindauer told WBAL-TV outside the Baltimore FBI office. "I did more to stop terrorism in this country than anybody else. I have done good

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Suspect is remembered as worldly

EAST HIGH: Former classmates say she was smart, craved attention.

By LIZ RUSKIN
Anchorage Daily News

WASHINGTON — Susan Lindauer, arrested in Maryland on charges of acting as an agent for Iraq, grew up in Anchorage, where East High classmates remember her as a smart girl with deeply held beliefs who was drawn to drama.

"She liked being in the spotlight and having attention," said Jim Lottsfeldt, one of her close friends from the East High class of 1981.

Lindauer, 41, is the daughter of John Lindauer, a former state legislator who fled Alaska after a run for governor in 1998.

Susan Lindauer, an ex-journalist and former congressional aide, smiled as federal agents led her away from the Baltimore FBI office Thursday.

She wore jeans and a gray

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JOSE HUESCA / The Associated Press

Two people injured by an explosion on a commuter train in Madrid wait for aid outside the station Thursday. Officials said 10 bombs exploded at three commuter stations within 10 minutes.

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Papa Pilgrim

PILGRIMS: The Pilgrim family will get a temporary permit to use a bulldozer to gain access to their land.

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BACKEN LEADS IDITAROD WITH 2003 CHAMPION TEAM

Norwegian's dogs move in front in effort to repeat winning run

Buser and King wait out mandatory 24-hour rest stops

By CRAIG MEDRED and JOEL GAY
Anchorage Daily News

RUBY — Sticking to a carefully developed and effective schedule, Team Norway stormed into the lead of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race early Thursday evening.

As halfway leader Martin Buser of Big Lake waited out his mandatory 24-hour rest at Cripple and Jeff King of Denali Park settled in to take his rest on down the trail at Ruby, Norwegian Kjetil Backen took control of the 1,100-mile competition.

Backen is the kennel partner and, at the moment, heir apparent to 2003 Iditarod champ Robert Sorlie. Twelve of the 14 dogs left in Backen's team made the run to Nome with Sorlie last year.

"They know the way," Backen said. Back home in Norway, the musher's Web site wasn't

shy about announcing that its man has now taken charge of Alaska's premier sled dog race.

"So — now Kjetil is in Iditarod lead no matter what others may say — no matter how far King goes," trumpeted http://backen.no. "Kjetils (sic) behind in trail, but in front when calculating Kings (sic) mandatory 24h stop. . . . Simple calculations based on equal speed and equal rests all the way to Galena, gives Kjetil 6h 41m advance on King."

King's bold strategy Thursday of driving through Cripple and going another 110 miles to Ruby on the shore of the Yukon was last tried in 1992.

That's when 1989 Iditarod champ Joe Runyan of Nenana talked a rookie from Montana into striking out for Ruby. Runyan's thinking was that if the teams did their 24-



MARC LESTER / Anchorage Daily News

Kjetil Backen strokes his leaders before a late-night departure from Takotna on Wednesday.

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