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Osama organizing Taliban: report



PTI [MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2005 12:27:48 PM]

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NEW YORK: Osama bin Laden is allegedly helping the Taliban procure arms from Pakistan, Iran and Iraq, and deploying Arab instructors to train his army to build a fiercer force than ever, a media report said on Monday.

Afghanistan's Defense Minister Abdur Rahim Wardak said that Taliban forces are now larger, more aggressive, better armed and more organized than at any time since the end of 2001 and there are "strong indications" that al Qaeda has brought in a team of Arab instructors from Iraq to teach the latest insurgents techniques to the Taliban.

"Taliban have more men, equipment and money, better explosives and remote controlled detonators," said Wardak who a few days ago escaped a possible assassination attempt. They are also being helped to procure arms from Pakistan, Iran and Iraq, the 'Newsweek' report said.

Meanwhile, a European diplomat told the magazine that they too have the information that the Taliban have received new weapons and explosive devices, "most probably because of increased financial support from abroad and some traffic between Iraq and Afghanistan through Iran."

Mohammed Daud, who spent several months in Iraq, said that he is explaining to his fighters the lessons he had learnt there. Daud and other Taliban leaders were quoted as saying that the Afghan conflict is entering a new phase, with help from Iraq. According to them, Osama bin Laden has opened an underground railroad to and from jihadist training camps in the Sunni Triangle...

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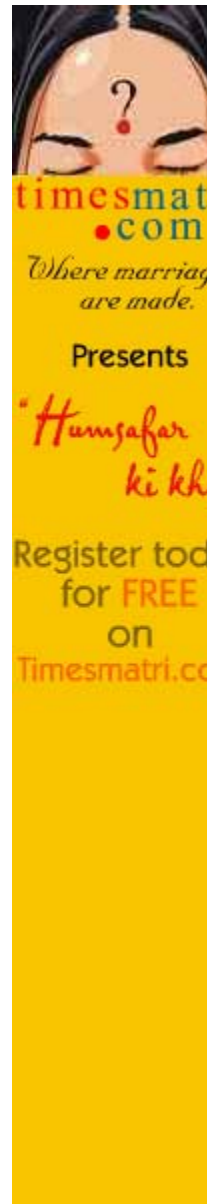
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