

# US investigators follow money trail in Time Square plot

US law enforcement officials travelled to Pakistan — where Shahzad spent five months before returning to the United States in February — to question four alleged members of an Al Qaida-linked militant group.

- AP
- Published: 00:00 May 8, 2010



New York: Investigators of the failed car bombing in Times Square are looking for a money courier they say helped funnel cash from overseas to finance a Pakistani-American's preparations to blow up the crude gasoline-and-propane bomb in the heart of New York, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press.

Investigators have the name of the courier who they believe helped Faisal Shahzad pay for the used sport utility vehicle and other materials to rig up a car bomb that would have caused a huge fireball in Times Square if it had gone off, the official told the AP. The official didn't know how much money may have changed hands.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the investigation. US law enforcement officials travelled to Pakistan — where Shahzad spent five months before returning to the United States in February — to question four alleged members of an Al Qaida-linked militant group.

## Tracing movements

Investigators are trying to trace his movements in his homeland and looking into the possible financing of the operation between the Pakistan-born budget analyst and foreign terror groups.

Shahzad, 30, who remains in custody on terrorism and weapons charges, lived alone in a Bridgeport, Connecticut, and rented an apartment with no apparent job since February.

He is seen on videotape buying boxes of fireworks from a Pennsylvania store and authorities say he bought a rifle in Connecticut over the past three months with no apparent source of income.

Meanwhile, the US general who oversees the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan says the Times Square bombing suspect is a "lone wolf" terrorist who did not work with others.

General David Petraeus told The Associated Press on Friday that Shahzad was inspired by militants in Pakistan, but did not have direct contact with them. Authorities say Shahzad told investigators he went to a terror training camp in Pakistan, but they have yet to confirm that.

© Gulf News 2010