

Bangkok blast: Police issue arrest warrant for Pak man

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Bangkok: Thai police today issued an arrest warrant against a Pakistani man who is allegedly the kingpin of a Chinese Uighur trafficking gang in connection with the country's worst bomb blast that killed 20 people last month at a temple here.

Police spokesman Prawut Thavornsiri said that an arrest warrant has been issued for Abdul Tawab on charges of conspiracy to possess unauthorised explosives and conspiracy to possess unauthorised war materials.

This is the 13th arrest warrant issued by Thai authorities for suspects in connection with the August 17 bomb blast at the Erawan Brahma temple here.

Yusufu Mieraili, a suspect arrested along the Thai-Cambodian border in Sa Kaeo on September 1, also implicated Tawab, saying he knew the Pakistani man.

Witnesses at the apartment also confirmed Mieraili's account, local media reported.

Tawab is allegedly chief of an Uighur trafficking gang through Thailand to third countries. He is believed to be a Pakistani national and husband of Panissara Chaleerattarom, a 39-year-old Thai arrested on Sunday, police spokesman General Prawut Thavornsiri said here.

"We have yet to verify whether he really is her husband. But we have a rough idea he had not played as big a role in the plot as Yusufu Mieraili did," he said.

- PTI