

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Markham man 'no threat' to Canada

Lawyer argues at immigration hearing

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

Mohammad Akhtar, a Markham man detained for two weeks following an RCMP anti-terrorism operation, never did anything to suggest he poses a threat to national security, his lawyer told a hearing.

"I know it is viewed that some people may be involved in unwarranted activities but certainly there is none that points toward my client," Tariq Shah said, according to transcripts of an Immigration and Refugee Board detention review.

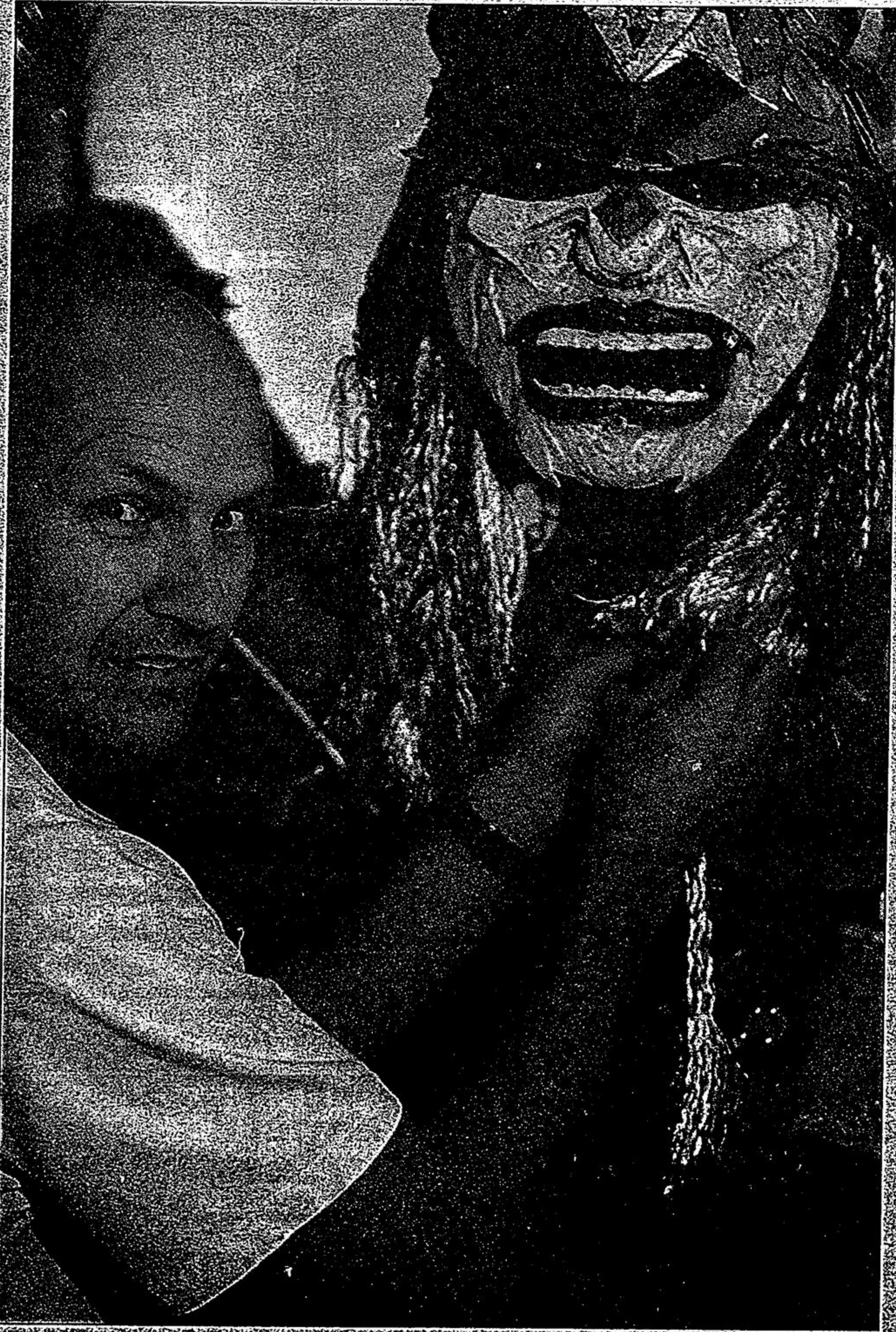
An RCMP background report on Project Thread, explaining why three Markham men and 16 others were detained Aug. 14, alleges some of the men displayed suspicious interest in the Pickering Nuclear Power Plant and other local landmarks. But, during the Aug. 20 hearing, Mr. Shah said Mr. Akhtar should not be held "just on mere suspicion" someone else in this group may be a threat.

"One room has been found with airplane pictures. What has my client to do with those pictures?" he asked.

Mr. Akhtar, 30, was expected to be released Thursday, on con-

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Masked man



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Motus O dance company's James Croker puts the finishing touches on a puppet to be used in the performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Markham Theatre Wednesday. The production will be presented at York Region schools this fall by the Stouffville-based company.

Cancer centre gets \$2M boost

Facility for York Region in planning stage

BY JEFF MITCHELL
Staff Writer

York's Region's goal of establishing a cancer treatment centre has been given a \$2-million boost by the provincial government.

The centre could eventually cost as much as \$80 million and provide much-needed services to thousands of patients, Southlake Regional Health Centre president Dan Carriere said Thursday.

The \$2 million funding, announced by Health Minister Tony Clement in Newmarket Thursday, will be spent on the planning and design phase of the project.

NEWMARKET SITE

The regional cancer centre, to be built on the present hospital site on Davis Drive, will eventually encompass radiation therapy and chemotherapy services for patients from a wide catchment area.

"We'll have the capacity to deal with South Simcoe patients and (people from) all of York Region," Mr. Carriere said.

"So, we're looking at a facility that could accommodate, possibly, a million people over the next 10 to 15 years."

It is important for cancer patients to be able to obtain the kind of treatment they need close to home, Mr. Clement said.

"That means so much for peace of mind," the minister said.

"Having this new cancer centre available

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