

You are in: [World: South Asia](#)[Front Page](#) Friday, 2 March, 2001, 15:32 GMT[World](#)**Thirteen gunned down in Pakistan**[Africa](#)[Americas](#)[Asia-Pacific](#)[Europe](#)[Middle East](#)[South Asia](#)[From Our Own Correspondent](#)[Letter From America Monitoring](#)[UK](#)[UK Politics](#)[Business](#)[Sci/Tech](#)[Health](#)[Education](#)[Entertainment](#)[Talking Point](#)[In Depth](#)[AudioVideo](#)

Violence between Sunnis and Shias has escalated

Police in Pakistan say 13 people have been killed in sectarian violence in the town of Hangu in North-West Frontier province.

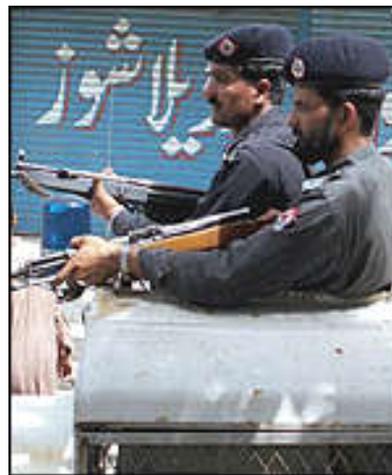
The violence erupted when an unidentified gunman opened fire in a bazaar, killing three Shia Muslim shopkeepers and injuring another.

Officials said those killed in the ensuing gun battles, in which heavy weaponry was used, were Sunni Muslims.

Several shops and cars were set on fire during the clashes.

A curfew is now in force in the area and the roads leading into the town have been blocked.

Special police units have also secured positions in several hills around the town, which had earlier been taken over by various militia groups.



Police have tightened security

No one has claimed responsibility for the killings in the bazaar, and the motive for them is unclear.

Spate of violence

However, they began a day after Haq Nawaz, a leading member of the Sunni militant group Sepa-e-Sahaba, was hanged for killing an Iranian diplomat 10 years ago.

Search BBC News Online

[Advanced search options](#)

Launch console for latest audio/video

[BBC RADIO NEWS](#) [BBC ONE TV NEWS](#) [WORLD NEWS SUMMARY](#) [BBC NEWS 24 BULLETIN](#) [PROGRAMMES GUIDE](#)**See also:**[26 Feb 01 | South Asia
Blood money offered for Pakistan activist](#)[24 Feb 01 | South Asia
Pakistan arrests 200 Sunni activists](#)[21 Sep 00 | South Asia
Pakistan detains hardline Sunnis](#)[12 Apr 00 | South Asia
Analysis: Pakistan's religious rift](#)**Internet links:**[Sunni Islam](#)[Pakistan Government](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

Top South Asia stories now:[Pressure on Taleban urged](#)[Rebels hit Tripura convoy](#)[New hope for Bangladesh hostages](#)[Sex workers demand recognition](#)[Gough confronts Colts](#)[Chechen rebel backs Taleban campaign](#)[Pakistani batsmen fail](#)[Police massacred in Kashmir](#)

Mr Nawaz was buried in his home town of Jhang, in the province of Punjab, from where there have been reports of clashes between police and sectarian groups.

Links to more South Asia stories are at the foot of the page.

Pakistan has seen a spate of violence between Sunnis and Shias in recent months.

In January, nine people were killed in sectarian clashes in the Orakzai tribal area.

Those clashes were sparked by a dispute over a shrine revered by Shias but located in a Sunni area.

Links to more South Asia stories



[^^ Back to top](#)

[News Front Page](#) | [World](#) | [UK](#) | [UK Politics](#) | [Business](#) | [Sci/Tech](#) | [Health](#) | [Education](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Talking Point](#) | [In Depth](#) | [AudioVideo](#)

[To BBC Sport>>](#)

[News Sources](#)