

Momentous ceasefire

IRA's decision to dump arms is a turning point, not just for Ireland but the world

TWO recent developments may have hastened the decision of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to formally declare an end to its strategy of violence against Britain for the cause of a united Ireland. The first was the recent murder of Robert McCartney on January 30. His killing — by elements within the IRA — curiously held up a mirror to the inherent violence within the organisation. The campaign that the dead man's five spirited sisters waged in their quest for justice internationalised the issue and put intense pressure on the IRA to clean up its act even as it continues with its project of freeing Ireland from British rule.

The violence perpetrated by jihadi elements in the London underground earlier this month — and the universal outrage it caused — may possibly have been the second immediate reason for prompting this welcome change in the organisa-

tion's strategy and thinking. But, in a sense, the shift had already taken place. The Good Friday Peace Accords of 1998 had already privileged the political process over random acts of terror and Gerry Adams, the leader of the Sinn Fein — the political arm of the IRA — had indicated time and again that he wished to distance himself from elements within the IRA that had turned lumpen, and to achieve an end to hostilities in order to secure the stalled Northern Ireland peace process.

IRA's decision to dump arms represents a turning point, not just for Ireland but a world in which enduring and incipient insurgencies continue to fuel terrorist violence. The IRA, by opting for the sanity of dialogue and the stability of the democratic process, demonstrates that there could be a different way of achieving political ends that have defied a solution for decades.

JUL 20

INDIAN EXPRESS

ট্রেনে বিস্ফোরণ ছক কষেই, আর ডি এক্স বলে সন্দেহ

অগ্নি রায় ও শঙ্কুদীপ দাস • নয়াদিল্লি

২৯ জুলাই: বিপদ থাবা গেড়ে রয়েছে জানা ছিল। এমন কী রেলের উচ্চপদস্থ কর্তাদের ডেকে সেই বিপদের গতি-প্রকৃতি সম্পর্কে সম্প্রতি দীর্ঘ বৈঠক করেছিলেন রেলমন্ত্রী লালুপ্রসাদ যাদব। তবু এড়ানো গেল না শ্রমজীবী এক্সপ্রেসে বিস্ফোরণ!

গত মাসে রেলভবনে এক রুদ্ধদ্বার বৈঠকে লালুপ্রসাদ দেশের বর্তমান সন্ত্রাস পরিস্থিতির প্রেক্ষিতে রেলের নিরাপত্তার কথা তুলেছিলেন। চিহ্নিত করেছিলেন বেশ কিছু “বিপজ্জনক এলাকা যেখানে বিশেষ নজরদারির প্রয়োজন।”

কাল সন্ধ্যার বিস্ফোরণের প্রায় চব্বিশ ঘণ্টা পরের যে চিত্র পাওয়া যাচ্ছে, তাতে এ কথা স্পষ্ট, লালুর আশঙ্কা অমূলক ছিল না। এখনও পর্যন্ত পাওয়া তথ্য অনুযায়ী, গত কালের বিস্ফোরণ নিছক দুর্ঘটনা নয়। নির্দিষ্ট পরিকল্পনা এর পিছনে কাজ করেছে। বম্ব ডিসপোজাল স্কোয়াড ইঙ্গিত দিয়েছে, বিস্ফোরণের জন্য ব্যবহার করা হয়েছিল আরডিএক্স। আগামিকাল ফরেনসিক পরীক্ষার পরে তা নিশ্চিত জানা যাবে। ঘটনাস্থলে গিয়ে রেলপ্রতিমন্ত্রী নারায়ণ ভাই রাতোয়া বলেছেন, “নিশ্চিত ভাবে এই দুর্ঘটনার পিছনে কেউ রয়েছে।” স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রকের সন্দেহ, এই কাজ মাওবাদীদের। রেলের তদন্তে জানা গিয়েছে, আসনের নীচে বিস্ফোরক ও টাইমার মিলেছে। প্রতিরক্ষামন্ত্রী প্রণব মুখোপাধ্যায় বলেছেন, “বোঝাই যাচ্ছে, পুরো ব্যাপারটা পরিকল্পিত।”

লালুপ্রসাদ কিছু দিন ধরেই রেল এবং রাজ্যের পুলিশ ও গোয়েন্দা সংস্থার মধ্যে সমন্বয় বাড়ানো ও আরও বেশি তথ্য আদানপ্রদানের দাবি জানিয়ে আসছেন। গত মাসের বৈঠকের গোপন কার্যবিবরণী দেখাচ্ছে, লালু রেলের সব ক’টি জোনের জেনারেল ম্যানেজার ও রেলবোর্ডের সদস্যদের সতর্ক করেছিলেন, “অন্তর্ঘাত সত্যিই বাস্তব সমস্যা। বন্ধার-আরা, ফতুহা-বাঁকাঘাট, গয়া-পটনার মত রেলের বেশ কিছু শাখা জঙ্গি-

অধ্যুষিত বিপদজনক অঞ্চলে রয়েছে, যেখানে বিশেষ নজরদারির প্রয়োজন আছে।”

কেন্দ্রের বিভিন্ন মহলও এখন একই সুরে বাজছে। বিষয়টি যে দেশের সার্বিক নিরাপত্তা ও অভ্যন্তরীণ জঙ্গি সমস্যার সঙ্গে ঘনিষ্ঠ ভাবে জড়িত, তা অস্বীকারের উপায় নেই। ফলে, নিছক রেলপুলিশ ও নিরাপত্তাকর্মীর উপরে দায় চাপিয়ে হাত ঝেড়ে ফেলতে পারছে না কেন্দ্র। আজ অবশ্য সংসদে বিবৃতি দিয়ে রেলমন্ত্রী জানিয়েছেন, “যাত্রী সুরক্ষার কথা মাথায় রেখে রেলের এলাকা ও ট্রেনগুলিতে নজরদারি বাড়ানোর প্রয়াস শুরু হয়েছে। রাজ্যগুলিকেও নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা জোরদার করতে নির্দেশ দেওয়া হয়েছে।”

সন্ত্রাসবাদী কার্যকলাপ ঠেকানোর জন্য রেল সুরক্ষা বাহিনীকে গত বছর আইন করে বিশেষ ক্ষমতা দেওয়া হয়েছিল। এই বাহিনীর জন্য সাড়ে ৩ কোটি টাকা খরচ করে ১ হাজার ইনসাস রাইফেল ও ৫০০টি নাইন এম এম কারবাইন কেনা হয়েছে। কিন্তু রেল সুরক্ষার খবর, ওই বাহিনীতে জওয়ানের সংখ্যা প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় অনেক কম। সব দূরপাল্লার ট্রেনে এই বাহিনী মোতায়েন করা সম্ভব হয়নি। নয়াদিল্লির মতো বড় কয়েকটি স্টেশনে পুলিশ-কুকুর দিয়ে ট্রেন পরীক্ষা করা হলেও অসংখ্য স্টেশন চূড়ান্ত অরক্ষিত ভাবে।

সংসদের রেল বিষয়ক স্থায়ী কমিটির চেয়ারম্যান বাসুদেব আচারিয়া জানানেন, রেলের নিরাপত্তা চেলে সাজার জন্য তাঁরা শীঘ্রই আলোচনায় বসছেন। তিনি বলেন, এমসিসি-র উপর থেকে সন্দেহ সরছে না। বাসুদেববাবুর কথায়, “যেখানে কাল দুর্ঘটনা হয়েছে, সেই অঞ্চল এমসিসি-অধ্যুষিত। ঝাড়খণ্ড, বিহার, উত্তরপ্রদেশের একাংশকে ওরা ‘লালখণ্ড’ বলে উল্লেখ করছে।” নাশকতার আশঙ্কায় দিল্লি মেট্রোতে আজ ৩ ব্যাটালিয়ান সিআইএসএফ নিয়োগ করা হয়েছে। এই প্রসঙ্গে বাসুদেববাবু বলেন, “আমরা কলকাতা মেট্রোর নিরাপত্তা নিয়েও রেল মন্ত্রকের সঙ্গে আলোচনায় বসব।”

30 JUL 2005

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

Time for dry-cleaning

A CITY is usually judged by its people. Solely by that yardstick, Mumbai is indeed India's Maximum City. But beyond the swirligig and the Mumbaikar's legendary love of life lies the business of staring at a reality that isn't always pretty. For a city is also a geographical entity — and as the people of Mumbai found out this week, a piece of actual physical land not insulated from the ravages of bad weather. The record level of rains that turned India's most dynamic city into a marooned tract of submerged and semi-submerged land would have knocked the wind out of any city anywhere else in the world.

But there were things that made Mumbai's limp back from the debacle harder and more painful. On top of the list was — and continues to be — the woefully outdated drainage system. Constructed by the British around a century ago, it cannot possibly furnish the requirements of a 21st century city with 11.9 million people. The fact that a catastrophe has made people including the prime minister sit up and take note of this speaks volumes for the *chalta hai* mentality that plagues India in general and Mumbai in particular. One must

also take a close look at the reaction time and emergency measures of the authorities. The figures of 200 dead in the rains include people who died trapped in cars, crushed by falling walls, in landslides and who were electrocuted. This is not the picture of a megapolis being racked by torrential rain, but a city under siege and more in tune with a city being attacked by murderous tripods.

It is easier to pass judgment over Mumbai's shortcomings than to make the necessary changes that could give it a better chance of keeping its head aloft the next time such a natural disaster strikes. But at stake here is not some petty pie-fight between the authorities and the people but the stature and competence of India's commercial capital. Rumours of dam breaks and tsunamis bandied about by some elements added to the chaos and stories of bodies being dug up from land piles or being cremated only after 'payment' is made do not speak well of a city that revels in living. With the floods subsided and Mumbai picking itself up from the sludge, it is time for the difficult part: to learn lessons from the debacle and unlearn those set notions and practices that convert a tragedy into a catastrophe.

Disarming charm

LONG BEFORE Islamic terrorism came to Britain, there was the Irish Republican Army. If Thursday's words are put into action, it might be the happy demise of Republican terror. But the IRA's statement that it is no longer going to continue its armed campaign may not automatically lead to the beginning of a beautiful friendship between Catholic Republicans and Protestant Unionists. For one, promises of laying down arms have been broken before. For another, Unionists have, rightly or wrongly, taken any statement from the likes of Gerry Adams with a barrel of salt. Yet, the declaration of decommissioning is the most sincere move yet towards a settlement.

The irony of one ideology of terror pushing another ideology of terror to the point of giving up its violent ways cannot be missed. After 9/11, the IRA — along with its fellow political wing, the Sinn Fein — has been getting less and less response from its traditional supporters in the United States. With the in-

ternecine murder of Robert McCarthy, this support has all but dried up in America. The marginalisation of the Ulster Unionist Party has added to the IRA finding little moral and political impetus to continue its war.

A theoretical state of ceasefire has existed from 1997. But rejectionists from both sides have made genuine peace-seekers nervous in the past. It is one thing to sell peace to the other side, quite another to sell it to one's own 'soldiers'. And even convincing the Unionists that the IRA has signed its own 'vanishing warrant' will take effort and time. But too much scepticism is not going to help anyone. The IRA must not only give up arms, but must be seen to do so. It's up to the Unionists to believe the two reports of the independent decommissioning monitoring commission scheduled in October and January. And it's up to the IRA to make the findings of the reports match what it has said on Thursday.

30 JUL 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Terror explodes on train to ^{General} Delhi, 10 killed _{HR 1}

HT Correspondents
Lucknow/Jaunpur, July 28

A POWERFUL blast ripped through a general coach of the Delhi-bound Shramjeevi Express near Singramau railway station, killing 10 persons on the spot and injuring over 50 on Thursday.

It was 5.20 pm, when the train from Patna was approaching Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh. The bomb, kept in a bag near the toilet, exploded so powerfully that the victims were blown into pieces. The dead included a little girl. The second coach from the engine was delinked, while another coach was partially damaged.

Investigating officers are not yet clear whether a time device was used to trigger the explosion. Experts from Agra have been rushed to the site.

Railway minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, on his way from Patna, said investigations were on to ascertain the nature of the blast. He did not rule out the possibility of a gas cylinder explosion.

The intensity of the blast, however, indicates that it was a terrorist act. Minister of state for railways Narain Bhai Rathwa endorsed this view, saying the involvement of terrorists could not be ruled out.

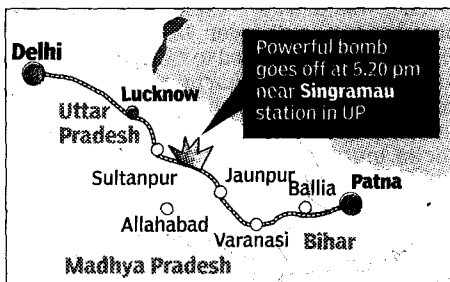
The police have cordoned off the entire area. "Many people were seated on the entrance of the coach. The actual toll is probably at least 20," said Ram Balak, who saw the blast. Another eyewitness, said the explosion was so huge that several passengers were hurled into the air.

Northern Railway rushed an accident relief train to the spot. It reached the site around 7.15 pm, almost two hours after the blast. Till the, villagers helped the injured reach hospitals in private vehicles.

PTI quoted DGP Yashpal Singh as saying that 80 persons have been injured, 20 of them seriously. Those injured seriously were admitted to a Jaunpur hospital while the others were treated at public health centres at Badlapur. Some were also taken to BHU Hospital.

The Government railway Police and the UP cops shepherded the unhurt passengers from their coaches and sent them in batches to Sultanpur, from where they continued their journey.

Chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav announced ex-gratia of Rs 1 lakh to the relatives of the dead, Rs 50,000 to the seriously injured and Rs 25,000 for those with minor injuries.



Lalu Prasad Yadav prepares to board a train to the blast site.

AP

ভাল সন্ত্রাস, মন্দ সন্ত্রাস

ব্রিটিশ ও মিশরের সন্ত্রাসবাদী বোম্বার্ক হামলার পর পাশ্চাত্যের
দৃষ্টিভঙ্গিতে একটি পরিবর্তন সংঘটিত হইয়াছে। অন্তত
পরিবর্তনের প্রক্রিয়াটি সূচিত হইয়াছে। সেটি হইল, ভাল

সন্ত্রাসবাদী বলিয়া কিছু হয় না, সব সন্ত্রাসবাদীই বিপজ্জনক এবং
প্রতিরোধযোগ্য। মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে সন্ত্রাসবাদীদের দুঃসাহসিক
বিমান-হানার পর সে জন্য দায়ী আল-কায়দা ও তাহার আশ্রয়দাতা
তালিবান গোষ্ঠীর বিরুদ্ধে মার্কিন আক্রমণ আছড়াইয়া পড়িয়াছিল।
তাহার অনেক আগে হইতে ভারত জেহাদি সন্ত্রাসবাদীদের দ্বারা
ক্রমাগত আক্রান্ত হইতে থাকিলেও পশ্চিমী রাষ্ট্রগুলি এবং
তথাকথিত আন্তর্জাতিক জনমত সে বিষয়ে উদাসীন থাকিয়াছে।
পাকিস্তানে জেহাদি জঙ্গিদের অসংখ্য প্রশিক্ষণকেন্দ্র ও আশ্রয়স্থল
থাকা সত্ত্বেও ওই দেশকে প্রধানত মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্র এবং অংশত
ব্রিটেনও সন্ত্রাসের বিরুদ্ধে আন্তর্জাতিক অভিযানের অগ্রসৈনিকের
মর্যাদা দিয়াছে। পাক ভূখণ্ড হইতে কাশ্মীরে অনুপ্রবেশকারী
জেহাদিদের প্রতি চোখ বুজিয়া থাকিয়াছে। পাক প্রেসিডেন্ট
তাহাদের 'স্বাধীনতা-সংগ্রামী' আখ্যা দিলেও প্রতিবাদ করে নাই।
ব্রিটেনে বোম্বার্ক হামলায় পাকিস্তানিদের জড়িত থাকার তথ্য নুতন
করিয়া এই দৃষ্টিভঙ্গির পুনর্বিবেচনার লগ্ন আনিয়া দিয়াছে। ব্রিটিশ
সরকার এখন পাকিস্তানের দিকে অভিযোগের অঙ্গুলি নির্দেশ
করিতেছে। আর পারভেজ মুশারফ ব্রিটিশদের নিজ সমাজের
অভ্যন্তরীণ বৈষম্যের দিকে নজর দিবার পাল্টা উপদেশ দিতেছেন।

অবস্থা এমন দাঁড়াইয়াছে যে মিশরের পর্যটনকেন্দ্রের
বিস্ফোরণেও প্রাথমিক ভাবে পাকিস্তানি জঙ্গিদের জড়িত থাকার
অভিযোগ ওঠে। পরে অবশ্য মিশর সরকারই সে অভিযোগ
প্রত্যাহার করিয়া লয়। কিন্তু তবু পাশ্চাত্যের কাছে পাকিস্তানের
আন্তর্জাতিক ভাবমূর্তি অনেকটাই কলঙ্কিত। ব্রিটিশ পুলিশ আবিষ্কার
করিয়াছে, বিস্ফোরণের ঘটানোর আগে কয়েক বছর ধরিয়া ওই
পাক জঙ্গিরা অভিবাসী হিসাবে ব্রিটেনে অনুপ্রবেশ করে এবং
নানাবিধ সরকারি অনুদান, ভর্তুকি, স্বেচ্ছাসেবাসুবিধা ও ছাড় ভোগ
করে। দুধকলা দিয়া ব্রিটিশ সমাজ জেহাদি কালসর্পদের পোষণ
করিয়াছে, এই আত্মবিষ্কার ব্রিটিশ কর্তৃপক্ষকে লজ্জায় ফেলিয়া
দিয়াছে। এই জেহাদিদেরই জ্ঞাতিভাতারা যখন ভারতের কাশ্মীরে
সন্ত্রাস, হত্যা ও নৈরাজ্যের সৃষ্টি করে, তখন ব্রিটিশ, মার্কিন বা
অন্যান্য পশ্চিমী সরকারের কাছ হইতে নয়াদিল্লি কোনও আনুকূল্য,
সমর্থন বা সাহায্য পায় নাই। ওই জঙ্গিরা যেন 'উপকারী জেহাদি',
আল-কায়দা কিংবা অধুনা লন্ডন-বিস্ফোরণে যুক্ত জঙ্গিদের মতো
ক্ষতিকর জেহাদি নয়। এই বিকৃত দৃষ্টিভঙ্গির মূল্য আমেরিকা, স্পেন
এবং সর্বশেষ ব্রিটেন ও মিশরকে প্রস্তুত রক্তের মূল্যে চুকাইতে
হইতেছে। মূল্য দিবার জন্য সম্ভবত উদ্দিগ্ন প্রহর গনিতেছে ফ্রান্স,
জার্মানি সহ সমগ্র ইউরোপও।

বস্তুত, সন্ত্রাসবাদ কোনও বাছবিচার করে না। সন্ত্রাসবাদীদের
মোকাবেলার ক্ষেত্রেও তাই বাছবিচার বিপজ্জনক। বিন লাভেন
কিংবা আল কায়দা যখন আফগানিস্তানে দখলদার রুশ সৈন্য বা
তাহার আশ্রিত বাবরাক কারমাল সরকারের কর্মকর্তাদের হত্যা
করে তখন যদি তাহারা প্রশংসনীয় 'স্বাধীনতা-সংগ্রামী' হয়, তবে
মার্কিন লক্ষ্যবস্তুতে আঘাত করিলে দমনযোগ্য জেহাদি জঙ্গি হইয়া
যাইবে কেমন করিয়া? কাশ্মীরে হত্যা-ধ্বংস-নাশকতায় লিপ্ত পাক
জঙ্গিরা স্বাধীনতা-সংগ্রামী হইলে লন্ডনের পাতাল রেল বিস্ফোরণ
ঘটাইলে তাহারা ব্রিটিশ গণতন্ত্রের নিশানা হয় কী রূপে? ভারতীয়
রাষ্ট্রনেতারা বিগত এক দশকেরও বেশি কাল ধরিয়া বিশ্বকে
সন্ত্রাসবাদের বিপদ সম্পর্কে সতর্ক করিয়া আসিতেছেন। মার্কিন-
ব্রিটিশ-ইউরোপীয় জনমত গুরুত্ব দেয় নাই। সন্ত্রাসের বিরুদ্ধে
সর্বজনীন অভিযানে আদর করিয়া যাহাকে ডাকিয়া আনা হয়, সেই
পাকিস্তান হইতেই আল কায়দা সহ বিভিন্ন সন্ত্রাসবাদী গোষ্ঠী
বিশ্বময় ছড়াইয়া পড়িতেছে। পাকিস্তানের মাদ্রাসা হইতেই একদা
তালিবানের জন্ম হইয়াছিল। ঠাণ্ডা লড়াইয়ের সেই যুগে
সোভিয়েত-বিরোধী তালিবান ছিল পশ্চিমের মিত্র। ভারত কিন্তু সে
দিনও তালিবানের নিন্দা ও বিরোধিতায় মুখর ছিল। নয়াদিল্লির কাছ
হইতেও পশ্চিমের কিছু কিছু জিনিস শিখিবার আছে!

28 JUL 2004

ANADAR ZAR PARI

New name for 'war on terror'

The Bush administration is now talking of a "global struggle against violent extremism."

Eric Schmitt and Thom Shanker

THE BUSH administration is retooling its slogan for the fight against Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups, pushing the idea that the long-term struggle is as much an ideological battle as a military mission, senior administration and military officials said on Monday.

In recent speeches and news conferences, Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and the nation's senior military officer have spoken of "a global struggle against violent extremism" rather than "the global war on terror," which had been the catchphrase of choice.

Administration officials say that phrase may have outlived its usefulness, because it focussed attention solely, and incorrectly, on the military campaign.

Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the National Press Club on Monday that he had "objected to the use of the term 'war on terrorism' before, because if you call it a war, then you think of people in uniform as being the solution." He said the threat instead should be defined as violent extremism, with the recognition that "terror is the method they use."

Although the military was heavily engaged in the mission now, he said, future efforts require "all instruments of our national power, all instruments of the international communities' national power." The solution was "more diplomatic, more economic, more political than it is military," he concluded.

Administration and Pentagon officials say the revamped campaign has grown out of meetings of President George W. Bush's senior national security advisers that began in January, and it reflects the evolution in Mr. Bush's own thinking nearly four years after the September 11 attacks.

Mr. Rumsfeld spoke in the new terms on Friday when he addressed an audience in Annapolis, Maryland, for the retirement ceremony of Adm. Vern Clark as chief of naval operations. Mr. Rumsfeld described America's efforts as it "wages the global struggle against the enemies of freedom, the enemies of civilization."

Changed language

The shifting language is one of the most public changes in the administration's strategy to battle Al-Qaeda and its

affiliates, and it tracks closely with Mr. Bush's recent speeches emphasising freedom, democracy and the worldwide clash of ideas.

"It is more than just a military war on terror," Steven J. Hadley, National Security Adviser, said in a telephone interview. "It's broader than that. It's a global struggle against extremism. We need to dispute both the gloomy vision and offer a positive alternative."

The language shifts also come at a time when Mr. Bush, with a new appointment for one of his most trusted aides, Karen Hughes, is trying to bolster the State Department's efforts at public diplomacy.

Lawrence Di Rita, Mr. Rumsfeld's spokesman, said the shift in language "is not a shift in thinking, but a continuation of the immediate post-9/11 approach." "The President then said we were going to use all the means of national power and influence to defeat this enemy," Mr. Di Rita said. "We must continue to be more expansive than what the public is understandably focused on now: the military actions in Afghanistan and Iraq."

Reassuring the troops

By stressing to the public that the effort is not only military, the administration may also be trying to reassure those in uniform who have begun complaining that only members of the armed forces are being asked to sacrifice for the effort.

New opinion polls show that the American public is increasingly pessimistic about the mission in Iraq, with many doubting its link to the counterterrorism mission.

Thus, a new emphasis on reminding the public of the broader, long-term threat to the United States may allow the administration to put into broader perspective the daily mayhem in Iraq and the American casualties.

Undersecretary of Defence for Policy Douglas J. Feith, said in an interview that if the nation's efforts were limited to "protecting the homeland and attacking and disrupting terrorist networks, you're on a treadmill that is likely to get faster and faster with time."

The key to "ultimately winning the war," he said, "is addressing the ideological part of the war that deals with how the terrorists recruit and indoctrinate new terrorists." —New York Times News Service

27 JUL 2006

Mistaken identity crisis

THE MOST disquieting aspect of counter-terrorism measures is that of identifying the terrorist. Unlike the conventional warrior, the terrorist resorts to guerrilla tactics that includes Mao's principle of 'becoming the fish in the sea of people'. In such a situation, how does one ensure that the wrong man is not apprehended? In Kupwara on Sunday, such an error cost the lives of three innocent boys and painfully resuscitated the memories of Indian security forces atrocities in the Valley. It has been standard practice in the past to underplay such an 'appalling mistake' as a sort of collateral damage in the war against terrorism in India. But what is required is not some K.P.S. Gill-friendly homily about eggs being broken to make an omelette, but complete transparency. A tragic mistake has been made. Now the right questions should be asked and the answers should be presented before the people so that justice is done — and seen to be done. We know what effect 'encounters' such as the Chattisinghpura massacre has had on the people of Kashmir. To go down that path would be a fatal mistake.

Getting the wrong man was also in

evidence in faraway London, where the present sense of paranoia has taken on a more 'racial' line. Identifying a suicide bomber among an innocent citizenry is difficult enough. Added to this is the multi-cultural, multi-racial nature of modern Britain. If a mark on the forehead — or a long beard and a skull cap — could immediately identify a terrorist, life would have been easy. The way every young White man with a buzz cut and tattoos is not a neo-Nazi racist, every 'Pakistani looking' Briton isn't a *fidayeen*. The problem, of course, lies in the fact that the danger facing London is likely to come from criminally-minded British South Asian Muslims. To separate the wheat from the chaff, British authorities must educate the people and the police force — especially when the latter makes statements of not being able to ensure that the 'terrible mistake' in which a Brazilian tourist was shot dead after being suspected of being a bomber will not be repeated.

If anyone is left holding the winning card after such 'encounters', it is the vicious terrorist, whether his hand is being strengthened by trigger-happy authorities in India or Britain.

A red Red Sea

A DAZED Egypt is struggling to come to terms with the terror that visited Sharm-al-Sheikh last week. Three explosions devastated a hotel, a car park and a market, killing scores of people. Following close on the heels of the London bombings, these attacks would seem to point the finger at Islamic militants, and, more specifically, al-Qaeda. The coordinated way and the scale in which the attacks were carried out on multiple targets, the indiscriminate nature of the killings and the near simultaneity of the bombings, hint at al-Qaeda involvement.

Even if no direct link can be traced between what happened in London and at Sharm-al-Sheikh, the bombers obviously chose to strike at targets that supported Western or US policies. Britain's participation in the war in Iraq and its military campaign against Iraqi insurgency made London a prime target. Similarly, the Egyptian resort may have qualified for such murderous attention because it has often hosted Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers, herded to the

negotiating table by Washington. That hitting tourist resorts like Sharm-al-Sheikh could potentially cripple Egypt's vital tourism industry only augments the value of its target.

It is significant that Muslim countries that identify themselves with the war on terror are now increasingly targeted, as the recent bombings in Turkey appear to indicate. Add to this the fact that the latest surveys show that a large percentage of Muslims in Britain have blamed the 'decadence' in Western society that needs 'to be wiped out' and it maps a disturbing trend among sympathisers — one which glorifies devastating, multiple bomb attacks as the only way to punish Western governments for their foreign policies. Al-Qaeda-inspired groups like the Jaish-e-Muhammad and the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba feed on violent interpretation of Islam for their terrorism. The fact that counter-terrorism officials admit that the LeT has already established a recruitment and fund-raising foothold in Europe in the last few years bears this out.

7/7 & Twin Terror

What's common to the shootings
in the UK and India

26/7
HERE is an uncanny congruence among events in the UK, India and Iraq, where overreaction by security forces fuels terrorism they are supposed to combat. London police gunned down a Brazilian youth trying to enter an Underground station, under shoot-to-kill orders that came from the top. Many are drawing the conclusion that to look vaguely South Asian in London is to invite suspicion that one is a suicide bomber. This can only strain London's much-vaunted multiculturalism and enhance the alienation felt by a British Muslim underclass, which will enable Al-Qaida to recruit a new crop of Euro-jihadis. In Iraq, the Americans inflict a great deal of what they like to call collateral damage in their anti-insurgent campaign, including the levelling of the city of Fallujah. They reap the whirlwind in the form of renewed insurgent recruitment, so that Iraq is turning into what one analyst has called the Harvard of jihad. And, in India, the army guns down four teenage youths, including an eight-year-old, in Kupwara in north Kashmir. This is exactly what terrorists want, as it reinforces the us-against-them mentality that they wish to propagate. Terrorism

The terrorists are, in effect, challenging the liberal state to prove its credentials, and the liberal state is unable to rise to the challenge. Not to put too fine a point on it, the war against terror is failing. It needs better human rights strategies, precisely what it claims it is fighting to preserve. In London, shoot-to-kill tactics were adopted reportedly on advice from Israeli experts, but it is doubtful whether British democracy can sustain for long draconian Israeli methods of fighting terror. Kashmir is about to turn the corner on its past, and the army must revise its rules of engagement to prevent shocking incidents like the shooting of four innocent youths. One must also recognise, however, that security forces on hair-trigger alert to stave off possible suicide bombers do not have an easy task. Better human rights sensitisation is part of the answer, but will not in itself do the trick in the absence of long-term political strategies to combat the insurgent power that terrorists often command. The answer to the globalisation of terrorism is the globalisation of democracy, not just within countries but also in international institutions where the vital interests of many countries are negotiated.

1 E JUL 7 2007

State terrorism by another name

London or Kashmir, there is something uncivilised about a policing system that, in the name of nation, queen, democracy or whatever, permits its personnel to kill suspects — a system that shoots first, checks later, and gets away with it basically. The plain-clothes policemen who shot dead Jean Charles de Menezes, an innocent and upstanding Brazilian workingman, in a London Tube station on suspicion that he was connected with the London bomb attacks went by nothing more than that he lived in a neighbourhood under surveillance, was dressed unusually for summer, and did not stop when challenged. Thousands of kilometres away, soldiers in the vicinity of a Kashmir village shot dead three children suspecting they were 'militants' — on the basis of nothing more than that they did not respond soon enough to a call for identification at a checkpoint. Motive apart, the substance of both acts was indistinguishable from cold-blooded murder, especially as there was no question of pleading any right to self-defence in the circumstances.

Both security forces — London's Metropolitan Police and the Indian Army — have expressed the minimum quantities of 'regret' judged to be necessary to assuage outraged public opinion. And both seem determined not to be held accountable for the 'tragedy'. In both cases, authorities have sought to rationalise the horrifyingly irreversible actions of their men by calling attention to the prevailing situation in which they were taking 'fast time' decisions, and, therefore, could not be expected to follow normal procedure. The London police commissioner has gone so far as to say that such is the contingency after the string of bombings in the city that the 'shoot to kill' policy currently in force will continue, and more innocent lives could be at risk. If things go badly for the security forces in the official enquiries, admissions may follow that, in a pressure cooker situation created by terrorist acts, their personnel may have 'over-reacted'. It is more than likely that a case will be made out for providing a substantial measure of protection to these privileged, patriotic killers. A system that rationalises horrible human rights offences by claiming that the only way to protect citizens' lives from terrorism is to take out suspects can be characterised as not worth having. Much like the scourge it seeks to fight, no one knows who, or where, it will strike next. There is even a name for it — state terrorism. It is shocking that Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London and champion of human rights the world over, has jumped to the defence of his city's police force by declaiming that the Tube killing really has to be blamed on the London bombers. In India, the gunning down of three children near the village of Bangargud in deeply alienated Kashmir calls attention to the urgent need to strengthen the law, including the Human Rights Act 1993, to make security forces accountable for offences against common humanity.

6 JUL 2005

The two faces of terror: 7/7 and 22/7

Hasan Suroor

LONDON DOES not have a Statue of Liberty. And it is just as well because after the recent events it would have been either mocking us or have simply collapsed with embarrassment and shame.

In the past three weeks, the city has seen its traditional notions of freedom and liberty attacked from what are supposed to be two opposite sides of the spectrum. Mindless violence wreaked by religious fanatics, on the one hand, and state terror in the name of fighting terror, on the other.

The first happened on July 7, when 56 people died after terrorists set off a series of explosions on London's tube network — followed by another unsuccessful attempt two weeks later.

A demonstration of state terror took place on July 22, when police shot dead an innocent young Brazilian in full view of a terrified public in a south London tube station on suspicion that he was carrying explosives. The man's only fault was that when reportedly "challenged" by three undercover armed agents he did not "obey the instructions," as London's suave Metropolitan Chief Ian Blair put it. Instead he started to run, and as he tried to board a waiting train police detectives pumped at least five bullets into his head from point blank range.

Jean Charles de Menezes — the 27-year-old upstanding electrician who had come from an impoverished town in Brazil seeking a better life in Britain — paid, with his life, the price of what was not a totally unexpected or abnormal reaction of a man suddenly confronted with armed men. As a family member of the victim said: "It's normal for someone to run when they are being chased." Especially as the surveillance police were in plainclothes and it is not clear whether

It is important that the police retain their ability to draw the line between fighting terror and wreaking terror.

they identified themselves.

Significantly, no eyewitness has come forward to say that the police declared their identity and warned the man to stop or else they would shoot him, whereas scores have given accounts of how they watched three police officers kill a man they had pinned down without any apparent provocation.

Police have sought to justify their action on three grounds: (1) the house from where Menezes emerged had been under surveillance in connection with the previous day's attempted bombings; (2) they thought he was going to meet his other "accomplices"; and (3) he was wearing a "bulky" coat that aroused their suspicion that he might be hiding explosives, and their suspicion was reinforced when he started to run.

Can any professional police officer — especially such as the ones involved in this incident who are apparently specially trained to tackle terror suspects — put his hand on his heart and say that any one of the three grounds, alone or collectively, constitute sufficient grounds to shoot-to-kill someone? If the house had been under surveillance for so long, it is safe to assume that police would have collected enough information about those living there. Or does anyone visiting a place that is under surveillance or emerging from it automatically become a suspect?

From the victim's body search, police must have immediately discovered that they had made a mistake but for the next 24 hours the

fiction was kept alive that he had been a suspect.

At a press conference nearly five hours after the incident, Sir Ian insisted that the man was "directly linked" to investigations into Thursday's abortive bombings. Of course, he can turn around and say that he never claimed that the dead man had been involved in the attempted attacks. But an average person, hearing him, would have surely concluded that a man "directly linked" to investigations must have had something to do with what was being investigated.

So, for one full day the impression was allowed to remain that the victim was not innocent. Nor was any attempt made to deny that he was of "Asian appearance" — a description freely aired by TV channels on the basis of just one eyewitness account. Again police would say that they did not release any description themselves. But given the fact that what was being reported was causing concern among the Asian community, was it not important for the police to clarify things at a time when Asian Muslims in particular believe that they are being "targeted"?

As word spread that an "Asian guy" had been killed it fuelled both anger and fear in the community — anger that one of their "boys" had been so brutally killed, and fear of a possible backlash as until then police were insisting on calling him a "terror suspect." Yet one more Asian "terror suspect" after 7/7 was an invitation for groups such as the far-right British National Party to get into the act, and yet the police chose to keep

him about the identity of the man they had killed after describing him as a potential "terrorist."

Clearly, the incident has dealt a blow to the image of a police force that likes to believe that it is the most professional thing in the world, more restrained than its counterparts even in many Western countries, not to mention the blighted third world. The last time such a thing happened was in 1999 when police shot dead a man on suspicion that a table leg he was carrying was a "weapon." But it is an indication of how much the public mood has changed since then that the reaction this time has been surprisingly muted.

No doubt, there has been widespread condemnation of the police's covert shoot-to-kill policy and there have been calls for a public inquiry but, behind the expressions of shock and disbelief, there has also been a barely concealed sense that we are living in abnormal times and such "unfortunate" things will happen while tackling terrorism. Even the normally outspoken civil rights campaigners and Muslim leaders have sought to hedge their criticism saying that they "understand" that there are "pressures" on the police after the July 7 attacks.

This question is worth considering: would the reaction have been different or stronger had the innocent victim been a British or American citizen? What would have been the socio-political consequences in the U.K. if he had turned out to be not a Brazilian but a Hussain or a Khan? I am posing these questions because the tone of the response across communities changed significantly after it emerged that the victim was not "one of us."

Disturbing similarity

The current climate in Britain, particularly in London, has echoes of what we witnessed in India at the height of terrorist violence in Punjab and Kashmir when it had become fashionable to dismiss civil libertarian arguments as "political correctness." We saw it happen in America after 9/11 and now we are seeing it in Britain.

In the past few days, I have heard people with impeccable liberal credentials say to me: "This is inevitable when you're fighting terrorism." Or "In the interest of the many, we may have to sacrifice a few innocents." Or "What do you expect police to do if they suspect that they are dealing with a terrorist?"

You cannot get someone more liberal than the Mayor of London Ken Livingstone. At the risk of being branded a "fifth columnist" by right-wing tabloid editors, he has publicly defended the right of controversial Muslim scholars to speak, and is on record saying that the British and American policies in Iraq have contributed to terrorism. But this is what he had to say on the killing of Jean Charles de Menezes: "All Londoners will wish to offer their condolences to this man's family and friends. The police acted to do what they believed necessary to protect the lives of the public. This tragedy has added another victim to the toll of deaths for which the terrorists bear responsibility."

In some circles there is even a view that the incident, tragic though it was, would send out a "strong" message to potential terrorists that the police meant business. They believe that it is the "soft" image of the British police that has often been exploited by extremists and what happened on July 22 would be a "deterrent" to others.

State terror is nothing new but what is new is that it is gaining legitimacy on the streets because of the rise in extremist violence. It is often forgotten that terrorists, by definition, are meant to kill — whereas police are meant to protect, and it is important that the police force, especially in the more "civilised" and "freedom-loving" countries, retain their ability to draw the line between fighting terror and wreaking terror.

CARTOONSCAPE



HUB OF TERROR

Pakistanis suspect in Egypt attack too

ASSOCIATED Press

Sharm el-Sheik, July 25

WHENEVER THERE is an attack, look at Pakistan. Now, the Egyptian police are searching for six Pakistani men in connection with the terrorist attacks at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik. The prime suspects in the London blasts, too, are Pakistanis.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, however, said the al-Qaida network in his country had been shattered and could not have orchestrated global terrorist attacks.

The Egyptian police, nevertheless, have circulated photographs of the six suspects, who were apparently among a group of nine Pakistanis who arrived in Sharm el-Sheik from Cairo on July 5. The images suggested that the men were aged between 20 and 30.

The police were not saying the Pakistanis were definitely involved, and investigators were also pursuing other threads. But any involvement of Pakistanis would imply an international, possibly al-Qaida, hand behind them.

British authorities have been seeking several Pakistanis in connection with the London bombings, and Washington has raised the

possibility that both the London and Sharm attacks were planned by al-Qaida. Pakistani involvement would also represent a change in militant violence in Egypt, which in the past was seen as largely home-grown.

Pakistanis — whether tourists or workers — are rare in Sharm or other Sinai resorts. But many, illegal Pakistani migrants used Egypt as a route to Europe to find jobs, said Khalid Ahmed of the Pakistani Embassy in Cairo.

On Monday, Musharraf said al-Qaida's network in Pakistan could not have been responsible for the attacks in London or Sharm el-Sheik. "We have shattered and eliminated their command system there. We attack them when we see them in the mountains," he said in Lahore.

"Is it possible in this situation that an al-Qaida man sitting here, no matter who he is, may control things in London, Sharm el-Sheik, Istanbul or Africa? This is absolutely wrong," he said.

He claimed to have overrun al-Qaida sanctuaries in Pakistan's tribal regions, with security forces having captured 700 of its fighters. However, he admitted, small groups might still be hiding in the tribal regions bordering Afghanistan. Military experts believe Osama bin Laden could be hiding in the area.



AFP

A tourist lays flowers near the attack site.

Two countries ravaged by terror

Britain: A family in grief

London, July 24

RELATIVES OF 27-year-old Jean Charles de Menezes, a Brazilian electrician who was shot dead by the police at Stockwell Underground station on Friday, were shocked and mystified how the police could have mistaken him for a suicide bomber.

"Their explanation is that they had to kill someone to show the population that they are making the country safe," said cousin Alex Alves Pereira, who reportedly had to identify the body Menezes. "I ask all the people to ask the Metropolitan Police and (Prime Minister) Tony Blair, 'What kind of job are they doing?'" a tearful Pereira told BBC television.

Police at the time said they opened fire because their suspect had refused to obey instructions. Pereira said his cousin did "not have a past that would make him run" from the police and was simply on his way to work from his home in Tulse Hill, south London. Another cousin, Aleide de Menezes, said Menezes spoke English very well and would have understood police instructions, CBN radio in Brazil reported. Menezes, who came from the city of Gonzaga in Brazil's southeastern state of Minas Gerais, had been living legally in Britain for three years, according to his family. He wanted to save up enough to return to his hometown and be-



Maria Otone de Menezes, mother of the victim, is comforted by her sister as her husband Matuzinho looks on.

come a cattle rancher.

A group of Brazilians staged a vigil in the pouring rain in London to protest Menezes' killing while Brazilian foreign minister Celso Amorim, in London on other business, met officials at the foreign office. "We were shocked and perplexed by what happened," said Amorim, adding Brazil had asked for a full explanation.

The Metropolitan Police have arrested a third man late on Saturday from the neighbourhood where Menezes had lived. The police are still looking for four

men in connection with Thursday's failed bombings. They have no proof of a link between the attacks on July 7 and 21, although there was a clear common pattern. British media, citing security sources, said police were investigating the possibility that two of the July 7 bombers had attended a white water rafting trip at the same center in Wales as some of the suspected July 21 attackers. The *Observer* said two properties that the police raided on Friday were linked to people with family connections in So-

malia and Ethiopia. The police were trying to establish how the first group of bombers, three of them Britons of Pakistani origin from northern Britain, might be linked to a second cell with African connections.

The police also carried out several controlled explosions to dispose of a suspect package found in northwest London on Sunday, which they said may have been linked to devices used in the botched July 21 attacks. They refused to elaborate.

Agencies

Egypt: A sea resort deserted

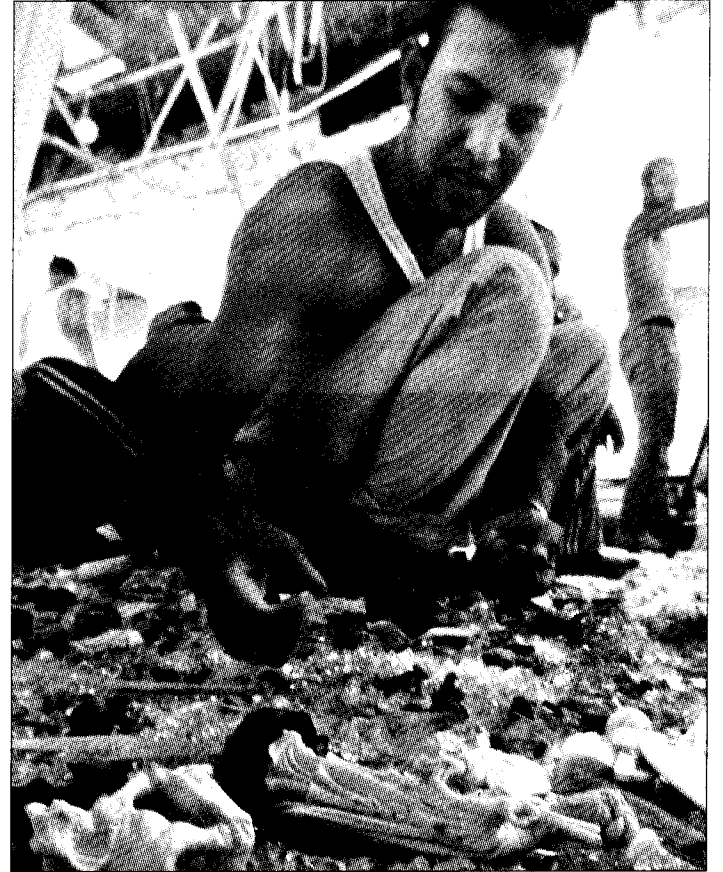
Reuters

Sharm el-Sheikh, July 24

HUNDREDS OF foreign tourists packed their bags and flew home from the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Sunday after bombs killed scores of people in the worst attack in Egypt since 1981. Busloads of tourists streamed off buses at the Sharm al-Sheikh airport for flights back to European capitals.

A spokeswoman for the Egyptian tourism ministry said it was too early to tell how hard the attacks would affect tourism, a main foreign income earner for the Egyptian economy. But she did expect some cancellations. Most of the departing tourists were on regularly scheduled flights, although some tourists left early. But the arrival terminal was deserted for most of the morning except for a handful of tourists from Austria, who said their flight was nearly empty.

Hundreds of Israelis, however, continued to cross the border into the Sinai despite warnings to avoid the Egyptian peninsula after the multiple bombings. Alarmist predictions of danger from the authorities a day after a wave of attacks appeared to do nothing to dim the ardour of Israelis bent on enjoying the beaches and coral seas of the Sinai. About 700 Israelis had crossed into Egypt by Sunday afternoon, hours after news of the explosions and terrifying footage filled



A man collects precious stones from debris at a shop in Sharm el-Sheikh.

television screens. The tourism ministry said 7,000 Israelis are vacationing on the peninsula at present. Travel agents reported few cancellations for holidays in the Red Sea resort although at least one Israeli was among those wounded in the bombings.

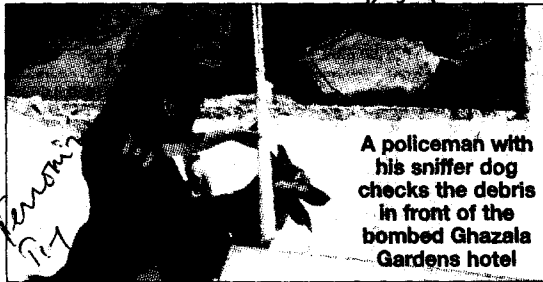
More than 70 people have been detained in Sharm el-Sheikh and elsewhere on the Sinai Peninsula for questioning but none have been accused of involvement in Egypt's deadliest-ever terror attack, said security officials, who declined to be identified because

of the sensitivity of the inquiry. Local investigators are also examining the possibility that foreigners carried out the latest attacks that levelled the reception area of the luxury Ghazala Garden Hotel in Sharm el-Sheikh's popular Naama Bay district and ripped apart a coffee house crowded with Egyptians in the nearby Old Market. Those blasts, plus a third smaller bomb concealed in a bag that exploded along a Naama Bay boardwalk, have sent shock waves through this country's tourism industry.

Egypt arrests 70 in hunt for attackers

Sharm-el-Sheikh (Egypt): Egyptian police scoured for clues on Sunday and struggled to identify dozens of the 88 people killed in three bomb blasts that rocked this Red Sea resort, sending foreign tourists scrambling to catch flights home.

More than 70 people have been detained in Sharm el-Sheikh and elsewhere on the Sinai Peninsula for questioning over early Saturday's bombings. But none have been accused of involvement in Egypt's deadliest-ever terror attack, said security officials.



A policeman with his sniffer dog checks the debris in front of the bombed Ghazala Gardens hotel

The roundups appeared similar to police operations after last October's attacks at the Sinai resorts of Taba and Ras Shitan, when 3,000 people were detained and many complained of torture, according to local people and human rights

groups. Some 200 of those are believed to still be in custody, including two Egyptian suspects whose trial is set to resume on Sunday.

Egypt's interior minister has said investigators are looking into whether there were links between

the Taba and Sharm blasts, which both took place despite the massive presence of Egyptian security forces in Sinai, a strategically important area bordering Israel and the Gaza Strip.

Local investigators are also examining the possibility that foreigners carried out the early Saturday blasts that levelled the reception area of the luxury Ghazala Garden Hotel in Sharm el-Sheikh's popular Naama Bay district and ripped apart a coffee house crowded with Egyptians in the nearby Old Market. AP

25 JUL 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Car bombs kill 88 by Red Sea

Donata Macintyre

SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Egypt), July 23. — Eighty-eight people, including seven foreigners, were killed and 200 injured when car bombs ripped through shopping and hotel areas in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh today.

Shaken tourists spoke of mass panic and hysteria as three blasts went off in different parts of the resort, causing carnage in the immediate vicinity and frightened confusion elsewhere.

The attack, Egypt's deadliest terror hit, appeared well coordinated. Two car bombs, possibly by suicide attackers, went off simultaneously at 1.15 a.m. about three km apart. A third bomb detonated around the same time near a beachside walkway where tourists often stroll at night.

One blast tore the front off the Ghazala Gardens hotel in Na'ama Bay, the site of most of the resort's luxury hotels. People were feared trapped in the rubble of the lobby. Witnesses said a car broke into the hotel compound and exploded in front of the building. "There was a huge ball of smoke that mushroomed up. It was mass hysteria," Charlie Ives, a London policeman on holiday, told BBC.



A man walks past a vehicle destroyed in the car bomb attack on the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Saturday. AFP

Most of the victims were Saudis, three Britons, a Russian, a Egyptian but seven non-Egyptians died, including a Czech and an Italian. The injured foreigners included nine Italians, five

Wrong man killed on Tube, say cops

LONDON, July 23. — British police today said a man shot by its officers in a Tube station yesterday was not connected to the attempted suicide attacks and expressed "regret" for the incident. AP (Details on page 8)

More reports on page 8

ATTACK COMES AT PEAK OF TOURIST SEASON ■ JORDAN STEPS UP SECURITY AT RESORTS

Holiday turns to horror

Agence France Presse

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, July 23. — “They are mad. What’s the point of all this,” cried a young British barmaid after a succession of massive bomb blasts transformed Egypt’s Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh from a holiday-makers’ paradise into an inferno of blood and destruction.

“They won’t go to heaven. No religion can accept such a thing,” said Carol, who works in a bar on the glitzy Naama Bay strip near a luxury hotel that was bombed early today.

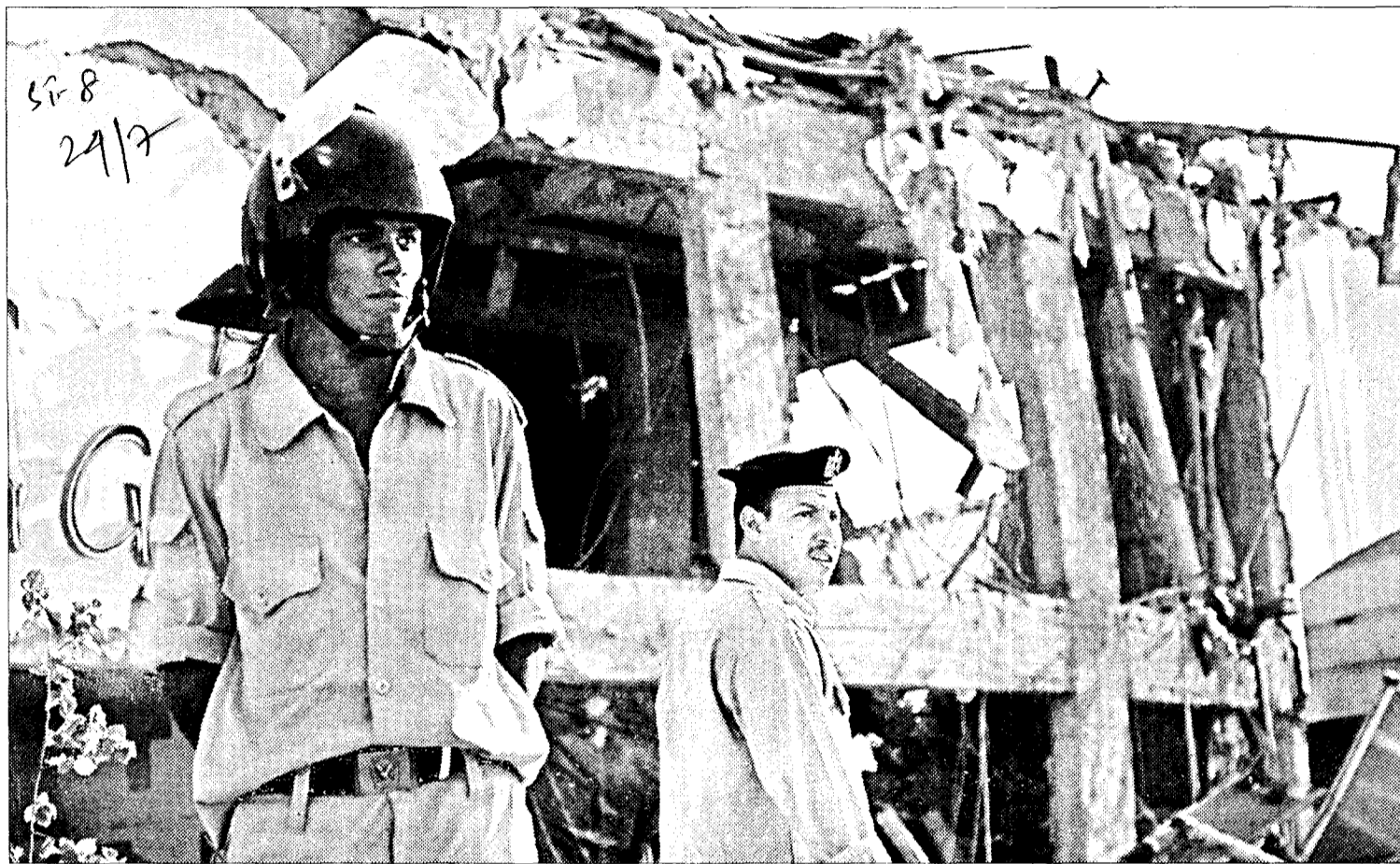
The explosions shattered the night in Egypt’s most popular resort where thousands of tourists from Europe, Russia and Gulf Arab countries, as well as Egyptians marking a national holiday, were vacationing.

As the sun rose to reveal scenes of destruction across the popular strip of hotels, restaurants and clubs known as Peace Road, an Italian tourist was desperately trying to find his missing son.

“My wife and I were strolling near the shops, not far from the hotel, and our 17-year-old son stayed behind, in his room,” said Giuseppe Pasquale. When the explosions went off, we rushed back to the Ghazala but he was not in his room. I don’t know what to do. They wouldn’t let me in to the hospital,” the distressed father said.

The attacks occurred at the height of the tourist season and proved to be even deadlier than the 1997 attack in the Nile town of Luxor that killed 62 people.

Condemning the attacks, President Mr Hosni Mubarak vowed his country’s security forces will hunt down those responsible. “This cowardly, criminal act is aimed at undermining Egypt’s security and stability and harming its people and its guests,” he said during a live nationally televised broadcast.



Egyptian securitymen stand guard in front of a destroyed hotel in Sharm el-Sheikh on Saturday. AFP

Nervous neighbours condemn blasts

Associated Press

CAIRO, July 23. — Egypt’s neighbours joined the USA and other nations today in condemning the deadly car bombings at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, offering assistance and moral support in the fight against terrorism.

Jordan stepped up security at its own vacation sites after the attacks, which occurred before dawn today at the resort, teeming with thousands of sun-seeking Europeans, Japanese and other nationalities.

Other nations, mindful of the recent terror attacks against public transport facilities in London, expressed their commitment to the



President Mubarak speaks to officials after the explosions on Saturday. AFP

battle against terrorism. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and innocent victims from many nations who suffered in

this senseless attack,” US Secretary of State Ms Condoleezza Rice said in a statement released by the US embassy in Jerusalem. “At this difficult time of testing, the USA stands with our friend and ally Egypt,” said Ms Rice. “Together we will confront and defeat this scourge that knows no boundary and respects no creed.”

In Baghdad, Iraq’s new government, no stranger to bombings and bloodshed, expressed its “deep sympathy and condolences” to President Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian people. “We wish the Egyptian armed forces success in fighting the cancer of terrorism, which threatens the peace of the world, and the mistaken ideas behind it.”

লোহিত সাগর রক্তে লাল

Terorism 28/9

ইরাকের বদলা, দাবি আল কায়দার

কায়রো, ২৩ জুলাই: শরম এল-শেখে বিস্ফোরণের দায় স্বীকার করে নিল আল কায়দা ঘনিষ্ঠ জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠী আবদুল্লা আজম ব্রিগেড। একটি ইসলামিক ওয়েব সাইটে বিবৃতিতে তারা জানিয়েছে, শরম এল-শেখের পুরনো বাজার ও গাজালা গার্ডেনস হোটেল লক্ষ করেই বিস্ফোরণ ঘটিয়েছিল 'ধর্মযোদ্ধারা'। আজকের এই বিস্ফোরণে এ পর্যন্ত হতের সংখ্যা দাঁড়িয়েছে ৮৩।

বিবৃতির সত্যতা যাচাই করা যায়নি। তবে অক্টোবরেও আর একটি বিস্ফোরণের ঘটনায় এই গোষ্ঠীর নামই জড়িয়ে গিয়েছিল। সেই ঘটনাটিতে হতের সংখ্যা ছিল অন্তত ৩৪। তা ছাড়া, এপ্রিলে কায়রোয় পর্যটকদের বাসে বিস্ফোরণ ও গুলি চালনার ঘটনাতেও এই গোষ্ঠীর হাত ছিল।

ছক অনুযায়ী সফল ভাবে বিস্ফোরণ ঘটানোয় জঙ্গিদের অভিনন্দন জানানোর পাশাপাশি বিবৃতিতে সাফ জানিয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে, "ইরাক, আফগানিস্তান ও চেকনিয়ায় মুসলিমদের রক্ত নিয়ে আন্তর্জাতিক বাহিনী যে ভাবে ছিনিমিনি খেলছে, তার প্রতিবাদেই এই হামলা।" এই বার্তা থেকেই স্পষ্ট, পশ্চিমী নাগরিকদেরই মূলত লক্ষ্য হিসাবে বেছে নিতে চেয়েছিল জঙ্গিরা। ইজরায়েল থেকে সিনাইয়ে আসা



বিস্ফোরণের পরে এই চেহারা নিয়েছে বিলাসবহুল শপিং মল। শনিবার শরম এল-শেখে। — এ পি

পর্যটকদের বিরুদ্ধেও হামলার প্রচ্ছন্ন হুমকি ছিল বিবৃতিতে। আকর্ষণীয় পর্যটন কেন্দ্র শরম এল-শেখে বিস্ফোরণের নিন্দায় সরব হয়েছে মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্র-সহ বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন দেশ। ওয়েস্ট ব্যাঙ্কে প্যালেস্টাইনি নেতাদের সঙ্গে দেখা করতে যাওয়ার আগে মার্কিন বিদেশসচিব কন্ডোলিজা

রাইস বলেছেন, "এই কঠিন সময়ে মিত্র রাষ্ট্র মিশরের পাশে দাঁড়ানোর অঙ্গীকার করছি আমরা।" রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের তরফে বিস্ফোরণের তীব্র নিন্দা করেছেন মহাসচিব কোফি আন্নান। নিন্দা করেছে ফ্রান্স, রাশিয়া, জাপান, ব্রিটেনও। ইজরায়েল এই ঘটনায় উদ্বেগ প্রকাশ করে উদ্ধারকারী দল পাঠানোরও প্রস্তাব

দিয়েছে। ইজরায়েল সরকারের মুখপাত্র বলেছেন, "মিশরের সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন থাকলে সাহায্য করতে প্রস্তুত।" তবে ইরান এই বিস্ফোরণের তীব্র নিন্দা করলেও পাশাপাশি মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্র-সহ পশ্চিমী দেশগুলিকে হুঁশিয়ারি দিয়েছে, "এই সব হামলার জন্য সব সময় মুসলিম সমাজকে দায়ী

করা হলে পরিস্থিতি আরও খারাপ হতে পারে।" তাদের বক্তব্য, "সম্রাসবাদের বিরুদ্ধে লড়াইয়ের নামে পৃথিবীকে আরও বিপজ্জনক স্থানে পরিণত করেছে আমেরিকা। রোজই কোনও না কোনও বিস্ফোরণ হচ্ছে... আমেরিকার শিশুসুলভ কাণ্ডকারখানাই এর জন্য দায়ী।" — পি টি আই

পরপর বিস্ফোরণ মিশরের রিসর্টে, বিদেশি-সহ হত ৮৮

শরম এল-শেখ (মিশর), ২৩ জুলাই: টেমসের তীরে আতঙ্ক কাটার আগেই সন্ত্রাস হানা দিল লোহিত সাগরে। সৌজন্যে সেই আল কায়দা। মিশরের নামকরা পর্যটন রিসর্ট শরম এল-শেখে মধ্য রাতের বিস্ফোরণে প্রাণ হারিয়েছেন অন্তত ৮৮ জন, আহতের সংখ্যা ২০০ ছাড়িয়েছে। দু'টি গাড়ি-বোমা এবং একটি সুটকেস-বোমা নিয়ে হামলা চালানো হয়েছে বলে প্রশাসনিক সূত্রের খবর। লোহিত সাগরের এই রিসর্ট ইউরোপীয় পর্যটকদের কাছে অত্যন্ত জনপ্রিয়, প্রায়শই এখানে বড় বড় আন্তর্জাতিক কূটনৈতিক সম্মেলনও হয়ে থাকে। শুক্রবার রাতের বিস্ফোরণেও হতাহতের মধ্যে বেশ কিছু বিদেশি নাগরিক রয়েছেন। কত জন বিদেশি মারা গিয়েছেন, তা নিয়ে স্বভাবতই ধোঁয়াশা রয়েছে।

আল জা জিরা টিভি মিশরের স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী হাবিব এল-আদলিকে উদ্ধৃত করে জানিয়েছে, নিহতদের মধ্যে ৮ জন বিদেশি রয়েছেন। পর্যটন মন্ত্রকের মুখপাত্র জানিয়েছেন, অন্তত সাত জন অ-মিশরীয় ব্যক্তির মৃত্যু হয়েছে। তাঁদের এক জন ইতালির, এক জন চেক প্রজাতন্ত্রের। ইতালীয় পর্যটকের মৃত্যুর খবর সে দেশের দূতাবাসও স্বীকার করেছে। এ ছাড়া অন্তত ২০ জন বিদেশি জখম হয়েছেন। দোমডানো গাড়ির শব্দ, ধ্বংসস্তূপ আর রক্ত ছড়িয়ে-ছিটিয়ে থাকা রাস্তা দিয়ে ভোর রাতেই রিসর্ট ছাড়তে শুরু করেন বহু বিদেশি পর্যটক।

লোহিত সাগরে এই সন্ত্রাসের পিছনেও চলে এসেছে আল কায়দার নাম। বিস্ফোরণের দায় স্বীকার করে আল কায়দার ঘনিষ্ঠ জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠী আবদুল্লা আজম ব্রিগেড বলেছে, "ইরাক, আফগানিস্তান ও চেকনিয়ায় মুসলিমদের রক্ত নিয়ে আন্তর্জাতিক বাহিনী যে ভাবে ছিনিমিনি খেলছে, তার প্রতিবাদেই এই হামলা।" আবদুল্লা আজম বিবৃতি দিয়েছে একটি অপেক্ষাকৃত স্বল্প পরিচিত ইসলামি ওয়েবসাইটে। লন্ডনে দু'সপ্তাহের ব্যবধানে পরপর দু'বার বিস্ফোরণের ঘটনার পরেও আল কায়দার সহযোগী সংগঠন আল-মাসরি ব্রিগেড একই ভাবে দায় স্বীকার করেছিল তুলনায় অনামী ওয়েবসাইটে।

শরম এল-শেখে অভিজাত হোটেলগুলির বেশির ভাগই রয়েছে নামা উপসাগর বরাবর। এই অঞ্চলেই বিলাসবহুল গাজালা গার্ডেনস হোটেলে স্থানীয় সময় কাল রাত ১টার সামান্য



পরে প্রথম বিস্ফোরণটি হয়। কয়েক মিনিটের ব্যবধানে ঘটে আরও দু'টি বিস্ফোরণ। পুরনো বাজার এলাকায় একটি শপিং মলের সামনে কার পার্কে গাড়ি-বোমা বিস্ফোরণ হয় বলে অনেকে জানিয়েছেন। আবার আর এক দলের বিবরণ অনুযায়ী, ভিড়ের মধ্যে বড় ট্রাভেল ব্যাগ হাতে এক ব্যক্তি রীতিমতো হুমকি দিয়ে বিস্ফোরণ ঘটায়। হোটেলে বিস্ফোরণের পাশাপাশি রাস্তায় ভিড়ের মধ্যে বিস্ফোরণের কথাও শোনা গিয়েছে। কয়েক জন প্রত্যক্ষদর্শী জানিয়েছেন, মিশরের মানুষ যে ভাবে আরবি বলেন, তেমন উচ্চারণে এক ব্যক্তি ভিড়ের মাঝে বলছিল, "আমার কাছে বোমা আছে।" মজা করছে ভেবে অনেকেই তার কথায় কান দেননি। কিন্তু কয়েক

মিনিটের মধ্যেই সেখানে বিস্ফোরণ হয়। ওই ব্যক্তির হাতে ধরা ট্রাভেল ব্যাগেই বিস্ফোরক ছিল বলে প্রত্যক্ষদর্শীদের সন্দেহ। দেশ-বিদেশের পর্যটকদের জন্য এই অঞ্চলে অনেক রাত পর্যন্ত দোকানপাট খোলা থাকে। তাই বিস্ফোরণের সময় বহু মানুষ শপিং মল, বার বা রাস্তায় ছিলেন। পর্যটন ব্যবসাই মিশরের অর্থনীতির অন্যতম স্তম্ভ। সেই পর্যটনে আঘাত হানতে এর আগেও হামলা হয়েছে এ দেশে। ন'মাস আগে ২০০৪-এর অক্টোবরে ইজরায়েল সীমান্তের কাছে তাবা হিলটনে বিস্ফোরণে মারা যান ৩৪ জন। দুই অভিযুক্তের বিচার শুরু হয়েছে সদ্য। তবে এ বারের মতো এত বড় মাপের সন্ত্রাস ১৯৮১ সালের পরে মিশর আর দেখেনি। স্থানীয় প্রশাসন সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে, গুরুতর আহত অন্তত ৩৫ জনকে চিকিৎসার জন্য কায়রোয় নিয়ে যাওয়া হয়েছে। বিদেশিদের মধ্যে ৯ জন ইতালীয়, ৫ জন আরবি, ৩ জন ব্রিটিশ, এক জন রুশ, এক জন ইউক্রেনীয় এবং এক জন ইজরায়েলি-আরবি আহত হয়েছেন বলে পর্যটন মন্ত্রকের খবর। ব্রিটেনের বিদেশ অফিস অবশ্য বলেছে, আহত ব্রিটিশ নাগরিকের সংখ্যা ৮। পুলিশ সূত্রের খবর, পুরনো বাজারে একটি কাফেতে জড়ো হওয়া বেশ কিছু মিশরি শ্রমিক আহত হয়েছেন। নিহতদের মধ্যে ১৭ জনের দেহ এমন ভাবে পুড়ে গিয়েছে যে, চেনার উপায় ছিল না।

মিশরের সমস্ত হোটেলের বাইরেই এর পর ছয়ের পাতায় ● আকাশে আঙুন... পৃঃ ৫

আপনার মতে

আল কায়দার সন্ত্রাসের
সামনে বিশ্ব কি
সত্যিই অসহায়?

এসএমএস করুন ৮২৪৩ নম্বরে

হ্যাঁ হলে লিখুন: **Apoll a**

না হলে লিখুন: **Apoll b**

উত্তর পাঠান হাট, এয়ারটেল, টাটা ইন্ডিকম অথবা রিলায়েন্স ইন্ডিয়া মোবাইল থেকে।

পশ্চিমবঙ্গে নির্বাচন কেন্দ্রের
পুনর্নির্নায় কি ভোটের
ফলকে প্রভাবিত করবে?

হ্যাঁ ৭৫% না ২৫%

বিদেশি সহ হত চর্চ

প্রথম পাতার পর

বাধ্যতামূলকপুলিশি প্রহরা রয়েছে। সেই বাধা ডিঙিয়ে কাল রাতে একটি গাড়ি ভিতরে ঢুকে পড়ে বলে জানিয়েছেন দক্ষিণ সিনাই প্রদেশের গভর্নর মুস্তাফা আফিফি। হোটেলের রিসেপশন-এর সামনে পৌঁছতেই গাড়িটিতে বিশ্ফোরণ ঘটে। এর অল্প পরেই আরও দু'টি বিশ্ফোরণ ঘটে গুই এলাকায়। বহু দূর থেকেও তার শব্দ শোনা গিয়েছে বলে সাধারণ মানুষ জানিয়েছেন। বিশ্ফোরণের জেরে অসংখ্য গাড়ি স্ট্রেক ধাতব কঙ্কালে পরিণত হয়। কয়েকশো মিটার দূরের বাড়িতেও পৌঁছয় বিশ্ফোরণের অভিঘাত। পর্যটক ফ্যাবিও ব্যাসোনের কথায়, “চারপাশ খোঁয়ায় ঢেকে গিয়েছিল। যে যে দিকে পারে, দৌড়ানোর চেষ্টা করছিল। কিন্তু সঙ্গে সঙ্গে ধ্বংসস্তূপে ভরে যাওয়া রাস্তা দিয়ে পালানোও যাচ্ছিল না।” ঘটনার জেরে দেশি-বিদেশি পর্যটকদের মধ্যে প্রবল আতঙ্ক সৃষ্টি হলেও মিশরের পর্যটনমন্ত্রী আহমেদ এল-মাঘরাবি

আশ্বস্ত করেছেন, “এই ঘটনার প্রভাব দীর্ঘমেয়াদি হবে না।”

শুধু পর্যটকেরা নয়, ছুটির মেজাজে ছিলেন মিশরের প্রেসিডেন্ট হোসনি মুবারকও। খবর পেয়েই ভূমধাসাগর উপকূল ছেড়ে তিনি শর্ম এল-শেখ রওনা হন। প্রশাসন অবশ্য তার আগেই তদন্ত শুরু করে দিয়েছে। হোয়াইট হাউস এই ঘটনাকে বর্ধরোচিত বলে অভিহিত করেছে। প্রেসিডেন্ট বুশ নিজে ফোনে মুবারকের সঙ্গে কথা বলে সাহায্যের আশ্বাস দিয়েছেন।

আল কায়দা-সহযোগী আবদুল্লা আল-আজ্জাম দায় স্বীকার করলেও মিশরের স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী এখনই সেই ব্যাপারে মুখ খুলতে চাননি। তিনি শুধু বলেছেন, অক্টোবরের ঘটনার সঙ্গে আজকের ঘটনার মিল রয়েছে। আর নিরাপত্তা বাহিনী জানিয়েছে, গাড়ি-বোমা হিসাবে ব্যবহৃত অস্ত্রত একটি গাড়িতে বিশেষ নান্নার প্লেট ছিল। সেটা থেকে মনে করা হচ্ছে, সিনাই উপদ্বীপ দিয়ে ইজরায়েলি সীমান্ত পেরিয়ে গাড়িটি এসেছিল। — রয়টার্স

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

'Suicide bomber' shot dead in London

Police chased suspect through Stockwell tube station, killed him as he tried to board a train

Hasan Suroor

LONDON: On another dramatic day in London, police shot dead a suspected suicide bomber on Friday as he tried to board a train in Stockwell Underground station, near Oval in south London — the scene of one of the four explosions which rocked the city less than 24 hours before.

The man, believed to be among the four suspects wanted in connection with Thursday's incidents, was not identified immediately, but eyewitnesses described him as of Asian appearance and wearing a "bulky" coat, normally worn in winter.

Police confirmed that the shooting, which was watched by scores of terrified commuters, was "directly linked" to investigations into Thursday's blasts. It happened around 10 a.m. even as London was starting to return to a semblance of normality after the previous day's explosions.

People said they saw a man chased by policemen in plain-clothes who shot him at point blank range as he tripped while trying to get on to a train that had just pulled in.

"I saw an Asian guy run onto the train hotly pursued by three plain-clothes officers. One of them was carrying a black handgun — they pushed him to the floor, bundled on top of him and unloaded five shots into him," one eyewitness told the BBC.

Concern for safety

Amid fears over what critics called a "covert shoot-to-kill approach," police said that they acted out of concern for the safety of passengers as they feared that there was an "imminent" danger to the lives of the people.

Metropolitan Chief Ian Blair said the man was "challenged but refused to obey police instructions." He did not give any more details of the incident but reports, attributed to security

sources, said that when challenged by the police the man jumped over the ticket barrier, ran down the escalator and tried to board a waiting train. It was then that he stumbled, and was shot up to five times and pronounced dead on the spot. Some eyewitnesses said he was shot "eight to nine times."

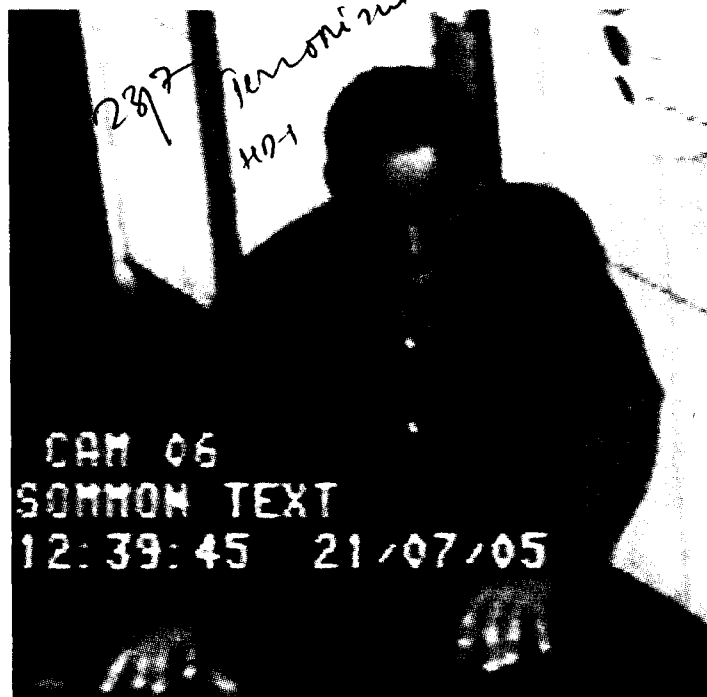
Special undercover officers had been at his heels since morning after identifying him as one of the suspects from CCTV images of Thursday's events. They "challenged" him as he headed towards the Stockwell tube station and then chased him down to the platform — and into the train. "People just froze in their seats cowering for a few seconds and then leapt up," one passenger said.

Police said they feared that the man might be carrying explosives under the coat and was a potential suicide bomber. Civil rights activists demanded details of the incident and wanted to know why the police shot dead a man without issuing a warning.

The station was evacuated and sealed off amid scenes of panic. Large parts of London were closed as police searched properties suspected to be linked to those behind Thursday's incidents. The area around a mosque was also cordoned off, but police declined to give details.

CCTV images of the four men wanted for Thursday's explosions were released on Friday evening and police sought "urgent" public help in identifying them.

Sir Ian said it was a "very, very fast moving investigation" and appealed for calm. He emphasised that the anti-terror operation was targeted against "criminals" and not against any community. He said rumours were "sweeping" London and people should not pay heed to them. His remarks followed fears of a "backlash" against Muslims.



ON THE RUN: Closed circuit television images released by London's Metropolitan Police on July 22 show the four suspects wanted in connection with the bomb attacks on July 21. Police have asked the public to help identify the suspects. — PHOTO: REUTERS

Afroze sentenced to 7 years' RI

Charged With Having Terror Links To Engineer Blasts Worldwide

Mumbai: Suspected Al Qaida operative Mohammad Afroze was on Friday sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment on the charge of developing terrorist links to engineer explosions worldwide, including Parliament House.

Afroze was found guilty under sections 120-B (conspiracy) and 126 (committing deprecation on territories of power at peace with the

Designated judge A P Bhangale, however, acquitted him from the charge of conspiring to wage war against the nation (section 121-A of the IPC). Afroze's lawyer Mubin Solkar said his client would appeal against the verdict in the HC.

Afroze's brother Mohammad Farooq Abdul Razaq was acquitted as the police could not produce evidence against him. He had been charged with helping Afroze go abroad to join the Al Qaida and undertake pilot training on forged documents to accomplish their mission of bombing important places. The court also asked the government to seek the extradition of Afroze's London-based uncle Mubarak Musalman, who is shown as absconding in the case.

According to special public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam, Afroze had participated in the conspiracy hatched by Mubarak to blow up important places abroad. He sought maximum punishment of life imprisonment for Afroze in



Mohammed Afroze is taken to jail from the sessions court after the verdict was announced on Friday

government of India) of the IPC. On this count, he was given five years' RI. He was also found guilty under sections 467 (forgery of valuable security) and 471 (using as genuine forged documents) of the IPC, for which he was sentenced to seven years' RI. Both the sentences will run concurrently.

the backdrop of the recent London bombings, saying it will send a strong message to society.

But Solkar argued that Afroze had been falsely implicated and urged that he be acquitted. Solkar urged the court to consider the fact that Afroze was a reformed man and had a family to look after. Agencies

Cops shoot dead London bomb suspect

23/7
10/22/05
HFI

ASSOCIATED PRESS
London, July 22

POLICE SHOT dead a man at a south London underground station on Friday as they hunted for bombers who struck city's transport network a day earlier.

The attacks on Thursday lunchtime caused chaos but killed no one, in an apparently failed bid to repeat suicide bombings that killed 52 people two weeks earlier.

"We can confirm that just after 10 am armed officers entered Stockwell Tube station. A man was challenged by officers and subsequently shot. London Ambulance Service attended the scene. He was pronounced dead at the scene," police said.

Witnesses spoke of panic as the man of Asian appearance and carrying a rucksack vaulted over barriers as he was chased by eight or nine armed officers, before being tackled and shot.

Media reports said he was a suspected suicide bomber — possibly one of the four being hunted after Thursday's attacks. Services on the Victoria and Northern lines, which run through Stockwell station, were disrupted.

"I saw them (police) offload five shots into the person on the floor," witness Mark Whitby told BBC television. "I saw them kill a man."

The Abu Hafs al Masri Brigade, an al Qaida-linked group which claimed responsibility for the July 7 bombings, posted a statement on an Islamist web site on Friday claiming it carried out Thursday's attacks.

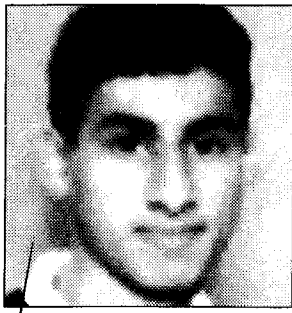
As forensics experts searched the three underground trains and a double-decker bus hit by small, near-simultaneous explosions on Thursday, police were called to a series of security alerts across the south of the city. Also, police said they were investigating an apparent attempt to set fire to the home of a man identified as one of the July 7 suicide bombers.

More reports on Page 13



London police on Friday released CCTV shots of four men wanted in connection with Thursday's terror incidents.

Copy-cat theory: Qaida or amateurs



Shehzad Tanweer

Cousin says bomber wanted to be holy warrior

DANIEL MCGRORY AND ZAHID HUSSAIN

Islamabad, July 21: On his last visit to relatives in Pakistan this year one of the London bombers, Shehzad Tanweer, boasted of wanting to die in a revenge attack against the way Muslims are treated. While his family in Leeds had no idea about his suicide mission, Tanweer confessed to his cousin his ambition to become a "holy warrior".

At his father's home village 48 km from Faisalabad, Mohammad Saleem described today how Tanweer, 22, hero-worshipped Osama bin Laden. Saleem supported his cousin's bombing of a train at Aldgate station which killed seven people, saying: "Whatever he has done, if he has done it, then he has done right." He recalled how Tanweer argued with family and friends in this backwater about the need for violent retaliation over US abuse of Muslim prisoners in Guantanamo Bay.

Tanweer was no stranger to the village of Chak No 477, where his grandfather and several cousins live. During his last trip, the college dropout was visited regularly by another of the bombers, Mohammad Sadique Khan. The pair are said to have met a known al Qaida activist who has since been jailed for bombing a church. They are also alleged to have met a British-born militant.

Saleem said that Tanweer had spent only a short time at the village before going with Khan to a madrasa. "Whenever he would listen about sufferings of Muslims he would become very emotional and sentimental," Saleem said. "He was a good Muslim... he also wished to take part in jihad and lay down his life."

"He knew that excesses are being done to Muslims. Incidents like desecration of the Koran have always been in his mind," Saleem said, referring to US soldiers at Guantanamo allegedly throwing a copy of the Quran in a toilet.

THE TIMES, LONDON

Alarming ease in recruiting bombers

London, July 21 (Reuters): Four attempted bombings on London's transport system today look like an intended carbon-copy of attacks that killed 56 people two weeks ago and may be masterminded by the same group, security analysts said.

They put forward two main scenarios behind the latest blasts, which were much smaller than the previous ones, and did not cause any fatalities.

The first, more benign explanation, was that the attacks were carried out by "imitative amateurs" intent on mounting a copycat strike by targeting three underground trains and a bus in a cross-formation across the city.

The second, more worrying, was that the same group behind the suspected al Qaida-linked attacks on July 7 had struck again, albeit with far less devastating effect. Police refused to be drawn on which was more likely.

"Whether or not this is directly connected, in the sense of carried out by the same group of people, however loosely knit that is, I think that's going to take just a little

bit longer before we can qualify that," police chief Ian Blair said. But he added: "Clearly, the intention must have been to kill."

Whoever was behind today's attacks, they managed to manufacture four explosive devices and smuggle them on to the London transport network despite the highest levels of security and public watchfulness in London for years.

If the same group was responsible for two waves of co-ordinated attacks two weeks apart, it would show an alarming ease in mobilising fresh bombers — perhaps even would-be suicide bombers — to follow the example of the four bombers who blew themselves up on July 7.

"The more we know about the bomb attack two weeks ago, the more skilful it looks, well planned — the people behind it know what they're doing," said Michael Clarke, security expert at King's College London.

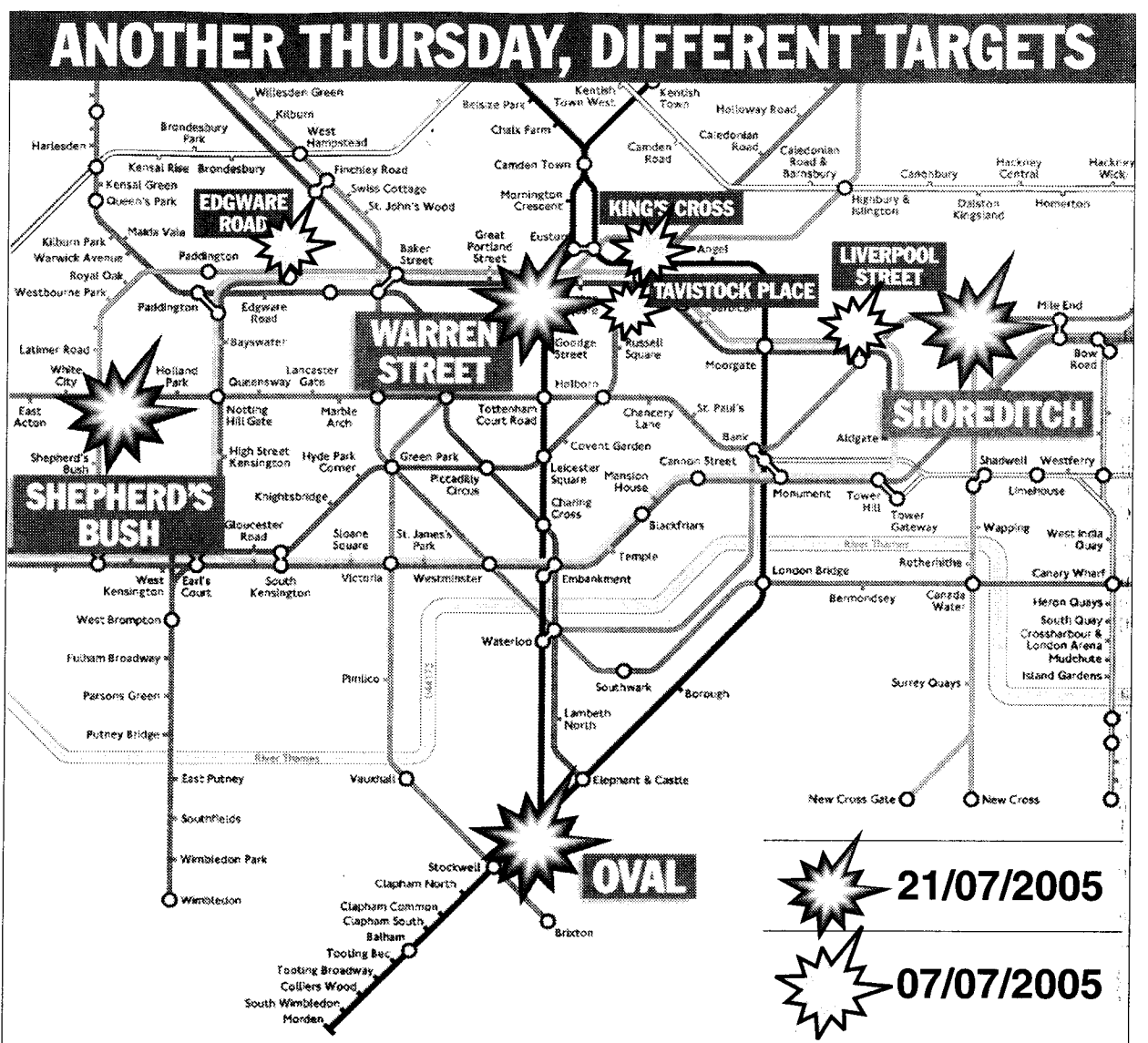
Former US intelligence official Robert Ayers, a security analyst at respected London think tank, the Chatham House institute, said he thought it more likely the

same group was behind both attacks than that a second, independent group had now emerged.

"What I've been saying all along is that you had four guys that died (in the July 7 bombings), but the infrastructure that trained them, equipped them, funded them, pointed them at the right target — the infrastructure's still in place." If the same group was involved, the obvious question is why the first wave of attacks was so professional and deadly and the second apparently so amateur.

Ayers noted that police had recovered unused explosives from various sites including a hire car abandoned by the July 7 bombers at Luton, near London. "One speculation I've had all along is that they left those explosives in the car for another group to pick up and carry out a second attack, but when they got there the car had already been taken over by the police, so they've had to cobble something together fairly quickly," he said.

Both Clarke and Ayers said witness accounts of today's incidents suggested the bombs had malfunctioned.



CITY THROWN INTO WORST NIGHTMARE AS IT BECAME NORMAL

Sense of deja vu returns to London

SIMON FREEMAN

London, July 21: Commuters had returned to their silent daily grind.

Flowers in memorial gardens were beginning to wilt. A light drizzle was falling from a grey summer sky.

Two weeks after its worst attack in 50 years, London was getting back to normal.

But today, the capital was today thrown into its worst nightmare with a series of copycat Tube and bus bomb attacks coming exactly a fortnight after the atrocity that claimed 56 lives.

At just before 1 pm (British Summer Time or BST), the Underground was placed on "amber" alert and the Hammersmith & City, Victoria and Northern lines were evacuated. Roads were closed around three stations. Mobile phone networks went into meltdown.

Scotland Yard was quick

to inform a terrified public that the latest series of incidents — on Tubes at the Oval, Warren Street and Shepherd's Bush and a bus in Hackney Road, East London — was not being treated as a major terrorist attack. Within two hours it became clear that the four co-ordinated attacks were not on the same scale as July 7. The sense of relief was palpable as services on the Tubes began to return to normal.

But the striking similarity between today's incidents — again in a North, South, East and West formation spread across the capital in an echo of the "burning cross" — caused immediate and widespread panic. Londoners had stoically returned to public transport days after the July 7 attacks; after a few days of trepidation, most had returned to their daily rituals of eyes-down silence.

The latest incidents — which have so far claimed no casualties — can only exacerbate the lingering fear. The emergency response was swift and well-rehearsed. The political response almost as rapid.

Tony Blair cancelled a visit to east London and a planned photocall with John

Howard, the Australian Prime Minister. Ken Livingstone, the London mayor, also called off a visit to the Family Assistance Centre set up to help victims of the earlier blasts.

Home secretary Charles Clarke was among ministers who had been due to attend a meeting of senior police and military officials at Downing Street to discuss ways of preventing a repeat of the terror. It was hastily re-arranged as an emergency Cobra meeting, got underway.

The original attacks were, according to senior police sources, "inevitable". Following attacks, we had been warned, were "likely". By 2 pm today, senior police officials were saying that London had had a "lucky escape". But fears were raised that, dummy or not, London may not be as willing to return to normal knowing that its public transport network has again been compromised.

At Warren Street, Roger Holloway, 49, planning manager for a construction company said: "I just hope it's not as serious as last time. The whole thing makes you cautious as you move around."

THE TIMES, LONDON

US: We won't be frightened

Washington, July 21 (Reuters): American officials said they did not believe the US was in imminent danger of an attack similar to today's second wave of bombings on London's transport system but were closely monitoring the London events.

Just hours after four small explosions hit London's bus and underground train network, President George W. Bush said the US would not be frightened by acts of terrorism.

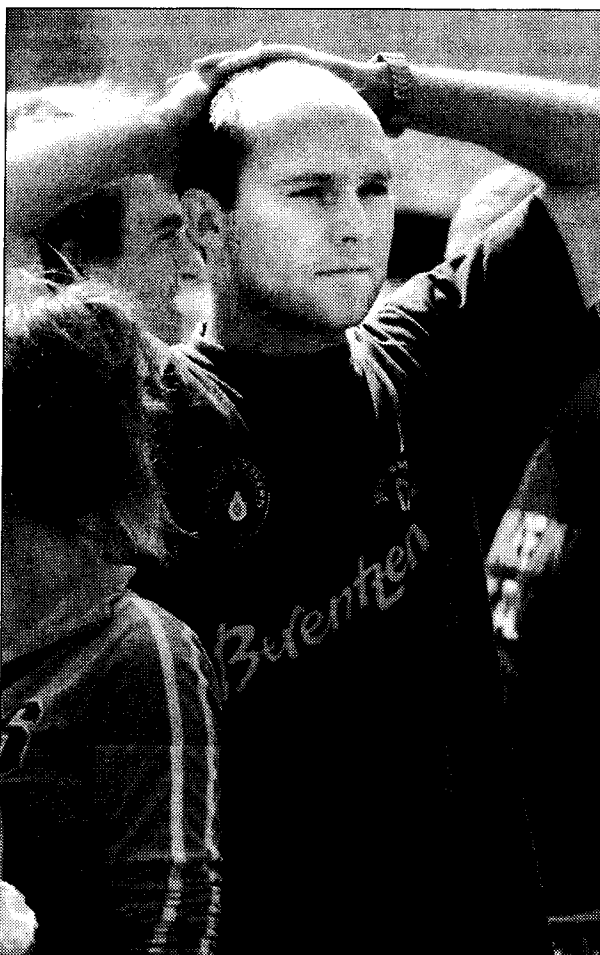
"They have the desire to use their terrorist techniques to frighten us," Bush said in a speech on trade in which he did not directly mention the bombings. "They understand when they kill in cold blood it ends up on our TV screens. And they're trying to shake our will."

"They don't understand our country though. They don't understand that when it comes to the defence of universal freedoms, this country won't be frightened," he added. Homeland security officials

said the department was closely monitoring the events in London and noted that the US mass transit system was already at a heightened state of alert — a move taken two weeks ago after the first wave of bombings in central London.

"We have no specific information indicating this type of attack is imminent in the US," said spokeswoman Katy Montgomery. Defence department spokesman Bryan Whitman said that security had been increased at the Pentagon in a precautionary response to the situation in London, but that there was no evidence of a direct threat to US defence headquarters.

"We have a major metro facility that runs through the Pentagon," Whitman said referring to a busy underground subway stop beneath sprawling military headquarters in Virginia near Washington. The increased state alert on buses, subways and trains means more police on watch and patrolling stations and platforms.



Residents wait near Shepherd's Bush Station in London. (AFP)

'There was mass panic'

London, July 21: Outside Warren Street station, people who were evacuated from the Tube spoke of what they had experienced.

Sofiane Mohellavi, 35, from Walthamstow, said he had smelt smoke in his carriage on the Victoria Line northbound train. "I was sitting in the carriage reading a book and I smelt something burning, like wiring or tyres, and it just got more intense."

"Suddenly people panicked and started screaming and were walking on each other's backs trying to get the hell out of there. I couldn't move. I didn't know what to do, whether to run or not."

"People ran and left their shoes and belongings when they smelt the burning," Mr Mohellavi said. Victoria Line passenger Ivan McCracken claimed a traveller's rucksack had exploded on the Tube outside the station.

He told Sky News: "I was in a middle carriage and the train was not far short of Warren Street station when suddenly the door between my carriage and the next one burst open and dozens of people started rushing through. Some were falling, there was mass panic."

"It was difficult to get the story from any of them what had happened but when I got to ground level there was an Italian young man comforting an Italian girl who told me he had seen what had happened. "He said that a man was

carrying a rucksack and the rucksack suddenly exploded. It was a minor explosion but enough to blow open the rucksack."

"The man then made an exclamation as if something had gone wrong. At that point everyone rushed from the carriage," McCracken said he smelt smoke but did not see any injured passengers.

Oval station

A witness at Oval underground station told Sky News he heard a sound "like champagne popping" then passengers erupting in panic.

"As far as I know from what a lady at the top of the escalator was saying, someone came into the carriage, dumped the bag and ran out. Some people tried to stop him but he ran

out." He said: "I was in the carriage next to the one where the bag was. All of a sudden there was a popping, it sounded like champagne popping. I didn't think anything of it at the time but then I heard a lot of shouting from the next door carriage."

"People started saying: 'Smoke, smoke'. One of the train guys came through and said: 'Get off the train, we're evacuating, everyone out'."

"As we were walking past the carriage we could see the bag sitting on the chair. It was a big, black rucksack, like the backpack-type ones that you get. When they got upstairs, people were really distressed, one lady was crying."

A woman said she saw a man holding a rucksack standing next to a woman with a

baby. She said the man dropped the bag and ran out of the carriage. Other passengers tried to chase him but as far as she knew, he had not been caught.

Shepherd's Bush

At the Shepherd's Bush station of the Hammersmith and City line, Rebecca Hamilton, 34, from Chiswick, was working in Bush Studios, a rehearsal studio in the arches directly underneath the station when she was told to evacuate.

She said: "We work underneath the station in the arches and police came in and kind of told us to get out basically just to drop everything and get out. We have left all our cars and everything in there."

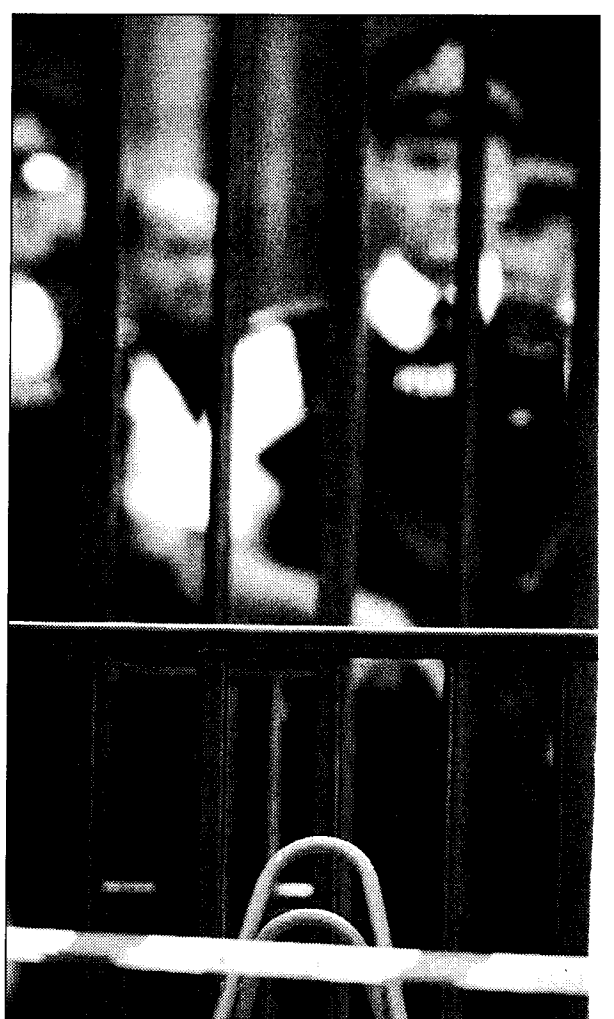
She continued: "We didn't hear any noise but we didn't hear trains for about a good half-an-hour before and they just told us to get out and we ran out. When we first came out of the arches we just mingled around but now they are telling us to get back (to the moving police cordon)."

Hackney bus

A witness in Hackney said the driver of the number 26 bus had reported smelling cordite.

Passengers and people in surrounding houses and shops were evacuated. A worker in the area told Sky News that Hackney Road had been cordoned off, but that the area was quite quiet and he could not see any major damage.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH



METROPOLITAN POLICE
DOWNING STREET
CLOSED
Armed police on guard at Downing Street. (Reuters)



A woman walks past police officers near Shepherd's Bush Station. (Reuters)

Terrorist farming on Pak soil continues

NILOVA Roy Chaudhury
New Delhi, July 21

A "SIGNIFICANT" rise in infiltration attempts, along with increased activity detected in over 50 terrorist training camps across Pakistan, indicate that Pakistan's "infrastructure for terrorism is far from winding down", sources said.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh cautioned in Washington on Wednesday that the Indo-Pak peace process could be threatened by enhanced terrorist attacks from "Pakistani soil". Citing the January 6, 2004, joint statement by President Pervez Musharraf and former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Singh said the key to progress in the bilateral peace process lay in Islamabad's adherence to the commitment of not allowing terrorists to operate from within the country.

Sources said there had been 810 incidents of violence in Jammu and Kashmir this year — with as many as 166 terrorist incidents in June alone — in which 201 people have died.

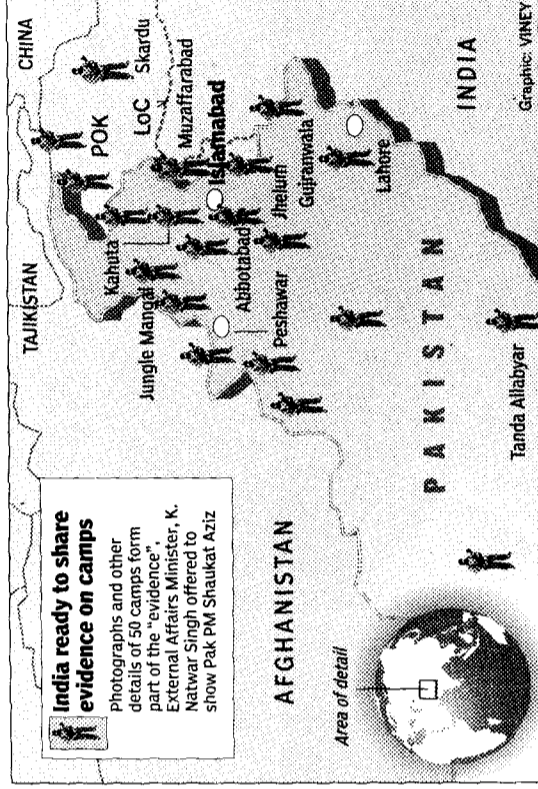
Close scrutiny, particularly after the 5/7 and 7/7 militant attacks in Ayodhya and London respectively, has shown a rise in infiltration at-

tempts along the Line of Control (LoC), with 72 infiltrators in June, up from 32 in May. There were 19 in January, five in February, seven in March and, once the snow melted, 44 in April.

After the bloody attack in Srinagar on Wednesday, estimates suggest there are between 1,800 and 2,000 terrorists in the Valley already, while 300 are waiting to enter. Around 1,200 of those waiting to create havoc in the Valley belong to Hizbul Mujahideen (which claimed responsibility for Wednesday's blast), Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. Around 800 of the terrorists are "foreigners".

Details of raised funding and revival of terrorist training activities in around 54 camps all across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir have been recorded even in a Pakistani news magazine. Sources estimate there are between 2,600 and 3,000 militants receiving training in these camps, around 13 of which are close to the LoC.

Photographic and other details of these camps form part of the "concrete evidence" external affairs minister K Natwar Singh told Pakistani Premier Shaukat Aziz New Delhi could show Islamabad.



Iraq invasion a mistake: PM

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, July 21

PRIME MINISTER Manmohan Singh minced no words when he said he considered "the invasion of Iraq" a "mistake". His sincere (and, given the venue, brave) response to a question at Washington's National Press Club on Wednesday drew applause. Singh, however, went on to qualify the statement saying he believed the incident was "a thing of the past" and the need now was "to look to the future", in which both the US and India could help build Iraq's demo-

cratic institutions. He did not speak of the upsurge in violence that is daily claiming a large number of lives in the war-ravaged country.

Iraq, like India, he said, was a multi-ethnic, pluralistic society.

India has consistently refused to send troops to assist the US-led coalition forces that ousted Saddam Hussein, even passing a resolution in Parliament in 2003 condemning the invasion of Iraq.

But, after elections were held in Iraq in January, India "welcomed" the event and pledged to work to assist in the restoration of that country.

জঙ্গি দমনে জেহাদের ডাক দিলেন মুশারফ

ইসলামাবাদ, ২৩ জুলাই:
জেহাদের ডাক দিলেন পারভেজ
মুশারফ। তবে জঙ্গি সংগঠনের মুখে
হামেশাই যে জেহাদের কথা শোনা
যায়, এ জেহাদ সে জেহাদ নয়। ঘৃণা
আর হিংসার প্রচারকদের বিরুদ্ধে
পবিত্র যুদ্ধ শুরু করার জন্য
দেশবাসীকে আহ্বান জানানো
পাকিস্তানের প্রেসিডেন্ট।

জাতির উদ্দেশে টেলিভিশন
বক্তৃতায় আজ সন্ত্রাসের বিরুদ্ধে
পারভেজ মুশারফের যে কড়া সুর
শোনা গিয়েছে, তা সত্যিই
নজিরবিহীন। পাকিস্তানে জঙ্গিরা যে
'কালশনিকভের সংস্কৃতি' গড়ে
তুলেছে, তাকে তীব্র ভাষায় আক্রমণ
করেছেন তিনি। শুধু তাই নয়,
কাশ্মীর প্রসঙ্গ তাঁর ভাষণে সামান্য
এলেও, এ ক্ষেত্রে তিনি জেহাদীদেরই
শাস্তির পথে বড় বাধা হিসেবে বর্ণনা
করেছেন। পাক জনতার উদ্দেশে
মুশারফ বলেছেন, "ভারতের সঙ্গে
কাশ্মীর-সহ যাবতীয় রাজনৈতিক
সমস্যা মিটিয়ে ফেলতে চাইছি
আমরা। কিন্তু এই জেহাদিরা এর
বিপক্ষে। তারা বলছে, জেহাদ
চালিয়ে যেতে চায় তারা। আর শুধু
এখানেই নয়, এই জেহাদ তারা
চালাতে চায় সর্বত্র, বিশ্ব জুড়ে।"

জেহাদের জমি তৈরি করতে
গিয়ে কী ভাবে তারা পাকিস্তানের
জমিকে দীর্ঘদিন ধরে ব্যবহার
করেছে, সোজা সাপটা ভাষায় তা-ও
জানিয়েছেন মুশারফ। তিনি
বলেছেন, "গত ২৬ বছর ধরে
পাকিস্তানে তৈরি হয়েছে
'কালশনিকভের সংস্কৃতি'। আল
কায়দা এসে ঘাঁটি গেড়েছে দেশের
শহর থেকে পাহাড়, সর্বত্র।
মুজাহিদরা সদস্য সংগ্রহ, প্রশিক্ষণ,
অনুদান সংগ্রহ এবং জেহাদি প্রচার
পুস্তিকা বিলি করেছে। এবং এ সবই
তারা করেছে প্রকাশ্যে, কোনও রকম
রাখতাক না করেই।"

এর পরেই দেশবাসীর উদ্দেশে
মুশারফের আবেদন, "জঙ্গিনার
বিরুদ্ধে জেহাদ শুরু করুন
আপনারা। সমাজে যারা ঘৃণা আর
বিশৃঙ্খলা ছড়াচ্ছে, তাদের বিরুদ্ধে
রুখে দাঁড়ান।" মুশারফের বক্তৃতার
স্বল্প আগেই আরও এক বার সন্ত্রাসের
আতঙ্ক ছড়িয়েছে লন্ডনে। প্রথম
বিস্ফোরণের পরে পাক মাদ্রাসার
দিকে যে অভিযোগের আঙুল
উঠছিল, সেই পরিপ্রেক্ষিতেই পাক
প্রেসিডেন্ট জানিয়ে দিয়েছেন, দেশের
সমস্ত ইসলামি স্কুল বা মাদ্রাসাকে
ডিসেম্বরের মধ্যে কর্তৃপক্ষের কাছে
নথিভুক্ত হতে হবে।

সন্ত্রাসের বিরুদ্ধে বিশ্বব্যাপী
লড়াইয়ে আমেরিকার সঙ্গে হাত
মেলানোয় তাঁর বিরুদ্ধে অস্ত্রে শান
দিয়েছে পাক জঙ্গি সংগঠনগুলি। বার
কয়েক তাঁর প্রাণনাশের চেষ্টাও হয়ে
গিয়েছে। আবার লন্ডনে ৭/৭-এর
সঙ্গে পাকিস্তানের যোগসূত্র এসে
পড়ায় সমালোচনা শুরু হয়েছে,
সন্ত্রাস দমনে যথেষ্ট ব্যবস্থা আদৌ
নেয়নি তাঁর প্রশাসন। এমনই এক
উভয় সঙ্কটে বক্তৃতা দিতে
এসেছিলেন মুশারফ। সন্ত্রাসবাদের
পরিকাঠামো নির্মূল করতে তাঁর
আন্তরিকতার কথা আন্তর্জাতিক
মহলের কাছে সরাসরি পৌঁছে
দেওয়ার জন্যই সম্ভবত ইংরেজিতে
বক্তৃতা দেন পাক প্রেসিডেন্ট।
চিরাচরিত উর্দুতে নয়। এবং সেই
বক্তৃতায় পরিষ্কার বলে দেন, নিষিদ্ধ
জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠীগুলি যাতে অন্য নামে
সংগঠিত না-হতে পারে বা টাকার
জোগাড় না-করতে পারে, সে দিকে
কড়া নজর রাখা হবে। অবৈধ অস্ত্র
রাখা বা ঘৃণা ছড়ানোর জন্য কোনও
বই বা প্রচারপত্রের বন্টন আটকাতেও
একই রকম কড়া ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া হবে।

ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া যে শুরু হয়ে
গিয়েছে, তথ্যেও তাঁর সমর্থন
মিলেছে। পাকিস্তান জুড়ে জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠী
এবং মাদ্রাসার বিরুদ্ধে ধরপাকড়ে
আটকের সংখ্যাটা তিনশোয়

এর পর সাতের পাতায়

JUL 2005

7/1/05

COPYCAT ATTACK

5/1
m/2
The Independent

LONDON, July 21. — Terrified passengers were evacuated from three trains on the London Underground and a double-decker bus in the British capital this afternoon after a series of small explosions. Warren Street, Shepherd's Bush and Oval Stations were all evacuated after the blasts. A small explosion then hit a No 26 bus at Hackney at 1.30 p.m. — when at least one of the upstairs windows on the bus was blown out.

Sir Ian Blair, the Metropolitan police commissioner, comparing today's incidents with the 7 July attacks, said: "These are smaller devices, some of them have not gone off properly. We may have recovered forensic material. It may be important to our investigation." He said that the situations were under control and nothing indicated any form of chemical attack. He added: "Now is the time to get London moving again."

He said later that he did not want to say too much, adding: "At the end of this process we want to have some trials." He did say, however, that the forensic material available might represent a significant breakthrough. And he asked Londoners who had photos and images from the scenes to send them to the police to help with the investigation. "The intention of the terrorists has not been fulfilled," he said. The Victoria, Hammersmith & City and Northern lines remain closed — but other lines carried on as they had been in the wake of the 7 July bombings. Surface trains were running normally.

Mr Tony Blair said: "We know why these things are done — to scare people and to make them anxious. Fortunately there appear to be no casualties and I think we have just got to react calmly."

Police launched an operation at

These incidents certainly have all the hallmarks of a copycat incident. The chances of there being attacks on one bus and three Tubes at the same time would be very small if it wasn't linked in some way to the attacks of 7/7.

Am I surprised? No I am not. There is evidence that terrorism is a copycat phenomenon. There's some evidence that in the weeks following a terrorist incident there is a greater likelihood that there will be further terrorist incidents in that area. Just after 9/11 a young boy crashed a small plane into a building in Florida. That was some kind of copycat incident — a plane being flown into a building — although many of the other details were very different.

University College Hospital, which is near Warren Street Station. Sky News reported that staff had been asked to look out for a 6ft 2in male, possibly of Asian appearance, wearing a blue top with wires coming from the back of it. The hospital is near Warren Street Station. Police later said that operation had been "stood down" — but large numbers of armed officers soon returned. Two people were arrested this afternoon — one in Downing Street and one in Great Scotland Yard in Whitehall — since the incidents this afternoon. However, police sources said it was unclear at this stage whether the two had any links to the explosions.

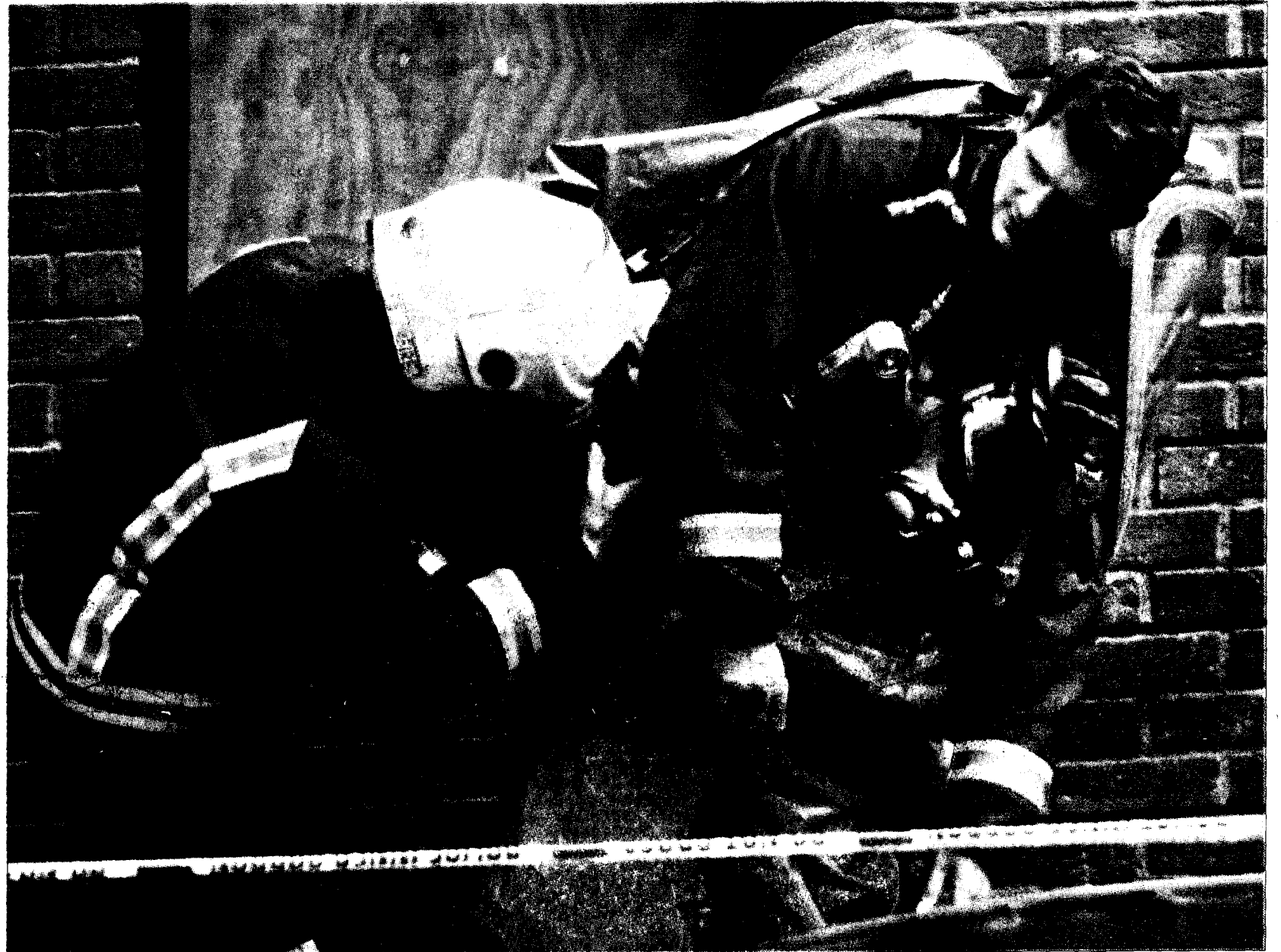
Eye-witnesses gave accounts of what had happened on the Tube. Ms Sosiane Mohellavi (35) was travelling from Oxford Circus to Walthamstow when she was evacuated from the train at Warren Street. "I was in the carriage and we smelt smoke — it was like something was burning. Everyone panicked and people were screaming. We had to pull the alarm. I am still shaking. We pulled into Warren Street and were evacuated. It was horrible."

Victoria Line passenger Mr Ivan McCracken said a traveller's rucksack had exploded on the Tube outside Warren Street Station. He told Sky News: "I was in a middle carriage and the train was near Warren Street when suddenly the door between my carriage and the next one burst open and people started rushing through. Some were falling, there was mass panic."

The government's civil contingencies committee — known as Cobra — met this afternoon in response to the latest incidents, Downing Street confirmed. It is two weeks to the day since the London bombings, when three suicide bombers detonated bombs on Tube trains in the capital and a fourth blew himself up on a bus.

More reports on page 3

THURSDAY TERROR RERUN IN LONDON; 4 BLASTS ON TRAINS, BUS



A firefighter dressed in a hazardous material protective suit gets ready to inspect the double-decker bus on Hackney Road which was targeted in London on Thursday. — AFP

DEAD RINGER FOR 7/7

Dr Paul Marsden, psychologist at London School of Economics and an expert on copycat phenomena, examines the linkages between today's attacks & 7/7

Copycat events tend to peak around 10 days to 2 weeks after the first incident. We don't know why that's just what the statistics show us. The people who commit copycat attacks statistically tend to share characteristics with the first attackers. They are likely to be people who in some way feel that they are in a similar position to the earlier attackers either psychologically or socially or by being part of a similar

group. I would not want anyone to assume that this means it must be people from Leeds or who are Muslims. But the psychological theory of differential identification says that copycats see these people as role models. The way that they media report these events is crucial as it is important not to personify the people who commit these attacks. If the person who commits a terrorist attack is

seen as a real person then people who share similar characteristics to the attackers — such as age, gender, or circumstances — can be triggered to commit copycat attacks. One of the key theories about social learning explains that we learn from other people rather than on our own. Part of that phenomenon is role modelling but there is also a phenomenon of "disinhibition" which can occur when suicide

or murderous thoughts — inhibited by conscience, uncertainty or fear — are exposed to what is perceived as the positive consequences of suicide or murder. When this happens, the mental conflict between urges and inhibitions may be resolved, resulting in a suicidal and possibly murderous mind being made up. Thought is free to become deadly action. These are likely to be people who

want to commit an act but would not normally do so for fear of the negative consequences. They would be people in intra-psychic conflict — put simply, shall I or shan't I? They would have weighed the risks and rewards of acting and decided not to act until they were triggered to do so by observing the first attacks. All the evidence suggested that it was statistically more likely that something similar would occur. The urge to copycat seems to be hardwired into us. Emotions are contagious — we copy smiling, yawning and even vomiting from those around us. It also works at a behaviour level — murder, suicide and now terror attacks seem to spread by the power of suggestion. — The Independent

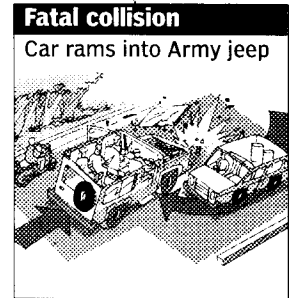
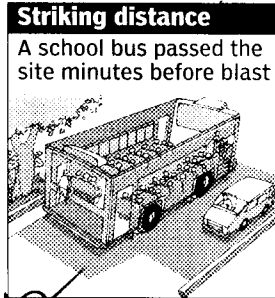
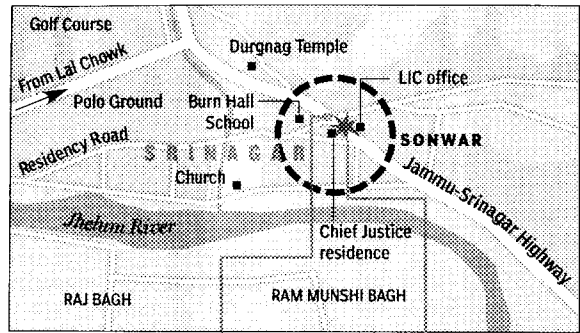
Blood on Srinagar street

Car laden with explosives hits Army jeep outside a school



FAROOQ JAVED KHAN/HT

IT'S HIZBUL: The remains of the Army vehicle after the militant attack.



Graphic: VINEY and JAYANTO

Major among 5 killed

Narrow escape for schoolchildren, NSG probe team rushes

RASHID Ahmad
Srinagar, July 20

FOUR ARMYMEN, including a major, were among five persons killed when militants exploded a car-bomb near a missionary school in Srinagar on Wednesday. Three jawans and 13 civilians were wounded in the blast.

The Hizbul Mujahideen has claimed responsibility for the explosion.

The blast occurred in the neighborhood of official residences of over a dozen ministers and senior bureaucrats at a common thoroughfare at Sonwar at 9.15 a.m. Though the area is a high-security zone, the road is open to civilian traffic. "This is a high-security zone but it is a high-traffic area as well," said IGP (Kashmir range) Javid Makhdoomi.

Defence spokesman Lt Col V.K. Batra said

the explosive-laden car was driven by a suicide bomber who rammed it into a passing army vehicle. He confirmed the death of three soldiers. Sources, however, said four soldiers were killed and three injured. "The injured troopers are undergoing treatment in the army's base hospital," said Batra.

Sources said over a dozen civilians were hit by flying splinters. One of them, Naseer Ahmad Bhat, died on the spot. He was an accountant at the Sher-e-Kashmir Agriculture University.

A three-storey building housing the LIC's zonal office was extensively damaged.

The Hizbul Mujahideen denied that a suicide bomber was driving the car. A caller, identifying himself as a spokesperson of the outfit, said the blast was triggered by a remote-control device. He claimed that seven

soldiers were killed.

"We are investigating whether the car was driven by a suicide bomber," said Makhdoomi. He said there was no trace of the body of the "suicide bomber". "There is possibility that the bomber might have jumped out of the car at the last moment," he said.

The blast caused panic in the city, as a missionary school is located nearby. Though no student was injured, frenzied parents converged on the school to know about the safety of their wards. This is the second car blast in Srinagar in the past four weeks. On June 24, Hizbul Mujahideen activists had blown up a bus carrying troops at Nishat, killing nine jawans and injuring 20 others.

The Centre has rushed bomb experts of the National Security Guards and a team of forensic scientists to J&K.

THE HINDU

Pakistani envoy blames Tony Blair policies for London bomb attacks

You have to look at what you are doing to the Muslim community, says diplomat x 80-19

Ewen MacAskill and Luke Harding

LONDON/LAHORE: Relations between Britain and Pakistan in the aftermath of the London bombings were put to the test on Sunday when one of Islamabad's most senior diplomats advised against trying to shift responsibility to his country, and blamed British Prime Minister Tony Blair's policies in West Asia.

As investigations intensified into possible links between the British bombers and extremists in Pakistan, its U.N. ambassador, Munir Akram, insisted that the London bombings were a British internal problem. As well as blaming Mr Blair's foreign policy, he also cited a failure by British society to inte-

grate its Muslims. He said: "It is important not to pin blame on somebody else when the problem lies internally. Your policies in the Middle East, your policies in the Islamic world, that is the problem with your society and that is where the problem lies as far as this incident is concerned. It would be a grave mistake to point fingers at Pakistan or anybody outside your country."

Blunt statement

Such outspokenness is unusual in diplomatic circles, particularly at such a sensitive time. Mr Akram's comments came as British and Pakistani investigators were examining a possible role played in the bombings by Osama Nazir, a top Pakistani militant leader with alleged

links to Al-Qaeda, who is being held over attacks in Pakistan. Reports claim that he admitted from jail to having met Shehzad Tanweer, one of the four London bombers.

One source close to the investigation also said that placed by Tanweer from his Leeds home appeared to lead to Muridke, a madrasa near Lahore, which Tanweer may have visited during his Pakistan trips. Although British authorities are making much of the visits by the bombers to Pakistan, the Pakistan Government and security services are playing down the significance of the short time they spent there.

In an interview on the BBC's The World This Weekend, Mr Akram said: "Brainwashing is a long process. You cannot brainwash some-

body instantly, unless he is inclined to be brainwashed. Rather, it was the years spent in Britain that transformed them into the U.K.'s first suicide bombers. It is not because their blood was from Pakistan. Whatever angst they had was a result of living in Britain."

He said: "You have to look at what you are doing to the Muslim community and why the Muslim community is not integrating in British society."

Hilary Benn, the British International Development Secretary, rejected the idea that all of the bombers had not been integrated into society. He pointed out that Mohammad Sidique Khan, had been a popular teacher. ©Guardian

Newspapers Limited 2005

Unabated suicide attacks by resistance fighters kill 24

Four car bombers target Iraqi and U.S. security patrols

187
Tennison
49-19

BAGHDAD: Four suicide car bombers struck security patrols and election workers on Sunday, officials said, killing 24 persons in the latest surge of suicide attacks.

The first suicide attack killed two policemen and one civilian in the eastern New Baghdad neighbourhood, police 1st Lt. Mohammed Jasim said. The attack occurred as police inspected the bodies of two Iraqis killed by militants that had been left in the road as a trap, the U.S. military said in a statement.

The attack also wounded seven policemen, some seriously, and one other civilian.

About an hour later, a second suicide car bomber exploded near a police convoy near the Bay'a bus station in southern Baghdad, killing three police commandos and four civilians, police Capt. Talib Thamir said. Three civilians were also injured in that blast.



Blast in poll panel office

A third suicide car bomber missed a U.S. convoy but struck two minibuses, killing six civilians in the troubled Mahmoudiya town about 30 km south of Baghdad, said police Capt. Rashid al-Samarie. Nine others were also wounded.

In eastern Baghdad, another car bomber triggered an explosion outside the offices of Iraq's Electoral Commission, killing five employees of the commission and one policeman, according to police and officials.

At least four others were

HAPLESS VICTIM: An Iraqi woman rushes with her son wounded in an explosion, to a hospital in the town of Al-Mussayib, south of Baghdad on Sunday. - PHOTO: AFP

wounded and several cars and homes were damaged in the blast.

After a lull in attacks after a security sweep last month through the capital, attacks have increased in recent days, including a suicide bombing on Saturday that killed 71 persons in Musayyib, about 70 km south of Baghdad.

On Friday, at least seven sui-

cide attacks were carried out in the country, killing at least 30 and wounding over 110 people.

Toll goes up to 90

The Iraqi Government reported on Sunday that the death toll from the suicide bombing in front of a Shia mosque in Musayyib stands at "more than 90." "The enemies of freedom and humanity in Iraq have commit-

ted a new ugly crime that shows their bankruptcy as they target our innocent civilians in the Mussayib district killing more than 90 people," the Government said in a statement.

"The Government condemns this brutal attack and promises the Iraqi people it will continue to tighten the grip on the terrorist organisation by improving our armed forces." - AP

18 JUL 2005

THE HINDS

LONDON BLASTS | Scotland Yard releases photo taken at station on day of attack, wants public to chip in

Bomber was on MI 5 radar last year, says report

AGENCIES
LONDON, JULY 17

BRITISH police have released a photograph of the four men who bombed London last week which shows them trudging into a train station on the morning they detonated their explosives.

A newspaper said British officials had checked out one of the four last year but concluded he did not pose a threat.

The *Sunday Times* said intelligence agency MI 5 vetted bomber Mohammad Sidique Khan last year but concluded

that he did not pose a threat. As the investigation into the bombings continued in Pakistan and Egypt, Scotland Yard detectives published the picture to garner information from the public about the men's movements on the morning of the attacks.

The photograph, taken from CCTV footage, shows the men walking into a railway station in Luton, north of London, on their way to the capital. The time code on the picture shows it was taken at 7.21 am, 89 minutes before three of the bombs went off in quick succession at subway stations. The fourth blast tore apart a double-decker bus nearly an



The bombers enter Luton station on July 7. Reuters

hour later.

Three bombers were British Muslims of Pakistani origin and the fourth was a Jamaican-born Briton. Pakistani security forces have arrested six men in connection with the bombings, including in Lahore, where they held two men on suspicion of having links with a bomber, Shahzad Tanweer.

Tanweer has visited Faisalabad and Lahore and Pakistani intelligence sources said that in 2003 he met a man later arrested for bombing a church in Islamabad.

In Egypt, police have arrested a British-trained biochemist, Magdy Elnashar, and are questioning him about the attacks.

But Egyptian Interior Minister Habib el-Adli has said Elnashar was not a member of Al Qaeda and that Western and Arab media had drawn hasty conclusions about him. The 33-year-old Egyptian was a researcher at Leeds University and the police are carrying out searches at his rented house, which was home to three of the bombers.

The police say they have yet to establish beyond doubt that the bombers had intended to die in western Europe's first suicide bombing. The police are continuing to search houses in and near Leeds. They have so far raided 10 homes in the area.

Police release photo showing bombers heading to London

London, July 17

BRITISH POLICE have released a chilling photograph of the four young men who bombed London last week which shows them trudging into a train station on the morning they detonated their explosives.

One newspaper said British officials had checked out one of the four last year but concluded he did not pose a threat.

As the investigation into the bombings continued in Pakistan and Egypt, Scotland Yard detectives published the picture in a bid to jog memories and garner more information from the public about the men's movements

on the morning of the attacks. The photograph, taken from CCTV footage, shows the men walking into a railway station in Luton, just north of London, to take a train to the capital.

The four are dressed casually and look relaxed, with their hands in their pockets. Each carries a backpack, thought to contain the bombs which tore through London's transport system during last Thursday's rush hour, killing 55 people.

The time code on the picture shows it was taken at 7.21 am (0621 GMT), 89 minutes before three of the bombs went off in quick succession at three subway stations. The fourth blast



This CCTV grab shows (from left) Hussein, Lindsay, Khan and Tanweer.

tore apart a double-decker bus while the fourth was a Jamaican-born Briton. Two of the bombers were young British Muslims of Pakistani origin, just 22 and the other was 30.

Pakistani security forces have arrested six men in connection with the bombings — the most recent in the eastern city of Lahore, where they detained two men on suspicion of having links with one of the bombers, Shahzad Tanweer. Tanweer had visited Faisalabad and Lahore during two trips to Pakistan over the last two years. Pakistani intelligence sources say that in 2003 he met a man later arrested for bombing a church in the capital, Islamabad.

In Egypt, police have arrested a British-trained biochemist, Magdy El-Nashar, and are questioning him about the attacks. But Egyptian interior minister Habib el-Adli has said El-Nashar

was not a member of al-Qaida and that Western and Arab media had drawn hasty conclusions about the arrested man.

The 33-year-old Egyptian was a researcher at Leeds University in England, and police are carrying out extensive searches at his rented house in the city, which was home to three of the bombers. Police are looking for a support network of planners, bomb-makers and financiers behind the men.

They expect to find clear links to al-Qaida, the militant Islamist network behind the September 11, 2001, attacks on the US and other bombings from Indonesia to Iraq and from Africa to Spain.

The *Sunday Independent* said

the police had established a link between the oldest of the bombers, Mohammad Sidique Khan, and al-Qaida. It said a Pakistani-American who is believed to have attended an al-Qaida "summit" in Pakistan last year and who pleaded guilty to terrorism charges in the United States following his arrest shortly afterwards, had identified Khan from photographs.

The *Sunday Times*, citing a senior government source, said MI5 vetted Khan last year but concluded that he did not pose a threat. Police are continuing to search houses in and near Leeds. They have so far raided 10 homes and finished searching three of them.

Reuters

Terror trail glare stays on Islamabad

Bomber was probed, let off

London, July 17 (Reuters): British secret services last year vetted one of the bombers behind the London attacks and judged he was not a threat, a report said today, as police searched for a support network of planners, bomb-makers and financiers.

The *Sunday Times*, citing a senior government source, said intelligence agency MI5 had assessed the eldest of the bombers, Mohammad Sidique Khan, but concluded he posed no threat and failed to put him under surveillance.

The government refused to be drawn. "We never comment on the activities of security services," one official said.

Investigations into the July 7 bomb attacks which tore through London's transport system, killing 55 people, have fanned out across the world. Police have said they expect to find clear links to al Qaida.

Three of the bombers were young British Muslims of Pakistani origin, while the fourth was a Jamaican-born Briton. Two of them were teenagers, one was 22 and the oldest 30.

The *Sunday Independent* newspaper said police had established a link between another bomber, Khan, and al Qaida. It said a man who is believed to have attended an al Qaida "summit" in Pakistan last year and who pleaded guilty to terrorism charges in the US following his arrest shortly afterwards, had identified Khan from photographs.

The *Sunday Times* said Khan was the subject of a routine assessment by MI5 officers last year after his name cropped up during an investigation into an alleged plot to explode a huge bomb outside a London target, believed to be a Soho nightclub.

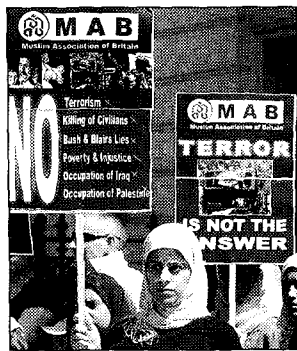
Senior government minis-

ter Lord Falconer defended Britain's intelligence services.

"We have got to keep our eyes all the time on what the best steps are to fight terrorism. The police, the security services, the intelligence services have been doing that effectively," he told BBC Television.

Speaking in parliament days after the bombings, Prime Minister Tony Blair chose his words carefully, saying he knew of no intelligence "specific enough" to prevent the attacks.

Scotland Yard released the



Demonstrators in Russell Square, London. (Reuters)

first CCTV image of the four bombers together, which police hope will trigger new information from the public. The photograph, on the front pages of all Sunday newspapers, showed them walking into a train station north of London with backpacks thought to contain the bombs they detonated less than 90 minutes later.

In Egypt, police were holding for questioning a British-trained biochemist, Magdy El-nashar, but the government said he was not a member of al Qaida and the media had drawn hasty conclusions about him. The 33-year-old Egyptian was a researcher at Leeds University in England, and police were searching his rented house in the city.



The family of London bomb victim Susan Levy leaves a crematorium in north west London on Sunday. Her widower Harry Levy (third from left) is flanked by their sons Daniel (left) and James (second from right). (Reuters)

Phone call list draws blank

Islamabad, July 17 (Reuters): British authorities have given Pakistan a list of telephone calls made from the house of one of bombers in the attacks on London, but checks have drawn blanks so far, Pakistani intelligence officials said today.

Three of the four bombers were young British Muslims of Pakistani descent and have been identified as Shehzad Tanweer, Mohammad Sidique Khan and Hasib Hussain. The fourth was a Jamaican-born Briton.

An intelligence official said checks based on the telephone numbers dialled from Tanweer's home in Britain had yielded no results so far.

"We have quizzed three people whose numbers were

found in the list, but we have concluded that they have nothing to do with Tanweer," he said. He said these people were family friends, including two businessmen.

Investigators had earlier confirmed that Tanweer, 22, had visited the cities of Faisalabad and Lahore during two trips to Pakistan over the past two years and that the authorities were now sure Khan and Hussain had also visited Pakistan in 2004.

Another intelligence official said five more people had been detained near Faisalabad last night, raising the number held in the central province of Punjab to more than a dozen.

Two suspects picked up in the city of Gujranwala were believed to belong to the bann-

ed al Qaida-linked Kashmiri militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad, a security source said.

One intelligence official said most of the detentions stemmed from information gleaned from a jailed Jaish-e-Mohammad member, Osama Nazir, arrested in December for the 2002 bombing of a church in Islamabad that killed two Americans among others.

Some intelligence officials say Tanweer met Nazir twice in Faisalabad in 2003.

Four men were detained in Faisalabad this week from the same neighbourhood where Nazir was arrested.

President Pervez Musharraf ordered police to take tougher measures after the London blasts, which killed 55 people, prompting speculation

that a serious crackdown on militant groups might be imminent. The security agencies are probing Tanweer's links with militant groups and madarsas in Pakistan.

Yesterday, security agents questioned teachers, students and other staff of Manzoor-ul-Islam, a madarsa in Lahore which Tanweer was thought to have visited in 2004.

The madarsa is connected to Jaish-e-Mohammad, an unpredictable group that has splintered into small cells, but a school official denied any link with Tanweer.

The intelligence officials say Tanweer made a second visit to Pakistan and stayed in Lahore from December 2004 until February, visiting several mosques and madarsas.

17 militants killed in Pak clash

Miranshah (Pakistan), July 17 (Reuters): At least 17 suspected foreign militants, along with women and children, were killed in a clash with Pakistani security forces today near the Afghan border, the Pakistan military said.

Troops surrounded the suspects before dawn in two houses near Miranshah, the main town of the North Waziristan tribal region.

Military spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan said the militants opened fire after refusing an appeal from tribal elders to surrender, and soldiers returned fire.

A military statement said the militants used women as shields as they tried to flee, while some women took part in the fighting.

"The militants and women fired back and lobbed grenades that resulted in *shahadat* (martyrdom) of one soldier," the statement said.

It was not immediately clear how many women or children were involved.

Several of the militants were believed to be from central Asia.

Four Kazakhstan passports were recovered.

The military statement said arms and ammunition, including detonators, explosive material, switches, circuit diagrams and other material, were found in the hideouts.

Residents of Miranshah, 300 km southwest of Islamabad, said troops had cordoned off the area after the clash. "I have seen some limbs and blood scattered on the earth," a Reuters reporter at the scene said.

Two days earlier, US forces based in Afghanistan killed 24 suspected al Qaida militants and their Taliban allies on the Pakistan side of the border in North Waziristan.

বঞ্চনাই কি জঙ্গি তৈরির মূলে, বিতর্ক

‘আত্মঘাতী’ হতে হবে, জানত না ওই চার জন

লন্ডন, ১৭ জুলাই: ব্রিটেনে মুসলিমদের করুণ হালই জঙ্গি তৈরির পরিবেশ সৃষ্টি করছে কি না, তা নিয়ে বিতর্ক শুরু হয়েছে। মুসলিম ধর্মীয় নেতাদের একাংশ বলছেন, লন্ডন বিশ্ফোরণ মুসলিমদের ‘বিরাট জয়’। আত্মঘাতী জঙ্গি শেহজাদ তনবিরের রূপকা বলেন, তনবিরেরা ‘আত্মত্যাগের’ দৃষ্টান্ত রেখেছে। এর আগে অবশ্য ধর্মীয় নেতাদেরই অনেকে বলেছেন, লন্ডন-কাণ্ডকে ইসলাম সমর্থন করে না।

ব্রিটেনে বসবাসকারী সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্রদায়গুলির মধ্যে বৃহত্তম হয়েও মুসলিমেরা অর্থনৈতিক ভাবে সব চেয়ে বঞ্চিত। এই ফ্লাভই ধরা পড়েছে বশির আহমেদের মন্তব্যে। তনবিরের কাকা একটি ট্যাবলেটকে বলেছেন, “মরিয়া হয়েই এরা আত্মঘাতী জঙ্গি হয়েছে।” তনবির প্রসঙ্গে বশিরের সাফ কথা, “ছেলেটা দুনিয়ায় নাম করে গিয়েছে। মুসলিমেরা একে আত্মত্যাগ বলেন, ইউরোপীয়েরা বলেন জঙ্গি।”

যে অর্থনীতিতে মুসলিমেরা বঞ্চনার শিকার, লন্ডন বিশ্ফোরণে সেই অর্থনীতি ধাক্কা খাওয়ায় উচ্ছ্বসিত হানি আল-সিবাই। মিশর-বংশোদ্ভূত এই শিক্ষাগুরু এবং ধর্মীয় নেতার মতে, “আল কায়দা সত্যিই এ কাজ করে

থাকলে সেটা বিরাট। বিশ্বের সব চেয়ে শক্তিশালী ৮টি দেশের (জি-৮) নাক মাটিতে ঘষে দিয়েছে ওরা।”

তথ্য বলছে, ব্রিটেনে মোট মুসলিমের সংখ্যাটা ১৫ লক্ষ। এঁদের প্রায় পৌনে ৭ লক্ষ পাক-বংশোদ্ভূত। এঁদের অবস্থা কত শোচনীয়, কয়েকটা পরিসংখ্যানেই তা স্পষ্ট। যেমন, ৩০ শতাংশ ছাত্র স্কুলের গণ্ডি ছাড়া। পাক ও বাংলাদেশি মুসলিমদের ৩০ শতাংশের

পারিবারিক উপার্জন ব্রিটেনের গড় জাতীয় আয়ের অর্ধেক। এঁদের একটা অংশই প্রত্যাঘাতের পথ বেছে নিচ্ছে। এই আবহেই প্রথম সারির ২২ জন মুসলিম ধর্ম ও শিক্ষাগুরু অবশ্য বলেছেন, লন্ডন বিশ্ফোরণের সঙ্গে ইসলামের সম্পর্ক নেই। মুসলিম কাউন্সিল অব ব্রিটেন (এমসিবি)-এর সহকারী সাধারণ সম্পাদক দাউদ আবদুল্লাহর মত, ব্রিটেনে কটর ধর্মশিক্ষা দেওয়া হয়, এমন মসজিদ হাতে গোনা। কিন্তু পরিস্থিতি সহজে নিয়ন্ত্রণে আনা যাচ্ছে না। ইরাক, প্যালেস্টাইন, গুয়ানতানামোর মুসলিম নির্যাতনের খবর এসে পৌঁছচ্ছে আর প্ররোচনার কাজ সহজ হচ্ছে। -রয়টার্স, এ এফ পি

লন্ডন ও ইসলামাবাদ, ১৭ জুলাই: মার্কিন হেফাজতে থাকা আল কায়দা জঙ্গি মহম্মদ জুনেইদ বব্বর লন্ডন-বিশ্ফোরণের অন্যতম আত্মঘাতী জঙ্গি মহম্মদ সাদিক খানকে চিনত বলে জানিয়েছে। বব্বরের দাবি, সাদিক পাক সীমান্তের ওয়াজিরিস্তানে এক জঙ্গি শীর্ষ সম্মেলনে যোগ দিয়েছিল। সেখানে বব্বর নিজেও ছিল। ফেরার পথে পুলিশ তাকে গ্রেফতার করে।

বব্বরের বক্তব্য সত্যি হলে লন্ডন-কাণ্ডের সঙ্গে আল কায়দার যোগ নিয়ে আর কোনও সন্দেহই প্রায় থাকে না।

তবে জানা গিয়েছে, বিশ্ফোরণের পরিকল্পনাটা নিখুঁত থাকলেও নিজেদের নিরাপত্তা নিয়ে সংশয় ছিল না লন্ডন বিশ্ফোরণের চার জঙ্গির। ৭ জুলাই সকাল সাতটায় লুটন স্টেশনে ট্রেন ধরার সময়েও তারা সম্ভবত জানত না তাদের ভবিতব্যের কথা।

গোয়েন্দাদের অনুমান, ওই চার জনকে যে ‘আত্মঘাতী’ মিশনে পাঠানো হচ্ছে, তা আগে থেকে জানানো হয়নি। তাদের সঙ্গে বোমাগুলি যে দ্রুত ফেটে যাবে সেটা জানত না বলেই চার জনেই ট্রেনের রিটার্ন টিকিট কেটে রেখেছিল। এমনকী স্টেশনের বাইরে

রাখা গাড়ির জন্য কার পার্কিংয়ের কুপনও নিয়েছিল। পুলিশের অনুমান, বিশ্ফোরণের মূল পাণ্ডা সম্ভবত তাদের বলেছিল, বোমাগুলি টিউব ট্রেনে লুকিয়ে রেখে তারা পালানোর সময় পাবে। তা ছাড়া আত্মঘাতী জঙ্গিদের মতো তারা বিশ্ফোরক শরীরে বেঁধে নেয়নি, রুকস্যাকে লুকিয়ে নিয়েছিল।

স্কটল্যান্ড ইয়ার্ড আজ লুটন স্টেশনের ক্রোজ সার্কিট টিভির মাধ্যমে পাওয়া ওই চার জনের যে ছবি প্রকাশ করেছে, তাতেও গোয়েন্দাদের এই অনুমান স্পষ্ট। পকেটে হাত দিয়ে, গল্প করতে করতে তারা যে ভাবে স্টেশনে ঢুকেছে, তা দেখে এক ব্যরের জন্য মনে হয়নি তারা এত ভয়ঙ্কর কাজ করতে চলেছে। গোয়েন্দা সূত্রের দাবি, চার জনকে জীবিত রেখে পুলিশের হাতে সূত্র ধরিয়ে দেওয়ার মতো বোকামি করতে চায়নি ষড়যন্ত্রের পাণ্ডারা।

লন্ডন-কাণ্ডে পাকিস্তানি দুই জঙ্গি সংগঠনের নাম জড়িয়ে যাওয়ায় দেশ জুড়ে নিষিদ্ধ গোষ্ঠীগুলির সদস্যদের ব্যাপক ধরপাকড় শুরু হয়েছে। নিহত চার জঙ্গির এক জন, শাহজাদ তনবিরের লন্ডনের বাড়ি থেকে পাকিস্তানে করা ফোনের তালিকাও আজ ব্রিটিশ গোয়েন্দারা তুলে দেন পাকিস্তানের হাতে। -রয়টার্স, পিটিআই

লন্ডন বিশ্ফোরণ

18 JUL 2005

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

লন্ডন বিস্ফোরণে জড়াল জইশ-লঙ্করের নামও

লন্ডন ও ইসলামাবাদ, ১৬ জুলাই: লন্ডন-কাণ্ডের সঙ্গে আটপুঠে জড়িয়ে যাচ্ছে পাকিস্তান। কিছু ক্ষেত্রে পরস্পর বিরোধী তথ্য পাওয়া গেলেও একটি বিষয় এখন দিনের আলোর মতো স্পষ্ট, ৭ জুলাই বিস্ফোরণের সঙ্গে জড়িত তিন পাক বংশোদ্ভূত জঙ্গি মহম্মদ সাদিক খান, শেহজাদ তনবির এবং হাসিব হুসেন গত দু-এক বছরে কোনও না কোনও সময় পাকিস্তানে এসেছিলেন। কেউ এক বার, কেউ একাধিক বার। সেই সময় জইশ-ই-মহম্মদ এবং লঙ্কর-ই-তইবা ঘনিষ্ঠদের সঙ্গেও তাঁদের যোগাযোগ হয়।

বিস্ফোরণের সঙ্গে যোগসূত্র খুঁজতে নেমে এর আগে দু'টি মাদ্রাসাকে সন্দেহের তালিকায় রাখা পাকিস্তান। আজ তারই একটি, লাহোরের জামিয়া মনজুর উল ইসলামের ছাত্র-শিক্ষক-প্রশাসককে দীর্ঘক্ষণ জেরা করা হয়। পরে লাহোর থেকেই সন্দেহভাজন দুই ব্যক্তিকে আটক করে পুলিশ। পাশাপাশি ফয়জলাবাদেও চার সন্দেহভাজনকে জেরা করা হয়েছে। অন্য একটি সূত্রে অবশ্য বলা হয়েছে, লাহোরে আটক করা হয়েছে এক ধর্মীয় নেতাকে।

লন্ডন-কাণ্ডের তদন্তে পাকিস্তানের যোগসূত্র পাওয়ার পরেই সন্দেহের তির ঘুরে যায় জামিয়া মনজুর উল ইসলামের দিকে। এর প্রধান কারণ, মাদ্রাসাটির সঙ্গে জইশ-ই-মহম্মদের ঘনিষ্ঠ যোগ, যে জইশ আদর্শগত ভাবে আল কায়দার কটর সমর্থক। গোয়েন্দারা জানতে পেরেছেন, তিন জঙ্গির এক জন, শেহজাদ তনবির গত দু'বছরে অন্তত দু'বার পাকিস্তানে এসেছিলেন। এর মধ্যে এক বার তিনি মনজুর উল ইসলামে আসেন। গত বছর শেষের দিকে তিনি যখন দ্বিতীয়

বার পাকিস্তানে আসেন, সঙ্গে ছিলেন মহম্মদ সাদিক।

তনবিরের প্রথম আগমন '০৩ সালে। তখন ফয়জলাবাদে তাঁর সঙ্গে পরিচয় হয় জইশের সদস্য ওসামা নাজিরের। দু'জনের ঘনিষ্ঠতাও হয়। '০২ সালে ইসলামাবাদে গির্জায় বিস্ফোরণের মূল পাণ্ডা ছিল নাজির। গত ডিসেম্বরে, তনবির-সাদিক যখন পাকিস্তানে, সেই সময় পুলিশের জালে পাড়ে যায় নাজির। তার আগে দু'পক্ষের মধ্যে আরও এক বার সাক্ষাৎ হয়েছিল কি না, জানতে পারেননি গোয়েন্দারা। লন্ডন-কাণ্ডে আরও তথ্যের খোঁজে নাজিরের পরিচিত চার ব্যক্তিকে আজ ফয়জলাবাদে আটক করেছে পুলিশ। দ্বিতীয়বারের পাক-ভ্রমণে সাদিককে নিয়ে তনবির মনজুর উল ইসলাম মাদ্রাসায় পাঁচ দিন কাটান। তবে সেই মাদ্রাসার প্রধান আসাদুল্লা ফারুক আজ জেরায় বলেছেন, "৯/১১-এর পরে কোনও বিদেশি ছাত্রকেই আমরা ঢুকতে দিইনি।"

গত বছর শেষ দিকে তনবির-সাদিক লাহোরে এসেছিলেন না কি করাচিত, সেই নিয়ে এখনও সংশয় রয়েছে। তবে তনবির যে মনজুর উল ইসলাম ছাড়াও বেশ কয়েকটি মাদ্রাসা এবং মসজিদে যান, সেই বিষয়ে নিশ্চিত গোয়েন্দারা। এই তালিকায় রয়েছে লাহোরের শহরতলি অঞ্চলের একটি মাদ্রাসাও। সেটির পরিচালনায় রয়েছে জামাত-উদ-দাওয়া। তাদের সঙ্গে আবার লঙ্কর-ই-তইবা জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠীর যোগ ঘনিষ্ঠ। জইশের থেকে লঙ্করের সঙ্গে আল কায়দার যোগ অনেক ভাল। তদন্তে এই দিকগুলি খুলে

এর পর ছয়ের পাতায়

● সাদিক-হাসিবের পরিবার বিশ্বস্ত...পৃঃ ৬

লন্ডন-কাণ্ডে

প্রথম পাতার পর

যাওয়ায় আল কায়দার সঙ্গে জড়িয়ে গেল জইশ-লঙ্করের নামও।

৭ জুলাই যে চার জঙ্গি লন্ডনে বিস্ফোরণ ঘটায়, সেই দলে সর্ব কনিষ্ঠ হাসিব হুসেন। সেও গত বছর পাকিস্তানে এসেছিল। নেমেছিল করাচিত। তবে তার পরে সে কোথায় যায়, কার সঙ্গে দেখা করে, তা এখনও গোয়েন্দাদের অজ্ঞাত। তাঁরা এখন এই নিয়েই খোঁজখবর চালাচ্ছেন। গোয়েন্দাদের ধারণা, হাসিবের যোগসূত্রগুলি জানা গেলে ষড়যন্ত্রের ছবিটা আরও স্পষ্ট হবে।

এর মধ্যে কাল যে ব্রিটেনবাসী এক মিশরিকে কায়রোতে আটক করা হয়, সেই বায়োকেমিস্ট মাগদি মাহমুদ এল-নাসারের সঙ্গে আল কায়দার যোগ নেই বলে জানিয়েছেন মিশরের অভ্যন্তরীণ মন্ত্রী হাবিব আল-আদলি।

কালই এই বায়োকেমিস্টকে জেরা করা হয়। এর আগে তাঁর লিডসের বাড়ি থেকে বিস্ফোরক তৈরির মালমশলাও উদ্ধার করে ব্রিটিশ পুলিশ। ব্রিটিশ গোয়েন্দাদের বক্তব্য, বিস্ফোরক তৈরিতে তনবিরদের সাহায্য করেছিলেন মাগদি। মাগদি অবশ্য বলেন, এই বিষয়ে কিছুই জানেন না। তিনি ছুটি কাটাতে দেশে এসেছেন। সব কিছুই রয়ে গিয়েছে লিডসের বাড়িতে। সেখানেই ফেরার পরিকল্পনা তাঁর। — রয়টার্স, পিটিআই

17 JUL 2005

ANADABAZAR PARIKA

Female bomber kills 4 at Turkish resort

Amotom
Ar 13

Ankara: A bomb blast, likely caused by a female suicide bomber, devastated a minibus on Saturday as it headed toward a popular beach in an Aegean Sea resort town, killing four people, including at least two foreign tourists, a police official said.

The blast in Kusadasi, 72 kilometres southeast of the port city of Izmir, tore off the bus' roof and sides, and 14 people, including six Britons, were injured. News photos showed body parts scattered next to the bus, which was destroyed just a few meters (yards) from the coast.

A police official in Kusadasi said preliminary evidence pointed to a female suicide bomber whose body was torn apart in the blast. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the woman was a Turkish citizen.



Injured persons are helped as they sit next to the wreckage of a minibus following an explosion in Kusadasi on Saturday

The Anatolia news agency said there were reports that the bomb exploded in the woman's lap.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, but Kurdish rebels have recently carried

out bomb attacks in Aegean resort towns.

Ali Baris, the governor of Kusadasi, said the blast occurred as the minibus travelled through the town square, but could not confirm whether it was caused

by a suicide bomber.

Baris said the explosion killed at least four people, including two women, and injured 14, including several who were in critical condition. A doctor at Kusadasi state hospital said three foreign tourists were among the dead and five foreign tourists were critically injured in the explosion. The police official said two of the dead were foreigners. The reason for the discrepancy was not immediately clear.

The five injured tourists were transferred to Izmir for treatment, the doctor said.

The Anatolia news agency, reporting from Izmir, identified the five injured as British tourists, including a 16-year-old boy.

The British foreign office said five Britons were seriously injured and one sustained minor injuries. AP

17 JUL 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Blair for "battle" to win Muslim hearts

July 7 attacks not a "revenge" for the British-U.S. invasion of Iraq

Hasan Suroor

summary
LONDON: Prime Minister Tony Blair on Saturday called for a "battle" to win the "hearts and minds" of Muslims in the campaign against terrorism as Britain's top Muslims in a joint statement condemned last week's London bombings as "utterly criminal and absolutely un-Islamic."

Denouncing terrorism as an "evil ideology," Mr. Blair said it had to be pulled up "by the roots," and dismissed suggestions that the July 7 attacks were a "revenge" for the British-U.S. invasion of Iraq.

"If it is Iraq that motivates them, why is the same ideology killing Iraqis by terror in defiance of an elected Iraqi government? Why, if it is the cause of Muslims that concerns them, do they kill so many with such callous indifference?" he said speaking at Labour Party's national policy forum.

Mr. Blair's remarks came as his Government proposed tougher anti-terror laws after police warned of more attacks.

He said the battle against terrorism meant "confronting" the fanatics "head on".

"It is a battle of ideas and hearts and minds both within Islam and outside it. A battle not just about terrorist methods, but their views....It cannot be beaten, in my view, except by confronting it, symptoms and causes, head on," he said adding: "We must pull this up by the roots. Within Britain we

must join up with our Muslim community to take on the extremists. Worldwide, we should confront it everywhere it exists."

The Government proposed a new offence of "indirect incitement" to commit terrorist acts. Remarks interpreted as "glorifying" a terrorist act would be an offence. Home Office Minister Hazel Blears said the law would cover private as well as public statements.

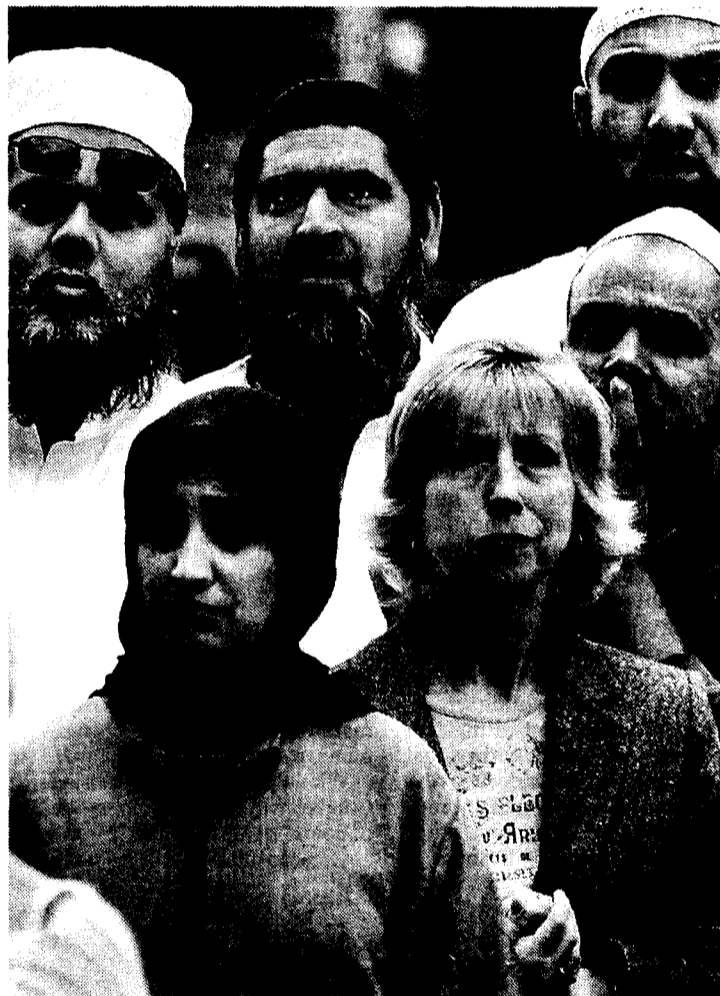
It is also proposed to outlaw "acts preparatory to terrorism." Such acts would include providing or receiving training in the use of hazardous substances, and other methods or techniques likely to lead to a terrorist act.

The proposals have been sent to Opposition parties in order to reach a cross-party consensus on methods to tackle terrorism.

No link

AFP reports from Cairo: Egypt said one of its citizens arrested on suspicion of involvement in the July 7 London bombings has "no link" to Al-Qaeda, but British investigators are expected to press their inquiry in Cairo, newspapers here said on Saturday.

In a statement published by the daily *Al-Gumhuriya*, Interior Minister Habib al-Adly said media reports about Magdy Elnashar (33) "are unfounded and are only hasty deductions." He has "no links with the Al-Qaeda network," Mr. Adly said of the suspect, who was arrested late Thursday in a Cairo suburb.



MAKING COMMON CAUSE: A peace rally in Dewsbury, northern England, on Saturday. - PHOTO: REUTERS

17 JUL 2005 THE HINDU

Pakistani officials quiz madrasah brass, no arrests

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, July 16. — Pakistani authorities have questioned several students, teachers and administrators at one of the two religious schools believed to have been visited by a suspect in the London bombings, intelligence and school officials said today. Police and interior ministry officials, however, vehemently denied reports that arrests had been made in the case.

The intelligence agents, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the agents had been dispatched to the Jamia Manzoorul Islam seminary in central Lahore, one of the two madrasahs allegedly visited by suspected bomber Shahzad Tanweer on a visit to Pakistan.

Mr Asad Farooq, a spokesman for the school, conceded that intelligence agents had been paid a visit today, but denied Tanweer had ever been at the school.

"Our hands are clean. We are not involved in any such activities. We are simply running an education facility. Anyone can visit us and see what goes on here. We have no link with Shahzad Tanweer or any other foreign students," Mr Farooq said.

Mr Amir Zulfikar, operations chief Lahore police, denied a report by a news agency that two persons had been arrested in Lahore. "We have made no arrests in Lahore today or last night," he said.

Brig. Javed Iqbal Cheema, the head of crisis management at the Interior ministry, also reiterated that no arrests had been made in Pakistan in connection with the

Suspects' families devastated

LONDON, July 16. — The families of two suspected London suicide bombers said that they were devastated by the attacks and urged Britons to help police combat terror networks. The family of bombing suspect, Mohammed Sidique Khan (30), released a statement today expressing their "heartfelt sympathies" for the victims of last week's blasts. They feel Khan must have been "brainwashed." Yesterday, the family of Hasib Hussain (18) expressed shock at the attacks and said they had no idea he was involved. AP

London bombings. It is not clear, however, if the officials had been to the other school, Markaz Taiba in Muridke, allegedly linked to Tanweer. Intelligence officials said Tanweer had spent four or five days at the school during a visit in the past year.

Md. Azam, in charge of the school, denied Tanweer had been there. "This is a pack of lies. They want to malign Islam."

Two top security officials today said that three of the London suicide bombers had visited Pakistan last year. Mohammad Sidique Khan and Shehzad Tanweer came together in November 2004 arriving at Karachi airport and returned to Britain in early February.

Hasib Hussain came separately on an undisclosed occasion last year, also to Karachi, and went back to Britain afterwards.

17 JUL 2005

THE STATESMAN

অযোধ্যায় হামলার ঠিক পরেই বার্তা যায় পাকিস্তানে, 'কাম আচ্ছা হুয়া'

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, নয়াদিল্লি, ১৫ জুলাই: হামলার পরেই খবর পৌঁছে গিয়েছিল, 'কাম তো আচ্ছা হুয়া, লেकिन চুক হো গায়্যা'।

অযোধ্যায় ৫ জুলাই জঙ্গি হামলার দশ দিন পরে ওয়্যারলেসের এই বার্তাটি হাতে এসেছে পুলিশের। তাদের দাবি, হামলাকারী জঙ্গিদের সঙ্গীরা ওয়্যারলেস সেটের মাধ্যমে এই খবর পৌঁছে দিয়েছিল পাকিস্তানে।

পুলিশ ও গোয়েন্দা সংস্থা আজ এই ঘটনার পিছনে লঙ্কর-ই-তইবার হাত রয়েছে, এ কথা বলেই ক্ষান্ত হয়নি। এক ধাপ এগিয়ে তারা জানিয়েছে, গত বছর অগস্টেই হামলাকারী জঙ্গিরা পাকিস্তান থেকে এ দেশে আসে। থাকতে শুরু করে খোদ রাজধানীর আশেপাশেই। পাকিস্তানের বিদেশমন্ত্রকের তরফে অবশ্য এক বিবৃতিতে জানানো হয়েছে, "পাকিস্তান এই ঘটনার বরাবরই নিন্দা করে এসেছে। যথাযথ তদন্ত চালিয়ে প্রকৃত হামলাকারীদের পরিচয় জানা উচিত। অনেক সময় দায়িত্ব এড়াতে

পুলিশের একাংশ বিদেশে জঙ্গিদের দোষারোপ করে।"

পুলিশের মতে, অযোধ্যায় গোটা অপারেশন চালানো হয়েছে লঙ্কর-ই-তইবার আঞ্চলিক কমান্ডার মহম্মদ কারি সইফুল্লার নির্দেশে। যদিও কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রক জানিয়েছে, জইশ-ই-মহম্মদের এক কমান্ডারের নামও মহম্মদ কারি সইফুল্লা। গোয়েন্দারা এখন এই মহম্মদ কারি সইফুল্লার আসল পরিচয় জানার চেষ্টা করছে। হামলাটি কারা চালিয়েছিল, জইশ না লঙ্কর, না কি দু'টি গোষ্ঠী একসঙ্গে মিলে, তা নিয়েও নিশ্চিত হতে চাইছেন গোয়েন্দারা। মৃত জঙ্গিদের মধ্যে আজ দু'জনকে শনাক্তও করেছে পুলিশ। তাদের নাম ইউনুস এবং আরশাদ ওরফে আসিফ। উত্তরপ্রদেশ পুলিশের ডিজি যশপাল সিংহ জানিয়েছেন, দিল্লির বসন্তকুঞ্জের কাছেই কিষাণগড় এলাকায় ইউনুস এবং খানবাজারের বাটরা হাসপাতালের কাছে দেওলি গ্রামে আরশাদ বাড়ি ভাড়া নিয়ে

থাকত। মৃত জঙ্গিদের ছবি দেখে শনাক্ত করেছেন দু'জনের বাড়িওয়ালাই।

সরকারি সূত্রের খবর, বিস্ফোরণ-স্থলে পড়ে থাকা একটি মোবাইলের সিম কার্ডের সূত্র ধরেই তদন্তের পর্দা ফাঁস করা সম্ভব হয়েছে। ঘটনার পরে একমাত্র জীবন্ত সূত্র ছিল আরব-ফেরত ভ্রাইভার রেহান। তাকে প্রথমে সন্দেহের তালিকাতেও রাখা হয়েছিল। জেরায় জানা যায়, এক আত্মীয় থাকার কারণেই সে একাধিকবার আরবে গিয়েছে। এখনও সন্দেহের উর্ধ্বে রাখা না হলেও রেহানকে দিয়ে বিশেষ কাজ হয়নি। এ দিকে, আজই অযোধ্যার রামলালা মন্দির সংলগ্ন চত্বরের সীতারসুই মন্দির চত্বর থেকে একটি তাজা গ্রেনেড উদ্ধার হয়। পুলিশের সন্দেহ, হামলাকারী জঙ্গিরাই গ্রেনেডটি নিয়ে এসেছিল।

সিম কার্ডের সূত্র ধরেই আজ জম্মু থেকে লঙ্করের পাঁচ সদস্যকে গ্রেফতার করে পুলিশ। এদের এক জনের কাছ থেকেই অত্যাধুনিক ওয়্যারলেস সেটটি

উদ্ধার হয়। কেন্দ্রীয় গোয়েন্দা সংস্থা ওই বার্তার আংশিক পড়তে সক্ষম হয়েছে। জম্মুতে এসডিপিও যোগল মানহাস বলেন, "এই অত্যাধুনিক সেট থেকেই ৫ জুলাই হামলার পরে পাকিস্তানে বার্তা পাঠানো হয়। কেন্দ্রীয় গোয়েন্দা সংস্থা পুরো বার্তা উদ্ধারের চেষ্টা করছে।" পুলিশ সূত্রের খবর, পুষ্কের মেক্সার অঞ্চল থেকে যে পাঁচ জঙ্গিকে গ্রেফতার করা হয়েছে তাদের নাম আসিফ ইকবাল ওরফে ফারুক আহমেদ, মহম্মদ নাসিম, আব্দুল আজিজ, সাকিল আহমেদ ও মুস্তাক আহমেদ। মানহাস বলেন, "অযোধ্যায় হামলাকারী জঙ্গিদের আট জন সাহায্য করেছিল। তাদের তিন জন এখনও পলাতক। তাদের খোঁজ চলছে।"

শ্রীনগরে জম্মু-কাশ্মীরের ডিজি গোপাল শর্মা জানান, অযোধ্যায় হামলার আগে জঙ্গিদের ব্যবহৃত মোবাইল থেকে যেখানে যেখানে ফোন করা হয়েছে, তার সূত্র ধরেই মহম্মদ এর পর সাতের পাতায়

বার্তা যায় পাকিস্তানে

প্রথম পাতার পর নাসিম ও আসিফ ইকবাল ওরফে ফারুক নামে দু'জনকে প্রথমে গ্রেফতার করা হয়। ওদের জিজ্ঞাসাবাদ করে জানা যায়, নাসিম লঙ্কর-ই-তইবার আঞ্চলিক কমান্ডার মহম্মদ কারি সইফুল্লার নির্দেশে কাজ করে। কারিই একটি মোবাইল ফোন আসিফকে দেওয়ার জন্য নাসিমকে কিনতে বলে। এর পরে আসিফকে এক লাখ টাকা দিয়ে তাকে দলে টানা হয় ও তার টাটা সুমো ব্যবহার করা হয়। 'জে কে ১২ ০৯৫১' এবং 'জে কে ১২ ০২৬৭' এই দু'টি নম্বরের টাটা সুমোও পুলিশ অটক করেছে। তার একটির ভ্রাইভার ছিল আসিফ, অন্যটি চালিয়েছিল সাকিল। আসিফের মতো সাকিলকেও একই ভাবে দলে টানা হয়েছিল। আসিফের গাড়ির পিছনে পাঁচটি একে রাইফেল, গ্রেনেড ও অন্য অস্ত্র এমন ভাবে লুকিয়ে রাখা হয়েছিল যে জম্মু থেকে উত্তরপ্রদেশ পর্যন্ত অনায়াসেই পেরিয়ে যায় জঙ্গিরা। জিজ্ঞাসাবাদের সময় ধৃত জঙ্গিরা জানিয়েছে, টাটা সুমোর পিছনে বিশেষ গর্ত করে অস্ত্র রাখা হয়েছিল। পুলিশ তল্লাশি চালিয়েও তা ধরতে

পারেনি। জম্মু-কাশ্মীর থেকে হুসরানার পানিপথ, দিল্লি হয়ে উত্তরপ্রদেশে ঢোকে তারা।

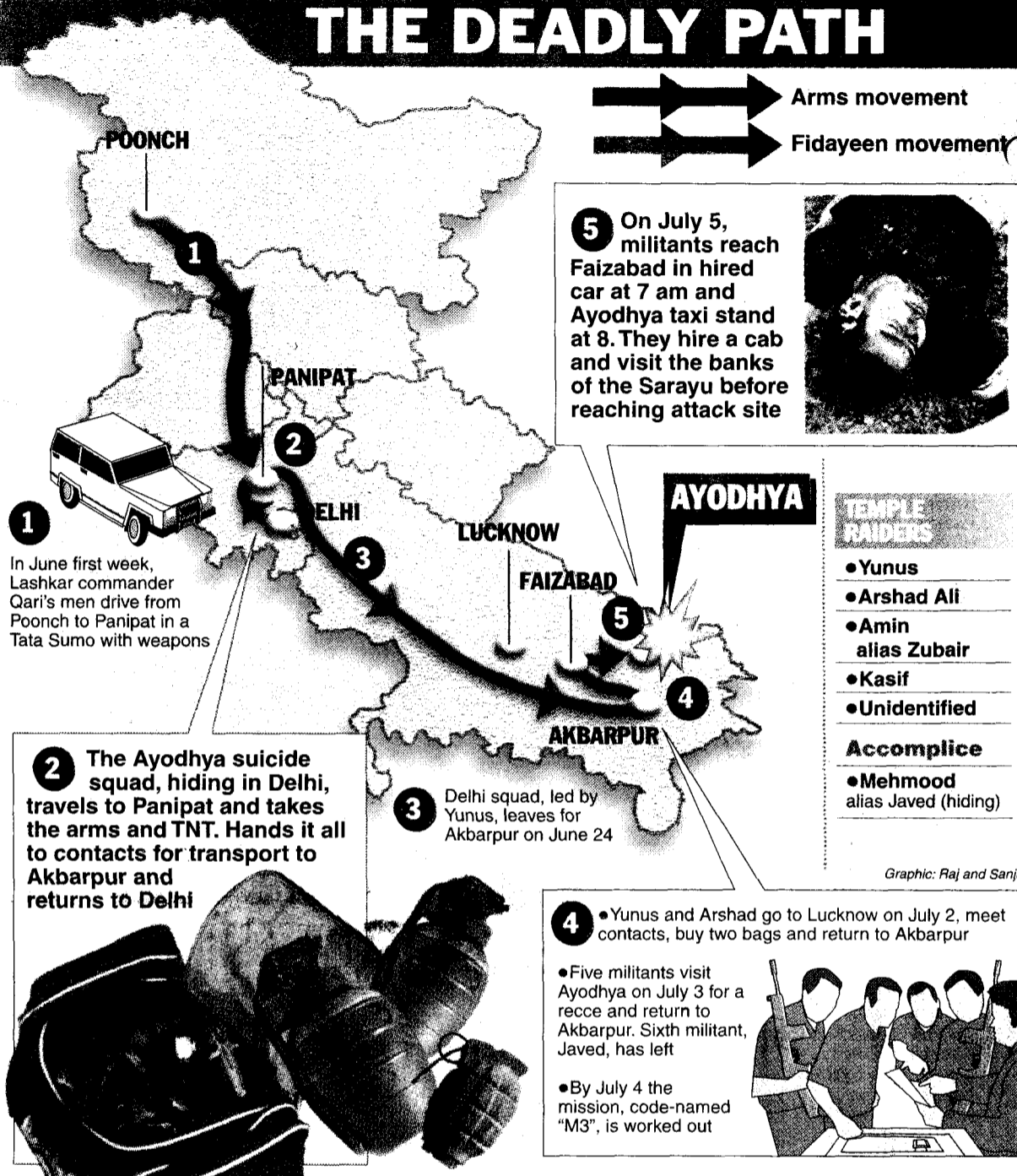
৫ জুলাই অযোধ্যায় হামলা চালানোর আগে হামলাকারী জঙ্গিরা চার দিন অযোধ্যার কাছেই আকবরপুরে ছিল। ঘটনার দিন তারা ফৈজাবাদে যায়। তবে জুন মাস থেকে দু'দলে ভাগ হয়ে তারা বিভিন্ন সময় এসে ঘটনাস্থল ভাল করে ঘুরে দেখে নিয়েছিল। মৃত জঙ্গিদের এক জনের পকেট থেকে যে লখনউয়ের দোকানের ভিজিটিং কার্ড মিলেছে, তা খতিয়ে দেখে পুলিশ জানতে পেরেছে জুলাই মাসের তিন তারিখ ওই দোকান থেকে তিনটি ব্যাগ কিনেছিল জঙ্গিরা।

যে জঙ্গিদের শনাক্ত করা যায়নি, তাদের নিয়ে মন্তব্য করতে চায়নি পুলিশ। তবে জঙ্গিরা সিদ্ধি ও বালুচ ভাষায় কথা বলছিল বলে পুলিশের কাছে খবর এসেছে। একই সঙ্গে পুলিশ জানিয়েছে, হামলা চালানোর সময় আর ডি এন্ড নয়, টি এন টি পরিষ্কারক ব্যবহার হয়েছে। কিছু মহিলাও যড়যন্ত্রে সামিল ছিল। কিন্তু এখনও কোনও মহিলা গ্রেফতার হয়নি।

Ayodhya plot springs from Delhi

Cellphone trail leads to Poonch arrests

THE DEADLY PATH



1-1

OUR BUREAU

July 15: Tracing calls made on the Ayodhya attackers' mobile phone, police today arrested five persons in Jammu's Mendhar region and pinned the blame on the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba.

A joint operation by the Uttar Pradesh police's special task force (STF) and Jammu and Kashmir police netted the suspects, accused of providing weapons to the five fidayeen who were gunned down on July 5 before they could reach the makeshift Ram temple.

The police then claimed to have pieced together the puzzle of how the suicide attackers, who they say were Pakistanis, got their AK-47 rifles, grenades and TNT and what they did in the days leading up to the strike.

The mastermind, the police said, is a Lashkar divisional commander, Qari Saifullah. He recruited eight persons in Mendhar, Poonch, and paid them Rs 1 lakh to ferry the arms to the Ayodhya suicide squad, which had been hiding in Delhi for nearly a year.

At the heart of the operation was a Tata Sumo that had a cavity specially built in it to conceal the weapons that were transported to Panipat, where the Ayodhya attackers received them. The Sumo was found and seized after the arrests.

"The cavity was so cleverly designed that it fooled the po-



The room in outer Delhi's Deoli village where some militants stayed.

Picture by Rajesh Kumar

lice's metal detectors at the checkpoints on the way," Jammu inspector-general of police Shishu Paul Vaid said.

The weapons were transported directly to contacts in Akbarpur, Uttar Pradesh, while the suicide attackers arrived a few days later. Here, they planned the operation after a recce in Ayodhya.

The police said the five Ayodhya attackers and an accomplice had been staying in Delhi since August-September. Their leader Yunus and Mehmood alias Javed had rented rooms in a house at Vasant Kunj's Kishangarh area in southwest Delhi, while Arshad Ali, Amin alias Zubair, Kasif and another militant lived in Deoli village near Khan Bazar on the outskirts of south Delhi.

"They introduced themselves as cloth merchants, bangle sellers and the like,"

said Uttar Pradesh director-general of police, Yashpal Singh. "Two of those staying at Deoli used to sell vegetables. Javed posed as a student and enrolled for a spoken English course."

They used the Kishangarh landlord's mobile phone to keep in touch with their contacts till they acquired one for themselves at Akbarpur on May 2. They produced a fake driving licence to get the SIM card.

This mobile was found at the Ram Janmabhoomi complex after the attack and provided the police with vital leads on the militants' network, STF inspector-general A.K. Gupta said.

"The calls were traced to a man called Asif Iqbal alias Farooq Ahmed. Soon he was picked up with Mohammed Naseem and the entire story came out," Jammu and Kashmir police chief Gopal Sharma said. Three more arrests followed.

But there are still grey areas in the investigations, Gupta admitted.

For instance, the police are yet to find out who the militants' helpers were in Akbarpur, which they used as a second base and where they had planned the attack.

"Neither do we know who brought the weapons from Panipat to Akbarpur or what route was followed," Gupta said.

Twelve people were picked up from two villages in Akbarpur.

■ See Page 6

THE TEMPLE RAIDERS

ক্রিয়া-প্রতিক্রিয়ার চক্র

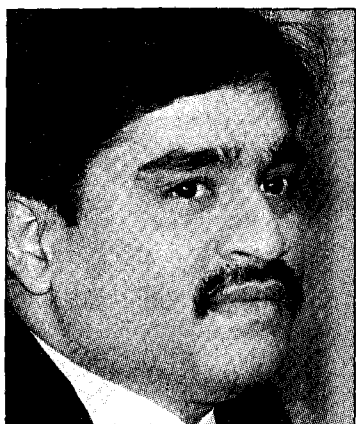
ইসলামী পন্থার হত্যার পর সমগ্র উত্তর ভারতে ঘটনাগুলি শিখবিরোধী দাঙ্গা। বাবরি মসজিদ ধ্বংসের প্রতিক্রিয়ায় ভারতে ঘটনাগুলি মুম্বই বিস্ফোরণ। গোধরা-কাণ্ডের প্রতিক্রিয়ায় ঘটে কুখ্যাত গুজরাত দাঙ্গা। যাঁহার পৌরোহিত্যে গুজরাতের দাঙ্গা সংঘটিত হয়, তিনি পরে ইহাকে নিউটনের গতিবিজ্ঞানের তৃতীয় সূত্র উদ্ধৃত করিয়া 'গোধরা-ক্রিয়ার স্বাভাবিক ও ন্যায়সঙ্গত প্রতিক্রিয়া' বলিয়াও বর্ণনা করেন। সম্ভ্রাসবাদী হামলার ক্ষেত্রে ক্রিয়া-প্রতিক্রিয়ার এই দুঃস্থচক্র কমবেশি সর্বত্রই ক্রিয়াশীল থাকে, বিশেষত যদি সেই হামলা একটি বিশেষ সম্প্রদায় বা জনগোষ্ঠীর তরফে করা হইয়া থাকে বা কোনও বিশেষ জনগোষ্ঠী তাহার লক্ষ্য হইয়া থাকে। পশ্চিমের সমুদ্রত সভ্য দেশগুলির সমাজ তৃতীয় বিশ্বের সমাজের তুলনায় অনেক সংগঠিত। সেখানকার আর্থ-সামাজিক বাস্তবও অনেকখানি আলাদা। তাই মাদ্রিদ হামলা কিংবা লন্ডনের সর্বশেষ বোম্বার হামলার পরেও স্পেনে কিংবা ব্রিটেনে সাম্প্রদায়িক প্রতিক্রিয়া তত জোরালো হয় নাই। জনতার রুদ্ধ রোষ কোনও বিশেষ সম্প্রদায়ের উপর আছড়াইয়া পড়ে নাই। দুঃখের বিলাপ দেখা গিয়াছে, দেখা গিয়াছে স্বজনহারানোর বেদনা তাড়িত অশ্রু। কিন্তু সেই দুঃখ ক্রোধে রূপান্তরিত হইয়া প্রতিবেশীর মধ্যে শত্রুর সন্ধান করিয়া ফেরে নাই।

ইহার অর্থ এই নয় যে লন্ডন তথা ইংল্যান্ডের মানুষ কোনও প্রতিক্রিয়াই দেখান নাই। আল-কায়দার মতো ইসলামি সম্ভ্রাসবাদীরাই এই অপকাণ্ড ঘটাইয়াছে, এই সন্দেহের ভিত্তিতে ইসলাম ধর্মাবলম্বী মানুষদের উদ্দেশ্যে কট্টকিত বর্ষিত হইয়াছে। মসজিদে ইটপাটকেল ছোড়া হইয়াছে, দুই-একজন মোল্লা-মৌলবির দাড়ি বা লুঙ্গি ধরিয়া টানাটানিও হওয়া সম্ভব। কিন্তু মোটের উপর ব্রিটিশ জনসাধারণের প্রতিক্রিয়ায় একটা যুক্তিসিদ্ধ, সহিষ্ণু আচরণ প্রত্যক্ষ করা গিয়াছে, এমন দাবি। নিউ ইয়র্কে হানার পর কিন্তু মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের গণপ্রতিক্রিয়া এত সংযত থাকে নাই। সেখানে অনেক বেশি অ-মার্কিন লাঞ্চিত, নিগৃহীত, আক্রান্ত হইয়াছেন, বেশ কিছু মার্কিন নাগরিকও মুসলিম, শিখ, ভারতীয় এমনকী এশীয় হওয়ার 'অপরাধ'-এ জনরোষে নিহত হন। ব্রিটেনেও পাতাল রেল ও বাসে জঙ্গি হানার পর অনুরূপ পরিস্থিতি উদ্ভব হওয়ার উপক্রম হইয়াছিল, কিন্তু শেষ পর্যন্ত হিংসাত্মক ঘটনা ঘটে নাই। মার্কিন গণতন্ত্রে জঙ্গি হামলার পর মানবাধিকার বহুলাংশে খর্ব হইয়াছে। ব্রিটেনেও যে গণতন্ত্র অতঃপর সঙ্কুচিত হইবে, তাহা নিশ্চিত। সন্দিক্ত রাষ্ট্রের নজরদারি ও পাহারায় খণ্ডিত হইবে নাগরিক অধিকার, যাহা কার্যত সম্ভ্রাসবাদের অভিপ্রায়ই সিদ্ধ করে।

আসলে এ ধরনের হামলার জন্য ব্রিটেন সহ মুসলিম রাষ্ট্রে সমরাভিযান চালানো পশ্চিম দেশগুলির এক ধরনের মানসিক প্রস্তুতি ছিলই। আফগানিস্তান ও ইরাকে ইঙ্গ-মার্কিন হানাদারির পর ইসলামি সম্ভ্রাসবাদীরা যে প্রত্যাঘাত করিতে মার্কিন ও ব্রিটিশ মূলুককেও বাছিয়া লইবে, ইহা স্বাভাবিক। সেই হিসাবে ওই দুই মুসলিম দেশের আগ্রাসনই ক্রিয়া, মাদ্রিদ ও লন্ডনে বোম্বার হানা যাহার প্রতিক্রিয়া। ওয়ার্ল্ড ট্রেড সেন্টার ও পেন্টাগনে জঙ্গি হানাকেও কি বৃহত্তর প্রেক্ষিতে পশ্চিম এশিয়ায় অনুসৃত মার্কিন পররাষ্ট্র ও সামরিক নীতির প্রতিক্রিয়া নয়? অন্তত মার্কিন জনমতের বিবেক বলিয়া মান্য বিশিষ্ট জনেরা তো তাহাই করিয়াছেন। তাই মাদ্রিদে বা লন্ডনে জঙ্গি হানার তত বিরূপ প্রতিক্রিয়া হয় নাই বলিয়া নিজেদের পিঠ-চাপড়ানোর মধ্যে কোথাও একটা প্রতারণা আছে। কেননা জঙ্গি হানাদারিটাই এখানে প্রতিক্রিয়া, স্লোরার সরকারের ইরাক নীতির পরিণাম হিসাবে যাহার অনিবার্যতা ব্রিটিশ রাজনীতিকরাও ভবিষ্যদ্বাণী করিয়াছিলেন। ইউরোপ-আমেরিকার রাষ্ট্রনায়কগণ আত্মতুষ্টিতে না ভুগিয়া বরং সাম্প্রদায়িক সংহতি রক্ষায় আরও তৎপর হোন। জাতিবিদ্বেষের কলঙ্কিত ইতিহাস তো তাঁহাদের সাম্প্রতিক অতীতেরই বিভস্মনা!

15 JUL 2006

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA



It was Dawood's dream to get photographed with celebrities



Mandakini introduced her husband to the high life, and big money



Abu Salem was Dawood's Bollywood agent, then went solo

Blame it all on Mrs Dawood Ibrahim

15/7

BOLLYWOOD AND the underworld. In the popular imagination, both are inextricably linked. But it wasn't always that way. If the mafia is a disease, its symptoms first manifested themselves in 1981. That was when the Pathan brothers, Amirzada and Alamzeb, kidnapped Mushir Riyaz, producer of *Shakti*. The Rs 11 lakh ransom was enough to give Bollywood its first big jolt.

That was just two years before a relatively little-known crook named Dawood Ibrahim fled for the Gulf. Little did he imagine that not only would he overtake his rivals, the Pathan brothers, but that in time, it would be top actors and actresses who would flock to meet him.

"For small-time Mumbai goons, meeting celebrities was a feather in the cap. A group picture with them was a dream come true," recalls veteran photographer Gopal Shetty, who shot some of Dawood's early pictures.

It was in the late 1980s that lots of actors travelled to Sharjah to watch cricket and shop. Many would bump into Dawood in Dubai. One of those who did was Mandakini, who shot to fame in Raj Kapoor's *Ram Teri Ganga Maili*. She soon became Mrs Dawood. Similarly, actress Heena Qausar married a drug kingpin and became Mrs Iqbal Mirchi.

Dawood was overwhelmed by the high life he was suddenly catapulted into. He was joined in Dubai by brothers Noora, Iqbal and Mastakeen. Others who shifted to the desert capital included Chhota Shakeel, Sunil Sawant and Sharad Shetty. Gangsters soon realized that the film industry, with

an estimated Rs 600 crore turnover, was a goldmine (though only 10 films succeeded annually). Smaller producers also looked to financing from D-company and the *pila* trade (gold smuggling).

But by 1996, Dawood shifted base to Karachi. Celebrities who wished to meet him would slip into Pakistan via Dubai.

Dawood deployed aide Abu Salem on the Bollywood front. Salem's good rapport within the industry proved a blessing when he split from Dawood in 2000; he knew Bollywood so well that it wasn't long before he had wannabe starlet Monica Bedi eating out of his hands.

And when extortion didn't work with Gulshan Kumar, he ordered a hit Shakeel took out producer Mukesh Duggal. Salem's hitmen gunned down Dinesh Kumar and Aj Waghani. His men opened fire on Manisha Koirala's car. It was too much for Bollywood, and paying protection money became rampant.

But the underworld wasn't satisfied. Joint ventures became common; gangsters grabbed the overseas distribution networks. They started compelling actors to do reels. They'd meet crew at overseas shoots. And Salem even staged a show before he was arrested in Lisbon, Portugal.

Others who fished in Bollywood's pond included rival Chhota Rajan, and breakaway gangsters Bunty Pidey and Ejaz Lakdawala. But the film industry became cautious after the financing of *Chori Chori Chupke Chupke* came under the police scanner. Except, it seems, for Salman Khan. — JD

15 JUL 2

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

BIOLOGICAL TERRORISM-II

The Indian Response Has Been Inadequate

By GURMEET KANWAL

bio-terrorism using microbes and viruses poses a new threat to national security that is not apparent. The relative ease with which they can be manufactured and dispersed makes biological agents an ideal weapon for terrorists. It is for this reason that al Qaeda operatives have tried to acquire them and it is probably a matter of time before they develop and use these weapons of mass terror. As developing, stockpiling and using bio-weapons is relatively inexpensive compared with the cost of defending against them, the offence-defence balance strongly favours the terrorist.

The security and public health challenges presented by a single terrorist carrying a vial with a biological agent, whether smallpox, Ebola or something even more lethal engineered in a laboratory, are enormous. It is a sad commentary on the management of human affairs by national governments and their proclivity to procrastinate regarding international cooperation in the face of grave trans-national threats that various nations are seeking to counter virtually single-handedly.

Anthrax mail

The recent anthrax mailings in the US focused public attention on the current problems in national security planning. It was realised that expectations of future threats are vastly different from what actually occurs. Like the 11 September hijacker attacks, the anthrax attacks, too, had not been foreseen. Several scholars have said that rather than planning for a narrow range of least-likely, high-consequence contingencies or focusing only on additional mail-borne anthrax attacks, the international community must plan for a variety of future incidents — including incidents that cause mass casualties and mass disruption. In fact, planning for a variety of more likely middle to low-casualty incidents, while simultaneously being prepared for low-probability, high-consequence incidents is perhaps the most significant challenge facing planners.

The cornerstone of preparedness against future bio-terrorist incidents, regardless of their nature or scope, must be a national public health system capable of detecting, assessing, and responding to a broad range of contingencies. An effective, viable and responsive intelligence system is necessary to provide timely warning of an impending attack and to identify the likely sources of that attack so that a police and, if necessary, military effort can be mounted to eliminate the threat. As in other maladies, prevention is better than cure.

The more casualties bio-terrorists seek to inflict, the more difficult it will be for them to assemble the necessary combination of these components. Thus, the level of risk declines as the level of desired casualties increases because the attack scenario becomes less likely. It is certainly not easy to launch ma-

major bio-terrorist attacks that result in large-scale casualties but it must be accepted that this can be done with extensive preparations. Terrorist organisations have time on their side and, while the intelligence agencies and the police must succeed every time in their surveillance and counter-terrorism efforts, the terrorists need to succeed only once.

Recent advances in the life sciences have brought to the fore fresh concerns about the negative spin-offs of the ongoing biotechnology revolution. The newfound ability of modern science to mutate DNAs combined with sophisticated in-vitro fertilisation techniques could enable

threat of bio-terrorism unless credible intelligence is available.

Technical difficulties make the threat of a catastrophic bio-terrorism attack relatively less likely. Only the release of a very contagious or high-quality agent by an efficient dissemination route could result in thousands of casualties. In reality, the number of pathways open to terrorists that would result in catastrophic numbers of casualties are few, and those that do exist are technically difficult. However, the low probability of a catastrophic bio-terrorist attack must not lead to complacency since there is ample cause for concern as the rapid development of biotechnology, and the diffusion of



rogue elements to develop improved biological weapons. Indications of a possible BW attack include a disease that is unusual or does not occur naturally in a given geographical area; multiple diseases in the same patients, indicating that mixed agents have been used in the attack; data suggesting a massive point-source outbreak; apparent aerosol route of infection; high morbidity and mortality rates relative to the number of personnel at risk; illness limited to fairly localised or circumscribed geographical areas; low attack rates in personnel who work in areas with filtered air supplies or closed ventilation systems.

A major weakness in correctly assessing the threat of bio-terrorism is the possibility of anonymous attack. Such an attack by a third party could even trigger a war between two nations and, therefore, needs to be consciously guarded against by instituting confidence building measures (CBMs). Biological threat assessments must take into account not only capabilities that are challenging to monitor but also intentions that are even more difficult to discern.

Senior members

Information on intentions can be gleaned only from apprehended senior members of terrorist networks as they are the ones who may have knowledge of functional details. It is difficult to obtain international and domestic support for a coordinated approach to countering the

expertise in this field may lower the technical bar over time.

The strategic discourse in India has a poor track record of scenario building as a tool in threat assessment. This has been a national failing that needs urgent redressal. Unless the process of scenario building is undertaken as a matter of course in conjunction with sophisticated mathematical modelling techniques, threat assessment will continue to remain based on worst case analyses. For example, it needs to be recognised that the bio-terrorist threat is not a one-dimensional threat. The National Security Council Secretariat, now under a new National Security Advisor, must make a concerted effort to take on board and groom young analysts trained in scenario building and analytical modelling techniques.

Because of India's strategic culture or, perhaps, due to the lack of it, the government's response to the threat of bio-terrorism has been grossly inadequate. As India's decision makers are mired in the Panipat Syndrome, it is not surprising that there is virtually no recognition of the potential dangers of bio-terrorism despite the menace of Pakistan-supported Islamist fundamental terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in the country. The Services, correctly, do not foresee a large-scale military threat of the use of biological weapons in conventional conflict and are, therefore, not engaged in defending against it. The nuclear threat and, to some

extent, the chemical threat are given greater credence by the Services.

There is widespread international acceptance, in fact, that biological weapons lack military utility. The US unilaterally renounced the use of biological weapons in 1969. However, this realisation did not prevent several nations from developing and stockpiling biological weapons as they can be used to soften up hardened defences before an assault is launched. If employed in the rear areas of the adversary, they can disrupt lines of communication and paralyse command centres. Hence, their use cannot be entirely ruled out, particularly as part of an asymmetric strategy by a weaker nation against a stronger adversary.

In India the threat of bio-terrorism, often referred to as "a poor man's atomic bomb", is perceived to be primarily directed against the civilian population both because the armed forces are relatively better protected and because the aim of the terrorists would invariably be to gain maximum publicity and create a fear psychosis.

Internal security

India's foremost internal security threat is from jihadi fundamentalism that is mostly sponsored from across India's western border by the ISI agency of Pakistan. Individual Islamist terrorist groups based in Pakistan have often threatened to disrupt peace in India and have succeeded in doing so on several occasions. Bio-terrorism is but a short step to upping the ante by an order of magnitude to dramatically highlight the "cause" and gain international attention.

Threats against civilian targets are the domain of the Ministry of Home Affairs. How seriously it takes the threat of bio-terrorism is a matter of conjecture but its annual reports make no mention of it. The threat of bio-terrorism requires comprehensive planning and focussing on preparedness and response capacity — integrating the role of the central government with that of state governments, as well as integration of state and national assets. The government must address the challenge of informing the public and educating the people about the reality of bio-terrorism. The support of the people is necessary for early warning, prevention and crisis management. However, such a campaign must be launched with discretion to avoid causing panic.

The Indian Parliament and government must give the threat of bio-terrorism appropriate attention. The government must draw up and correctly optimise modalities for dealing with the threat of bio-terrorism, both from a budgeting and structural standpoint. Both preventive and pre-emptive strategies are needed to neutralise perceived threats. These must be formulated, debated nationally and resolutely implemented.

(Concluded)

Face of terror in boys next door

Family men, all three

AMIT ROY

London, July 13: An anguished British establishment is trying to "understand" why the four bombers of 7/7 did what they did.

Prime Minister Tony Blair today told a hushed House of Commons of his "shock" when he learnt that the bombers were from Britain.

From all accounts, the young men did not fit the "terrorist stereotype".

Take, for example, Hasib Hussain. The 19-year-old lived with his parents in a three-storey red-bricked terrace house in Colenso Mount in the Leeds suburb of Holbeck.

On Wednesday, he told his parents he was going to London for the day with friends. At 10.20 pm on Thursday, his parents reported him missing to the police casualty bureau, providing one of the vital clues which led detectives to Leeds. What his parents did not know was that at 9.47 am that morning, he

had blown himself up on the number 30 bus at Tavistock Square, causing 13 deaths. His driving licence and cash cards were found in the mangled wreckage.

Hasib attended Matthew Murray High School in Leeds and apparently became very religious two years ago.

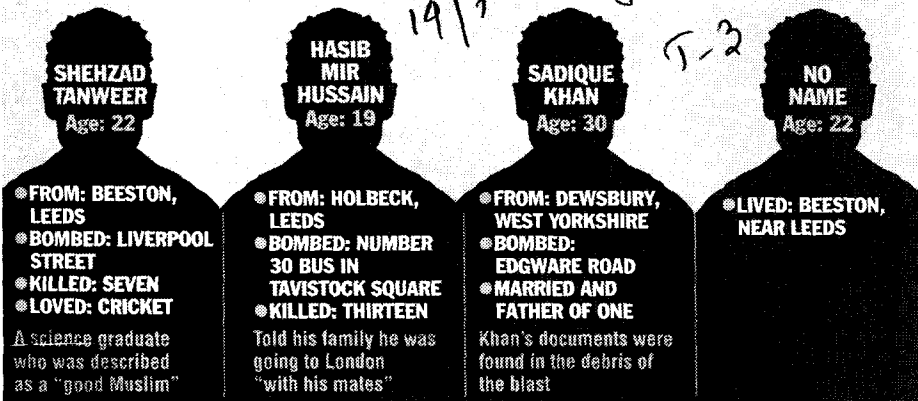
The story of Shehzad Tanweer, 22, is not so different. He grew up in the Beeston area of Leeds with his younger brother and two sisters in the family's semi-detached house.

Shehzad went to Wortley High School before moving on to Leeds Metropolitan University where he studied sports science. He loved cricket. He and his friend Mohammed Anwar, 19, played together just over a week ago.

"It's not in his nature to do something like this, he's the type of guy who would condemn things like that," Anwar said.

The third bomber, Mohammed Sadique Khan, 30, leaves behind wife Hasina and their baby girl, eight months old.

THE FOUR BOMBERS



Blair battles backlash

AMIT ROY

London, July 13: Prime Minister Tony Blair has ordered police to prevent a backlash against British Muslims, now that the London bombers have been identified as young men of Pakistani origin.

Muslims are not the only targets. There has been an attempt to firebomb a gurdwara.

The Prime Minister said in his appeal: "I would ask for the same measured and calm response from the country that has characterised it since last Thursday. This is a small group of extremists. Not one that can be ignored, because of the danger they pose. But neither should it define Muslims in Britain who are overwhelmingly law-abiding decent members of our society."

He has been joined in the appeal by the Opposition Conservative Party.

According to police fig-

ures, there have been nearly 100 "faith or race hate" incidents since the London bombings. On Sunday, Kamal Raza Butt, a visiting Pakistani, died in Nottingham after an apparently unprovoked assault.

Nottinghamshire police have not so far linked the incident to the London blasts and are treating it as an isolated case, though it is being investigated as a racially-aggravated attack. Six youths have been arrested.

A senior police officer, who is working to ease community tension in the wake of the atrocity, said "palpable fear" had been created by the faith hate attacks.

Rob Beckley, a spokesman for the Association of Chief Police Officers, said there had been a number of incidents where Muslims or people of Asian appearance had been targeted for abuse or assault.

"Since last Thursday there

have been things like criminal damage, some minor assaults, abuse in the streets and email abuse," he said.

"The fear and the impact of all these individual incidents is very high."

Scotland Yard has vowed to deal "robustly" with the incidents, which have prompted concern in the Muslim community.

Five people were arrested on suspicion of attempting to petrol bomb a Sikh temple in Belvedere, southeast London.

In Norwich, two women, aged 26 and 23, have been released on bail after the Islamic Centre in Rose Lane was vandalised.

Home secretary Charles Clarke said he regretted the attack in Norwich.

Zaher Birawi, chairman of Leeds Grand Mosque, expressed anger and sadness that the bombers appeared to have come from the city.

BIOLOGICAL TERRORISM-I

Easy Production And Delivery Of Toxins Poses New Threat

By GURMEET KANWAL

In the prevailing era of strategic uncertainty, ironically, even as the threat of major wars has receded since the end of the Cold War, new threats have emerged that make Armageddon more, not less, likely. Rapidly growing international terrorism and weapons of mass destruction make a potent cocktail. Only a deep survival instinct has stayed the finger on the nuclear trigger and allowed mankind to escape large-scale death and devastation over the last half-century since Hiroshima and Nagasaki. However, the finger on the triggering mechanisms of biological and chemical weapons is unlikely to be that of a rational state. In all probability such weapons will be used by irrational non-state actors. This reality makes their threat more difficult to discern accurately and more complex to counter.

The nature of the threat and its likely ramifications must be understood. Between biological and chemical weapons, bio-weapons are more potent as small quantities can cause large casualties. Their effects are more persistent and likely to spread quickly over large areas. Unfortunately, due to complacency and inertia and the natural predilection of elected governments to adopt an ostrich-like approach to invisible threats, the international community is ill-prepared to deal with the threat and combat it should it materialise.

Paper treaty

While the Biological Weapons Convention prohibits the development, production and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons and has been signed and ratified by 151 countries, it is really only a paper treaty that lacks the wherewithal to detect the development of biological weapons, adopt pro-active measures to destroy stockpiles and combat the diseases that may occur if they are used deliberately or inadvertently. The development of bio-weapons is easy to conceal — unlike nuclear weapons, there are no tell-tale domes sticking out into desert skies.

However, the proposed "Organisation for the Prohibition of Biological Weapons" has remained a non-starter despite several years of painstaking diplomatic efforts. Clearly, the international community has still not got its act together to fight this threat in a concerted manner. Organisms and toxins found in nature that can be used to incapacitate, kill, or otherwise impede an adversary are called biological weapons. These weapons are characterised by low visibility and high potency. Accessibility to them is not difficult and these can be delivered relatively easily. Biological weapons are not new in concept and history is replete with examples of their use. Biological agents are known to have been used to deliberately poison food and water with infectious material. The use of micro-organisms or toxins and the use of biologically inoculated fabrics have been recorded. Arrows were poisoned by dipping them in blood mixed with manure; decaying carcasses were

thrown into wells to contaminate them; corpses of plague victims were thrown into cities to induce plague by the Tartar force during the siege of Kaffa in the 14th century and by the Russians who had surrounded Swedish forces at Reval in Estonia in 1710. The British gave smallpox-infected blankets to Native Americans.

During World War I, the Germans developed anthrax, glanders, cholera, and a wheat fungus for use as biological weapons. They allegedly spread plague in St Petersburg, infected mules with glanders in Mesopotamia, and attempted to do the same with horses of the French Caval-



ry. Research continued and during World War II the Japanese are known to have carried out bio-weapons experiments on Chinese prisoners and exposed more than 3,000 victims to plague, anthrax, syphilis and other agents. The Americans, British, Germans and Soviets also conducted research in bio-warfare. Since the mid-1980s, terrorist organisations have become the primary users of bio-weapons and several incidents of their use have been recorded. In this age of international terrorism, the world must analyse the nature of the threat posed by biological agents and the probability of a bio-terrorist attack.

Biological pathogens may be released intentionally or accidentally into the atmosphere. There are some that occur naturally and some that are intentionally developed as tools of warfare to cause disease or death. Human beings can be exposed to these agents through inhalation, skin (cutaneous) exposure, or ingestion of contaminated food or water. The physical symptoms that follow exposure are often delayed and can sometimes be confused with other naturally occurring illnesses. Some biological warfare agents persist in the environment and are capable of causing problems over a prolonged period after their release.

Bio-weapon agents

A large number of bio-weapon agents have been identified and listed. Bio-warfare agents comprise bacterial agents, viral agents and toxins. The most dangerous ones include Anthrax, Botulinum Toxins, Brucellosis, Cholera, Clostridium Perfringens Toxins, Congo-Crimean Hemorrhagic

Fever, Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever, Melioidosis, Mycotoxins, Plague, Q Fever, Ricin, Rift Valley Fever, Saxitoxin, Smallpox, Staphylococcal Enterotoxin B, Trichothecene Mycotoxins, Tularemia and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis. The nature of illnesses caused by the major agents, the symptoms, the locations where the agents commonly occur, aspects pertaining to the treatment of each disease and the handling of infected patients, are described in detail in medical literature and are easily accessible on the web.

The bio-terrorist threat covers a wide spectrum. It ranges from

hoaxes and use of relatively low casualty agents by non-state actors or small terrorist groups to the employment of classical biological warfare agents that can produce mass casualties. In rare cases it may include state-sponsored terrorism. All bio-terrorist scenarios present serious challenges to the international community for treatment of affected patients and for prophylaxis of exposed persons. Another major hazard is environmental contamination that could present continuing threats.

The recent history of bio-terrorist is instructive. Among the recorded incidents of bio-terrorist, there have been a large number of cases that involved contamination of food and water. The deliberate contamination of restaurant salad bars in Oregon by followers of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh in September-October 1984, led to 751 persons being infected with Salmonella typhimurium. During Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-91, the coalition forces led by the United States faced a threat from chemical and biological agents. Following Gulf War I, it had been reported that Iraq had disclosed that it had bombs, Scud missiles, 122-mm rockets, and artillery shells armed with botulinum toxin, anthrax, and aflatoxin. They also had spray tanks fitted to aircraft that could distribute 2,000 litres of agents over a target.

In 1992, a Virginia man sprayed his roommates with a substance that he claimed was anthrax and 20 people had to be administered chemoprophylaxis. The Japanese sect, the Aum Shinrikyo, attempted to release aerosolised anthrax from the tops

of buildings in Tokyo in 1994. One year later, two members of a Minnesota militia group, which had produced Ricin for use against local government officials, were convicted for its possession. In 1996, a man in Ohio had obtained bubonic plague cultures through the mail and was prosecuted.

Over 20 confirmed or suspected cases of anthrax-related (10 inhalation, 13 cutaneous) bio-terrorist acts occurred in the United States between the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks and November 2001. These cases infected mostly postal workers in New Jersey and Washington DC and media companies in New York and Florida. Letters contaminated with anthrax were handled or opened by these workers. At least five persons died and many more fell sick. At present, 17 countries are suspected of having offensive BW programme.

There is a real threat that biological agents may be used on civilian populations as these are readily available, easy to weaponise and relatively easy to use. Biological warfare agents are difficult to detect or protect against. They are invisible, odourless, and tasteless, and their dispersal can be effected silently. Also, the small quantities required to kill thousands of people in densely populated metropolitan areas make the concealment, transportation, and dissemination of biological agents easy. However, the technology is still not freely available and trained scientists are required to develop, produce and weaponise these WMD.

Explosive device

BW agents can be spread by aerosol sprays, base ejection artillery shells, missile warheads and bombs whose casing opens up to disperse the agent. These can also be spread by food or water contamination. As bio-agents are likely to be destroyed or inactivated by a blast, the use of an explosive device to deliver and disseminate such agents is generally ineffective. Another potential threat that poses problems is the possible contamination of municipal water supplies. However, this requires an unrealistically large amount of the agent since drinking water has to pass through a treatment plant that uses chemicals to purify the supply. Post-filtration contamination is even more difficult to achieve if it is to be widespread.

Aerosolised dispersal of biological agents is the mode most likely to be used by terrorists. Airborne pathogens can only be effective biological weapons if they are dispersed in an aerosol cloud as fine microscopic particles that are about five microns in size. Only an appreciable dose that can be inhaled and retained in the lungs can cause infection with an aerosolised agent. Advanced weapon systems (e.g. warheads, missiles) are not required for the aerosolised delivery of biological agents. Low-technology aerosolisation methods include agricultural crop-dusters; aerosol generators on small boats, trucks, or cars; and, backpack sprayers. Even purse-size perfume atomisers can suffice for limited targets.

Bomber was proud to be British, says uncle

21/7
Zahira Akbar in London

July 13. — He had been to university, had a bright future ahead of him and he was "proud to be British." Yet Shahzad Tanweer decided to blow himself up, along with 21 London commuters at Kings Cross last week, at the age of 22.

His motives remained a mystery to the shocked relatives and local community today in the Beeston area of Leeds, where he lived in some affluence in one of the most well-respected families in the district.

His uncle, Mr Bashir Ahmad, said he was deeply puzzled as to why British-born Shahzad, who was proud of the country to which his Pakistani parents emigrated, could have become a suicide bomber. "There is no explanation I can come to. He was proud to be British. He had everything to live for. His parents were loving and supportive. They had no financial worries. He was intelligent. He went to university. His plan was to go into sports," said Mr Ahmad (65), who owns a kebab shop on Tempest Street, just minutes away from the Tanweer family's chip shop.

Shahzad's mother, Parveen Tanweer, has been left devastated by the news that her eldest son chose to end his life with such violence. Mr Ahmad added: "The family is shattered. This is a terrible thing. It wasn't him. It must have been forces behind him."

Mrs Tanweer, who is in a safe-house along with the rest of the family, has been "crying uncontrollably" since she was given the news about her son's actions, according to a family source.



A man walks in front of the Mosque of Madrasah on Stratford Road, Beeston, in Leeds, on Wednesday. Leeds residents were in a state of shock after learning that three of the four suspected bombers were from their own neighbourhood. — AFP

The boy who grew up to blow No. 30

LONDON, July 13. — He was the tallest boy in his class. Hasib Hussain aged 10, in his final year at Ingram Road primary school in Holbeck, Leeds, was already showing signs of being a promising athlete and had ambitions to be a professional cricketer. But he was always an unassuming child. Within seven years, however, Hussain was to become one of Britain's first home-grown suicide bombers at the age of 18. One week ago, he told his mother he was going with friends for the night to London. He

did and, once there, he boarded the No. 30 bus and detonated the last of the four bombs that shook the capital. Today, the multicultural community of Holbeck was coming to terms with the fact that Hussain, known as a quiet boy always overshadowed by his gregarious older brother Imran, was a suicide bomber. The teenager and his three friends, Shahzad Tanweer, Md Sadique Khan, and an unidentified man, have been revealed as the bombers responsible for last Thursday's atrocities. — **The Independent**

"She cannot believe what she has been told. She cannot speak 48 hours after being told the

news by the police," he said. Shahzad travelled to a Pakistani primary school, near

Lahore, at the end of last year with the intention of staying there for nine months and learning to recite the Koran by heart. He stayed with an uncle and is not believed to have travelled very far. After three months, he returned to England to resume life in Leeds, choosing to work part time at his father's chip shop. Mr Ahmad denied that his nephew had travelled to Afghanistan or had taken part in training camps while he was in Pakistan.

Neighbours described Tanweer as a "good Muslim", who lived with his parents, his younger brother and two sisters in their semi-detached white pebbledast house. — **The Independent**

Europe will mourn in silence

LONDON, July 13. — Britain and much of continental Europe is expected to fall silent at noon tomorrow in memory of the victims of the London bombings a week ago. Millions are expected to respond to the call by the mayor of London, Mr Ken Livingstone, to make a "defiant" gesture against terrorism in the two-minute silence. Residents of the 25 EU states are expected to show their solidarity by doing likewise. In London, buses and taxis will interrupt their journeys and much of the population is expected to pause in their daily routine. In the evening, thousands are expected to gather at Trafalgar Square, scene last week of celebrations of London's Olympic bid victory, to pay their respects and thank those involved in the rescue operation and medical treatment. There will be readings and poems from Londoners and those in the transport and emergency services. Survivors of the blasts, as well as Metropolitan Police officers investigating the attacks, will join in the silence. The capital's moment of reflection is being co-ordinated by the Greater London Authority in conjunction with the TUC and various religious groups. Mr Tony Blair is expected to mark the silence at Downing Street and Ms Tessa Jowell, the Secretary of State for Culture, will be at the family support centre in the Royal Horticultural Halls in Westminster. A BBC spokesman said the two-minute dedication would be screened on various channels. — **Beard/The Independent**

'They looked as if they were on a walking holiday...'

Jason Bennetto and Ian Herbert

LONDON, July 13. — The four young suicide bombers rendezvoused at Luton train station on Thursday morning, loaded down with rucksacks packed with explosives. The British men of Pakistani origin boarded the 7.48 a.m. Thames Link train and arrived at Kings Cross in north London at 8.20 a.m. The station surveillance cameras would later show the four friends strolling down the concourse towards the Underground chatting away. "They looked as if they were off on a walking holiday," described a senior security source yesterday.

But the four men were not discussing the weather or holidays; they were on the cusp of carrying out the first suicide attack in Britain that would bring terror to London. As planned, the four split at Kings Cross tube station, each going their separate ways with their heavy rucksacks.

The four friends, three of whom were aged 30, 22, 19, had travelled down from Leeds, West Yorkshire, that morning having picked up the mobile bombs, probably from a house in the Burley district of Leeds. The gang is thought to have driven down in two or three hired cars.

The parents of one of the bombers contacted the Scotland Yard helpline later that night to report that their son had been travelling to London with three friends and had not been heard of since...

The 30-year-old got onto the Circle Line train and headed west, travelling four stops until he reached Edgware Road station. At 8.50 a.m. — the agreed time for the attack — just as the train was pulling out of the station, he detonated the bomb. Seven people died in the blast and more than 100 were wounded, at least 10 seriously.

At the same time, the 22-year-old, who had travelled on the opposite direction on the Circle Line, was between Liverpool Street and Aldgate when he set off the high explosive bomb, killing at least seven people.

The third synchronised explosion was the most deadly. The suicide bomber travelled seconds out of Piccadilly line and had travelled several seconds when he detonated his device. This explosion — caused the narrow confines of a deep lying tunnel — the greatest injuries with more than 21 killed. The police body parts to be recovered from the scene.

The youngest of the group, the 19-year-old, to have planned to head north, but the train was closed so he headed up onto the street. He was caught at Kings Cross and caught a No. 30 double-decker nearly an hour later, at 9.47 a.m. that he fired a bomb in Tavistock Square, ripping the roof off the bus, killing at least 13 people.

The police first became aware of any of the killers was the Scotland Yard emergency helpline at about 10 p.m. later that night to report that their son had been travelling to London with three friends and had not been heard of since. — **The Independent**

Iraqi children fall victim to suicide bomber



A woman mourns the death of her child in a blast in Baghdad on Wednesday. — AFP

BAGHDAD, July 13. — A suicide car bomber killed 27 and wounded 67 people, mostly children, when he blew himself up beside a US patrol in east Baghdad. The children were crowding around an American vehicle to receive sweets from soldiers when they were caught by the blast.

Women screamed in anger and rage and distraught relatives filled the street of Al-Jedidah, a poor Shi'ite neighbourhood of Baghdad, as they gathered up the dead and injured. A child's bicycle lay on its side spattered with blood. All that remained of the bomber's car was a blackened engine block.

The explosion was so powerful that it set a nearby house on fire and damaged two others. The children gathered around the US Humvee stood little chance. The bomb also killed one and wounded three American soldiers.

"Most of them are children," said a policeman speaking of the dead and injured taken to the nearby Kindi hospital. "The Americans were handing out sweets at the time of the attack." Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the Al-Qaida in Iraq, has made clear in Internet statements — though their authenticity cannot be verified — that he sees Shi'ite as apostates who deserve to be killed just as much as

Zarqawi aide captured

BAGHDAD, July 13. — A key aide to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leading Al-Qaida operative in Iraq, has been captured by US forces in Iraq in what the top American general described as a "pretty good success." But Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard Myers acknowledged yesterday that coalition troops faced "a very dangerous insurgency" that is far from being on its death bed. "Just yesterday on the battlefield, we picked up Zarqawi's main leader in Baghdad. They call him the Emir of Baghdad, Abu Abd al-Aziz, and that's going to hurt that operation of Zarqawi's pretty significantly," Gen. Myers said. — **AP**

American soldiers. The attacks on Shi'ite civilians and the tit-for-tat killings of Sunni Iraqis has brought the country close to sectarian warfare.

The US military is likely to be blamed by Iraqis for attracting children close to their vehicles by giving away sweets. Last September 35 Iraqi children were killed by bombs which exploded as US troops were giving out sweets at a ceremony to celebrate the opening of a sewage plant in west Baghdad. — **Patrick Cockburn/The Independent**

Blair move to stop terror recruits

Andrew Grice in London

July 13. — Mr Tony Blair has announced a campaign to stop British Muslims being lured into terrorism in an attempt to prevent a repeat of the London bombings.

The Prime Minister has called a Downing Street summit next Tuesday at which ministers, Opposition parties and Muslim community leaders will discuss how moderates can win the hearts and minds of Muslims — particularly young people.

Mr Blair told the House of Commons that the aim was to combat the "perverted and poisonous misinterpretation" of Islam behind last week's attacks and to "pull up this evil ideology by its roots". He said: "In the end, this can only be

taken on and defeated by the community itself."

He announced that the government would immediately start talks with other parties about new anti-terrorism moves including a crackdown on Muslim clerics accused of whipping up anti-western feeling. Existing rules may be tightened to make it easier to exclude and deport from Britain people who incite hatred — without fresh legislation if that proves possible.

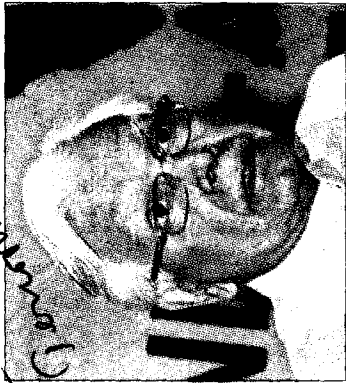
The government may bring forward from next year to this autumn a Bill to create new offences of "glorifying or condoning" terrorism, also aimed at radical preachers, and committing acts preparatory to terrorism. The timing will depend on whether the police and security services say the changes are needed urgently. — **The Independent**

Snaps say terror camps exist: Natwar

Press Trust of India

LONDON/ISLAMABAD, July 11. — India has said terrorist camps are still operating in Pakistan and New Delhi has photographic evidence to prove it.

"I have told Pakistan Prime Minister Mr Shaukat Aziz that the terrorist camps have not been dismantled. I have also told him that we can provide photographic evidence," foreign minister Mr K Natwar Singh told the BBC last night. Pakistan, however, today rejected India's charge as being "politically motivated". Reacting to



Mr Singh's accusation, the Pakistan foreign office spokesman said this would not be helpful in the efforts by the two countries to resolve outstanding issues including Kashmir.

Asserting that several of India's neighbours shared New Delhi's views on the question of terrorist camps, Mr Singh said he hoped that the peace process with Pakistan would continue unimpeded, "unless there is a terrorist attack like the one witnessed in London". He added that the Manmohan Singh government was committed to the peace process, but regretted that "every now and then new statements" kept emanating from Pakistan.

In Islamabad, foreign office spokesman Mr Jalil Abbas Jilani said the allegations of terrorist camps in Pakistan's territories

were a legacy of the past when the relations between the two countries were extremely tense. He, however, made no reference to a report yesterday in Pakistan's *Herald* magazine detailing the reopening of terror training camps at Mansehra in North West Frontier Province. Meanwhile, seven militants of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiyaba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, including three top commanders, and an Army jawan were among 10 people killed in separate incidents in J&K since last night, a police spokesman said today, a report adds from Srinagar.

12 JUL 2005

THE STATESMAN

Suicide bomber strikes Baghdad, 25 killed

Removes
SF →

Patrick Cockburn in Baghdad

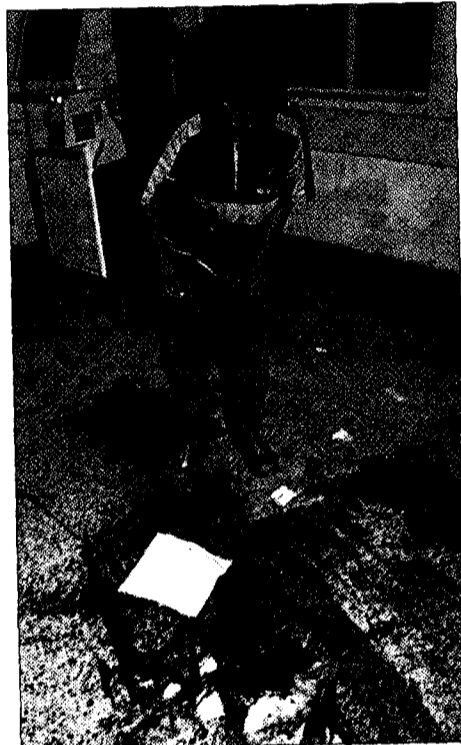
July 10. — A man with explosives strapped to his chest killed 25 and wounded 47 people at a Baghdad army recruitment centre in a fresh crescendo of violence in Iraq where at least 50 people died in attacks today.

The suicide bomber in Baghdad joined a crowd of several hundred young men milling around in front of the army recruitment centre at Al-Muthana municipal airport where they hand in applications for jobs. It has been attacked seven times before.

Just before 9 a.m. the bomber detonated his explosives with devastating results. Many of the dead and injured were poor Shi'ite men, desperate for jobs, wearing long white robes most common in southern Iraq. Often in the past guards at Al-Muthana have tried to get job applicants to disperse or at least not form a target but the recruits simply move across the road where they are still vulnerable.

There were at least five suicide bomb attacks in other parts of Iraq. Two bombers on Syrian border killed seven customs officials. A man driving a vehicle packed with explosives rammed it into a convoy carrying Brigadier Saleh Mishaal, the police chief of the northern city of Mosul. Brig Mishaal was unharmed but four policemen died.

Another bomber killed three civilians when he attacked a US patrol near Fallujah. It was not known if there were any US military casualties. In Kirkuk, another suicide bomber killed four civilians and wounded 10 near a local authority building.



An Iraqi boy stares at the blood-stained floor of the emergency room of a hospital in Kirkuk on Sunday. — AFP

The explosions show that whoever controls the suicide bombing campaign has the volunteers and the infrastructure to attack anywhere in or near Sunni Arab districts of Iraq. Bombers are given a primary target and, if they cannot reach it, other targets which might be easier to attack according to an Iraqi official. He said: "Whatever happens they are told not to come back alive." — **The Independent**

11 JUL 2005

THE STATESMAN

মসজিদে হামলা নিউজিল্যান্ডে

অকল্যান্ড, ১০ জুলাই: লন্ডন জানিয়েছে, কোনও ঘটনাতাই কাণ্ডের জের পড়ল নিউজিল্যান্ডেও। হামলাকারীদের শনাক্ত করা যায়নি। লন্ডনে বিস্ফোরণের প্রত্যাহাত হিসাবে হামলার নিন্দা করে নিউজিল্যান্ডের অন্তত চারটি সংখ্যালঘু নিউজিল্যান্ডের প্রধানমন্ত্রী হেলেন ক্লার্ক প্রতিষ্ঠানে হামলা হয়েছে। নিউজিল্যান্ড বলেছেন, “লন্ডনে জঙ্গি হানায় গোটা মুসলিম অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের মসজিদ- নিউজিল্যান্ড স্তম্ভিত। কিন্তু তার জন্য সহ তিনটি মসজিদে ভাঙচুর হয়েছে। এখানকার মুসলিম সম্প্রদায়ের উপরে হামলা হয়েছে দক্ষিণ অকল্যান্ডের প্রত্যাহাত উচিত নয়। তাঁরাও আইন- আল ফারুক সংস্কৃতি কেন্দ্রেও। পুলিশ অনুগত এবং শান্তিকামী।” — এএফপি

19 JUL 2005

Religious leaders unite to denounce bombers

Robert Verkeik in London

July 10. — Britain's most influential religious leaders met at Lambeth Palace today in a show of unprecedented unity where they pledged to defend the country's multi-cultural society against the evil of terrorism.

Speaking in the wake of Thursday's bomb attacks on

London, Christian, Catholic, Jewish and Muslim figure heads stood side by side to make the joint statement at the London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams.

The first words from the joint statement were read by the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, Sir Jonathan Sacks, who said that they began

by remembering those who had sacrificed themselves in the victory over Nazism. But sixty years later Britain faced another evil — the indiscriminate murder of innocent people by terrorists.

Sheikh Dr Zaki Badawi, Chair of the Council of Mosques and Imams, said: "We stand together now for a further purpose: to express our shared commitment to resisting and overcoming the

evil of terrorism, which the events of recent days here in London have brought home to us afresh and with such devastating clarity."

He added: "It is an evil that cannot be justified and that we utterly condemn and reject."

Also today, several hundred demonstrators called for a British military pullout from Iraq in the wake of the terror bombings, adds PTL. The choice of location was

poignant: the "Garden of Peace" near King's Cross station and Tavistock Square where two of the four bombs exploded on Thursday.

"Mr Tony Blair has to move troops from Iraq," shouted Mr Azzam Tamini, director of the Institute of Islamic Political Thoughts. Applause broke across the crowd, there to denounce the policies of the Blair government.

~~The Independent~~

U7
Jennifer
8/3

London blasts work of 'UK-born terrorists'

20,000 Evacuated in Birmingham After Terror Threat

By Rashmee Roshan
Lall/TNN

London: The bombs that hit the British capital on Bloody Thursday were "almost certainly" the work of British-born terrorists, the country's most senior policeman has said.

John Stevens, who formerly headed London's 30,000-strong Metropolitan Police, said an estimated 3,000 British-born or UK-based individuals have been through intensive terror training at al-Qaida camps.

Meanwhile, a government dossier on counter-terrorism, commissioned by Prime Minister Tony Blair after last year's Madrid bombings, was chillingly revealed to have found that British-based terrorists are made up of different ethnic groups, ranging "from foreign nationals now naturalised and resident in the UK, arriving mainly from north Africa and the Middle East, to second and third generation British citizens whose forebears mainly originate from Pakistan or Kashmir."

The dossier, revealed by a Sunday newspaper, draws on information from MI5. It concludes: "Intelligence indicates that the number of British Muslims actively engaged in terrorist activity, whether



Hotel guests try to keep warm after being evacuated due to a security alert in Birmingham city centre on Saturday night. The police evacuated thousands of people in the biggest security alert since four bombs exploded in London

police added that the item destroyed may not have posed a threat after all.

Birmingham's nightmarish weekend is thought to underline the extent to which British police fear a second attack is imminent. The British authorities are understood to be worried about the difficulty of penetrating closed groups of radical Britons, who behave like ordinary citizens but are charged up with the desire to bring the jihad home to the UK.

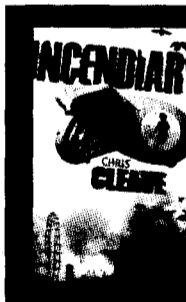
Stevens said late on Saturday that the authorities believed that either British individuals who had been through al-Qaida training camps, or others they had trained were most likely to have been the attackers. And in a despairing nod to the overwhelming view here that Britain's soft immigrant underbelly shelters and succours jihadis, he said it was "dangerous wishful thinking, a damaging illusion" to hold foreign nationals responsible for Bloody Thursday.

Stevens' remarks came as The Sunday Times, London, revealed the damning dossier ordered by Blair. The dossier, which established that al-Qaida was secretly recruiting affluent, middle-class Muslims in British universities and colleges to carry out terrorist attacks in the UK, said conservative Muslim second and third-generation immigrants were not the only potential terrorists.

"In addition . . . a significant number come from liberal, non-religious Muslim backgrounds or (are) only converted to Islam in adulthood. These converts include white British nationals and those of West Indian extraction," the dossier said.

The paper said that the leaked government report declared that a network of "extremist recruiters" was circulating on British campuses. The network targeted people with "technical and professional qualifications", particularly engineering and IT degrees.

With the toll rising to 80, according to some reports, at least another 15 injured people remain in a critical condition.



'Terror' book shelved

London: In a morbid case of life imitating art, a novel, 'Incendiar', about suicide bombers holding London to siege, was pulled from bookshelves across the British capital even as its author, Chris Cleave, maintained that it would have been "grossly insensitive" to plug his novel on the day bombs detonated in UK

at home or abroad or supporting such activity, is extremely small and estimated at less than per cent". But commentators said that still totalled roughly 16,000 potential terrorists and bin Laden supporters out of a British Muslim population of nearly 1.6 million. Stevens, who has previously been criticised for saying while he was Met Commissioner that an attack on London was not a case of 'if' but 'when', made his comments amid fears of a second attack on Britain.

On Saturday night, more than 20,000 people were evacuated from the centre of Birmingham, Britain's third city, after police received what was described as "intelligence of a terrorist threat". West Midlands police said early on Sunday morning that they had carried out controlled explosion on a bus. But

দায় নিল স্পেনের গোষ্ঠী, আরও স্পষ্ট আল কায়দার হাত

শ্রাবণী বসু • লন্ডন

৯ জুলাই: মাদ্রিদ থেকে লন্ডন।

যাত্রিবাহী ট্রেনে পরপর বিস্ফোরণের আপাত মিল থেকেই নাম দু'টো এক সঙ্গে উচ্চারিত হতে শুরু করেছিল। আজ সেই মিলকে আরও এক ধাপ এগিয়ে দিয়ে ইন্টারনেট-বার্তায় লন্ডনে হামলার দায় স্বীকার করল আবু হাফস আল-মাসরি ব্রিগেড। এই গোষ্ঠীর সঙ্গে দীর্ঘদিন ধরেই লাদেনের আল কায়দার ঘনিষ্ঠ যোগাযোগ আছে। ২০০৪-এর মাদ্রিদ বিস্ফোরণের পিছনেও এরাই। আল মাসরির দাবির ফলে লন্ডন বিস্ফোরণের সঙ্গে আল কায়দার যোগসূত্র আরও স্পষ্ট হল।

আল কায়দার জড়িত থাকার কথা এখনও প্রকাশ্যে বলেনি ব্রিটিশ পুলিশ, কিন্তু লাদেন-ঘনিষ্ঠ মরক্কো-বংশোদ্ভূত এক ধর্মগুরুকে হত্যে হয়ে খুঁজছে স্কটল্যান্ড ইয়ার্ড। মহম্মদ গুয়েরবুজি নামে ওই ব্যক্তি ১৯৭৪ সাল থেকে ব্রিটেনের বাসিন্দা। ২০০৩ সালে ক্যাসাব্লাঙ্কার বিস্ফোরণের ছক লাদেনের নির্দেশে গুয়েরবুজিই সাজায় বলে খবর। মাদ্রিদ-বিস্ফোরণের পরে সে বেপাত্তা হয়ে যায়। পুলিশ ঘিরে ফেলার পরে মাদ্রিদের একটি বাড়িতে যে জঙ্গিরা নিজেদের জ্বালিয়ে দিয়েছিল, তারাও ঘটনার ঠিক আগে গুয়েরবুজিকে ফোন করে বলে গোয়েন্দাদের বিশ্বাস।

ইতিমধ্যে বিস্ফোরণের পরে নিখোঁজদের তালিকায় নিতু ভরদ্বাজ নামে এক ভারতীয় রয়েছেন বলে জানা গিয়েছে।

যে ভাবে বিস্ফোরণ হয়েছে, তাতেও আল কায়দার পরিচিত ছকের ছাপ স্পষ্ট। এত দিন বলা হচ্ছিল, তিনটি বিস্ফোরণ একে একে ঘটানো হয়েছিল আধ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে। কিন্তু আজ স্কটল্যান্ড ইয়ার্ডের ডেপুটি অ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট কমিশনার ব্রায়ান প্যাডিক, পরিবহণ পুলিশ-প্রধান অ্যান্ডি উটার এবং পাতাল-পরিবহণ দফতরের প্রধান টিম ও'টুল জানান, তিনটি ট্রেনে বিস্ফোরণ ঘটে প্রায় একই সঙ্গে, মাত্র ৫০ সেকেন্ডের ব্যবধানে। টিউবে বিস্ফোরণের এক ঘণ্টার মাথায় ট্যাভিস্টক স্কোয়ারের বাসে বিস্ফোরণ হয়। বিস্ফোরণকারীও মারা গিয়েছে বলে একটি সূত্রের অনুমান।

ফরেনসিক বিশেষজ্ঞদের রিপোর্ট এলে জানা যাবে, কী ধরনের বিস্ফোরক ব্যবহৃত হয়েছিল, টাইমার ব্যবহার হয়েছিল কি না। জঙ্গিদের হাতে নাশকতার রসদ কতটা উন্নত, সেটা যেমন বোঝা যাবে, তেমনই বোঝা যাবে আল কায়দার মতো সংগঠিত গোষ্ঠীর সঙ্গে তাদের যোগাযোগ থাকতে পারে কি না।

তবে এ পর্যন্ত যে দু'টি সংগঠন হামলার দায় স্বীকার করেছে, তাদের সকলেরই দাবি, তারা আল কায়দার ঘনিষ্ঠ। এরই মধ্যে একটি পর্ভুগিজ সংবাদপত্র জানাচ্ছে, আল মুহাজিরো গোষ্ঠীর এক নেতা ১৫ মাস আগেই বলেন, 'ইউরোপের আল কায়দা'-সহ একাধিক সংগঠন ডালপালা ছড়াচ্ছে। খুব শীঘ্রই তারা ব্রিটেনে আঘাত হানবে। কাল একটি আরবি গোষ্ঠীও লন্ডনের ঘটনায় আনন্দ প্রকাশ করে

এর পর পাঁচের পাতায়

আল কায়দার

প্রথম পাতার পর

যারা হোমে হামলার ছমাক দেয়।

আজ আবার পাকিস্তানের পেশোয়ারে জিশান সিদ্দিকি নামে এক ব্রিটিশ নাগরিক ধরা পড়েছে। সে স্বীকার করেছে, লন্ডনের বিভিন্ন স্টেশন-রেস্তোরাঁয় ব্যর্থ জঙ্গি হানার জন্য পুলিশ ডাকে খুঁজছে। পুলিশ সূত্রে জানানো হয়েছে মৃতের সংখ্যা ৫০ ছাড়িয়েছে। তবে তা ১০০-র মধ্যে থাকবে বলেই অনুমান তাঁদের।

অন্য দিকে, মার্কিন গোয়েন্দারা জানাচ্ছেন, পশ্চিম দেশগুলোয় আঘাত হানার জন্য ইরাকে সক্রিয় জর্ডনীয় আল কায়দা নেতা জারকোয়াইকে নির্দেশ দিয়েছেন লাদেন। ফলে লন্ডনের হামলার পিছনে জারকোয়াই আছেন কি না, তা-ও খুঁজে দেখা হচ্ছে।

বস্তুত বিশ্ব জুড়ে আল কায়দার ছাতার তলায় বহু জেহাদি সংগঠন যেমন স্বতন্ত্র ভাবে কাজ করছে, তেমনই এদের মধ্যে বিভিন্ন যোগসূত্রও বর্তমান। ব্রায়ান প্যাডিক তাই সাবধানী সূত্রে বলছেন, কোনও একটি গোষ্ঠী বা ব্যক্তিকে ঘিরে তাঁরা তদন্তের জাল বুনেতে চাইছেন না। আল মাসরি-র ঘোষণাকে গুরুত্ব দিলেও এক কথায় তাকে সত্য বলে ধরে নিচ্ছেন না। তবে মাদ্রিদের অভিজ্ঞতা এবং মাদ্রিদ-ইস্তানবুলে আল মাসরির কার্যকলাপের ধরন মাথায় রাখলে লন্ডনবাসীর দুশ্চিন্তার যথেষ্ট কারণ আছে।

পুলিশ সূত্রেও বলা হয়েছে, হামলাকারীরা জেনে গিয়েছে, তাদের প্রথম অপারেশন সফল। ফলে এ বার তারা দ্বিতীয় বার আক্রমণের প্রস্তুতি শানাতেই পারে। আল মাসরির বার্তাতেও 'বৃহত্তম আঘাতের' জন। তৈরি থাকতে বলা আছে। বলা আছে, "ইরাক, আফগানিস্তান, প্যালেষ্টাইনের ভূমিতে যতক্ষণ না নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত হবে, আমরা শান্ত হব না।" টনি ব্রায়ার আজ রেডিও বক্তৃতায় বলেছেন, একটা মহাদেশে যদি উগ্রবাদ, মৌলবাদ আর নিদারুণ দারিদ্র শিকড় ছড়াতে থাকে, তা হলে পরিণাম শুধু ওই অঞ্চলেই সীমাবদ্ধ থাকে না। পশ্চিম এশিয়ায় শান্তি আর গণতন্ত্র ফেরানো ছাড়া বাঁচার পথ নেই।

10 JUL 2005

ANADARAZI

দায় না-নিয়েও লস্কর বলছে হানা যুক্তিযুক্ত

হামিদ মির • ইসলামাবাদ

৯ জুলাই: অযোধ্যায় হামলার পিছনে কে?

ভারতে লস্কর-ই-তইবার দিকেই সন্দেহের আঙুল তোলা হচ্ছে। সীমান্তের এ পারে লস্করের মুখপাত্র ইয়াহিয়া মুজাহিদ কিন্তু সেই দাবি মানতে নারাজ। তাঁর মতে, “এটা ভারতের অভ্যন্তরীণ সমস্যা। আসলে এই আক্রমণ একটি প্রতিক্রিয়া মাত্র। ভারতীয় মুসলিমদের উপর বিশ্ব হিন্দু পরিষদ এবং বজরং দল যে ধর্মীয় সন্ত্রাস চালাচ্ছে, এ হল তার প্রতিক্রিয়া। হিন্দুরা যদি মসজিদ ভাঙে আর গুজরাতে মুসলমানদের হত্যা করে, তা হলে এ ধরনের আক্রমণের মুখোমুখি হতেই হবে তাদের।” জইশ-ই-মহম্মদের চিফ কমান্ডার শেহরাই বাবাব বলেছেন, এই আক্রমণের সঙ্গে তাঁদের কোনও সম্পর্ক নেই।

আমেরিকা নিষিদ্ধ ঘোষণা করার পরে লস্কর এখন চলে দারা-ই-খিদমত-ই-খালাক নামে। আনুষ্ঠানিক ভাবে এটি কোনও জঙ্গি সংগঠন নয়। ত্রাণকার্য

পরিচালনা করার জন্য তৈরি সমাজকল্যাণমূলক প্রতিষ্ঠান। লাহোর ছাড়াও এই মুহূর্তে নাম-পাল্টানো লস্করের দফতর আছে করাচি, ইসলামাবাদ, ওয়াটা প্রভৃতি জায়গায়। সেখানে প্রচুর লোক কাজও করেন।

লস্করের বর্তমান প্রধান হাফিজ মহম্মদ সঙ্গদ। মুজফফরাবাদ-শ্রীনগর বাস চালুর সময় তিনি প্রকাশ্যেই তার বিরোধিতা করেছিলেন। পাকিস্তানে বহু বছর সাংবাদিকতা করার সুবাদে এঁদের অনেকের সঙ্গেই ঘনিষ্ঠ ভাবে কথা বলার সুযোগ পেয়েছি। অতীতে যখন ওসামা বিন লাদেনের সাক্ষাৎকার নিয়েছি, তখনও দেখেছি এই ধরনের হামলাকে তাঁরা অন্যায় কাজ বলে মনে করেন না। তাঁরা যা করছেন, সেটা ঠিক হোক বা ভুল, তার একটা আদর্শগত অবস্থান আছে। আমার মতে, নিছক টাকার জন্য যারা নাশকতা চালায়, সেই সাধারণ অপরাধীদের সঙ্গে এঁদের এক সারিতে দাঁড় করানো উচিত নয়।

আদর্শগত ভিত্তি আছে বলেই এই সংগঠনগুলির মধ্যে মতপার্থক্য দেখা দেয়। গত পাঁচ বছর ধরে যেমন লস্কর-

ই-তইবা ও জইশ-ই-মহম্মদের মধ্যে দেখা যাচ্ছে। লস্কর যখন ‘ওয়াহানি’ বিচারধারা অনুসারে চলছে, জইশ তখন চলছে ‘দেওবন্দি’ আদর্শ মেনে। এটা মতাদর্শ ও কৌশলগত পার্থক্য।

এমন একটা সময় অযোধ্যায় হামলা হল যখন আমাদের দু’দেশের মধ্যে পুরোদমে শান্তিপ্রক্রিয়া চলছে। কাজাখস্তানে পাক প্রধানমন্ত্রী শওকত আজিজের সঙ্গে ভারতের বিদেশমন্ত্রী নটবর সিংহের বৈঠকের দিনই ঘটনাটা ঘটল। এটাও যথেষ্ট তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ। এর থেকে এটা বোঝা যায় যে, শান্তিপ্রক্রিয়াকে বানচাল করাই ছিল হামলাকারীদের লক্ষ্য। শুধু তাই নয়, ঠিক তার পরের দিন, ৬ জুলাই এলাহাবাদ হাইকোর্টে বাবরি মসজিদ ধ্বংস মামলার শুনানি ছিল। এই আক্রমণের মধ্যে দিয়ে হামলাকারীরা পাকিস্তানের মুসলমানদের জানাতে চায় যে, বাবরি মসজিদ ধ্বংসের বিষয়টি তারা ভোলেনি। শান্তিপ্রক্রিয়ার ব্যাপারে তারা উৎসাহিত নয়।

বিজেপি সভাপতি লালকৃষ্ণ আডবাণী যখন পাকিস্তানে এসেছিলেন

তখন জিও টিভিতে আমি তাঁর সাক্ষাৎকার নিয়েছিলাম। আমি তাঁকে প্রশ্ন করেছিলাম, “আপনার দল আর কটা মসজিদ ভাঙবে?” উনি বলেছিলেন, এই প্রশ্নটিই ‘অবাস্তব’। লালকৃষ্ণ আডবাণীর জানিয়েছিলেন, “আমরা সমাজ ভাঙায় বিশ্বাস করি না।” এ বার পাকিস্তানে আডবাণীর সফর সত্যিই খুব ইতিবাচক ছিল। তবু আমি এই অপ্রিয় প্রশ্নটা করেছিলাম। কারণ, আডবাণী যা-ই বলুন, তাঁর দল সম্বন্ধে এ দেশের সাধারণ মানুষের মধ্যে এমনই একটা ধারণা আছে। সেই ধারণা যে ভুল সেটা বোঝাতে আডবাণী বারবার বলেছিলেন যে, তিনি স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী থাকাকালীন ছরিয়তের সঙ্গে সরকারের আলোচনা শুরু হয়েছিল।

ঘটনা যা-ই ঘটুক, আশা করি শান্তিপ্রক্রিয়া থামবে না। এ দেশের বহু মানুষ এই প্রক্রিয়ার পক্ষে। কিন্তু অযোধ্যা-কাণ্ডের প্রভাব যে দু’দেশের উপরেই পড়বে তা এক প্রকার নিশ্চিত। হামলা হতে না-হতেই ভারতের অনেকেই পাকিস্তানের বিরুদ্ধে এর পর পাঁচের পাতায়

হানা যুক্তিযুক্ত

প্রথম পাতার পর

অভিযোগ শানাচ্ছেন। ঠিক সেই পথ ধরেই পাক সেনা ৬ জুলাই বলেছে, ভারতীয় এজেন্টরা আফগানিস্তান হয়ে পাকিস্তানে ঢুকেছে। লেফটেন্যান্ট জেনারেল সফদর হুসেনের দাবি, ছ’জন ভারতীয় এজেন্টকে নাকি তাঁরা গ্রেফতারও করেছেন।

ভয় এখানেই। দু’পক্ষই যেন কট্টরবাদীদের অভিযোগ-পাল্টা অভিযোগের খেলায় মেতে না ওঠে।

(লেখক পাকিস্তানের জিও টিভির প্রধান)

10 JUL 2005

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

হামলার হুঁশিয়ারি আগেই ছিল

লন্ডন, ৯ জুলাই: বিস্ফোরণের হুঁশিয়ারি কি আগেই দেওয়া হয়েছিল? লন্ডন বিস্ফোরণের রেশ মেলাতে না মেলাতেই কেউ কেউ এ প্রশ্ন তুলতে শুরু করে দিয়েছেন। সন্দেহের উৎস গত বছর এপ্রিল মাসে পর্তুগিজ সংবাদপত্রে প্রকাশিত এক মুসলিম নেতার সাক্ষাৎকার, যেখানে বলা হয়, কিছু দিনের মধ্যেই লন্ডনে জঙ্গি হানার আশঙ্কা রয়েছে। ব্রিটিশ স্বরাষ্ট্রসচিব চার্লস ক্লার্ক এমন জল্পনাকল্পনাকে উড়িয়ে দিয়ে বলেছেন, আকস্মিক ভাবেই লন্ডনে হামলা হয়েছে। গোয়েন্দাদের কাছে এই বিস্ফোরণ নিয়ে আগাম কোনও সূত্র ছিল না।

২০০৪ সালের ১৮ এপ্রিল ওই পর্তুগিজ সংবাদপত্রকে দেওয়া সাক্ষাৎকারে লন্ডনের আল মুহাজিরৌ গোষ্ঠীর সিরীয় নেতা শেখ ওমর বকরি মহম্মদ জানান, এক দল সুসংগঠিত জঙ্গি লন্ডনে কাজ শুরু করেছে। এরা নিজেদেরকে 'ইউরোপের আল কায়দা' বলে পরিচয় দেয়। মহম্মদ দাবি করেন, এই জঙ্গিরা খুব শীঘ্রই লন্ডনে আঘাত হানবে বলে তাঁর কাছে পাকা খবর আছে। মাত্রিদ বিস্ফোরণের মাসখানেক পরে ওই সাক্ষাৎকারে তিনি জানান, অন্যান্য জঙ্গি দলও লন্ডনে হামলার প্রস্তুতি শুরু করেছে।

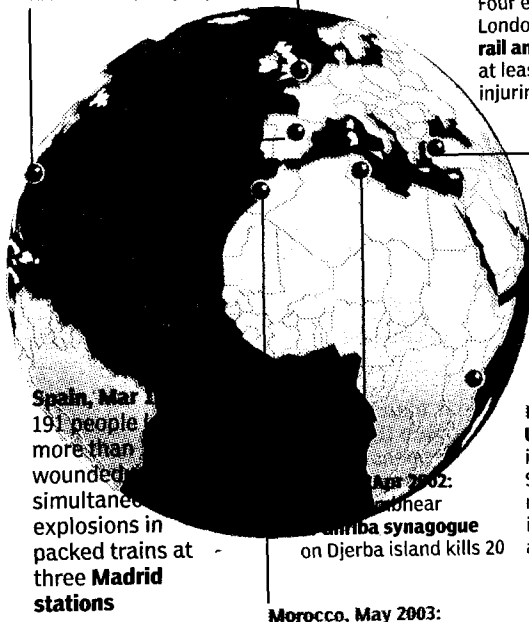
মহম্মদের 'ভবিষ্যদ্বাণী' অক্ষরে অক্ষরে মিলে গিয়েছে। ফলে, আঙুল উঠছে ব্রিটিশ গোয়েন্দাদের দিকেই। তাঁদের বাড়তি সতর্কতা কি এড়াতে পারত এই ট্র্যাজেডি? —এ এফ পি

THE London and Ayodhya have brought home the international GLOBAL WAR ON TER

107 HF 10 Terrorism

Al Qaeda strikes since 1998

U.S., Sep 11, 2001: Suicide plane attacks on New York's World Trade Centre and Pentagon in Washington kill almost 3,000 people



Spain, Mar 11, 2004: 191 people killed in simultaneous explosions in packed trains at three Madrid stations

Morocco, May 2003: Suicide bombers kill 45 people in Casablanca

Afghanistan: Al-Qaeda continues to operate despite overthrow of Taliban. Osama bin Laden believed in hiding in border region

Iraq: Numerous attacks attributed to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al-Qaeda leader in Iraq

Saudi Arabia, Jun 1996: Bomb at U.S. military base near Dhahran kills 19 soldiers

May 2003: Suicide bombers attack expatriate housing compounds in Riyadh - 35 people, including nine Americans, killed

Nov 2002: Bomb attack on housing complex in Riyadh kills 17, injures more than 100

Yemen, Oct 2000: Suicide bombing of USS Cole kills 17 U.S. sailors

Oct 2002: Suicide bomb attack on French oil tanker leaves ship badly damaged

UK, Jul 7, 2005: Four explosions hit London Underground rail and bus system killing at least 33 people and injuring around 350

Turkey, Nov 2003: Two car bombs outside Istanbul synagogues kill 29. Explosions hit London-based HSBC bank and British consulate in Istanbul, killing 32 and injuring over 400

Kenya, Tanzania, Aug 1998: U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam bombed, killing more than 250 people, including 12 Americans, and injuring 5,000

Pakistan, May 2002: Suicide car bomber kills 14 outside Karachi's Sheraton Hotel

Hughes, Oct 2000: 10 people and wounds 150 at Marriott Hotel in Jakarta



TERROR STRIKES AGAIN: Injured commuters are led away from one of the sites bombed by terrorists in London on July 7, 2005

DEMOCRACY BATTLES REAL POLITIK

The London bombings are a success story in the Jehadi lexicon

KIKRAM Sood

THE LATEST blasts paralysing London, remarkably similar to the ones in Madrid last year, are another reminder to the world that the war against international terrorism is far from over, that the terrorists have the reach, access, ability and the will. This was probably not the first attempt that was made in London and there have been several terror warnings, but success came because the attacks were obviously better rehearsed and meticulously planned. Just as the September 11 attacks and the Madrid attacks, the explosions were at morning peak hours and intended to inflict maximum damage and to attract maximum attention with the G-8 Summit in Gleneagles.

It may be early days but it appears that the terrorists used timer devices and not suicide bombers. The loss in human lives and injuries would be immense; the loss to property and business would run into millions of pounds over time; and the damage to race relations difficult to measure. A success story in the jihadi lexicon.

On the morning of July 7, there was apparently an unhurried but professional energy in action on the streets in London and as in New York in 2001, the TV did not show any scenes of panic, dead bodies or any gruesome scene; there were no waiting crowds to be seen on the box - the sort of thing that is oxygen to terrorists. Everything was about self-censorship and there were no allegations of intelligence failure and no political blame game. Here in India it is invariably the other way round. Some of us even described the Ayodhya terrorists as militants, which is giving respectability in a way to them, just as the word *fidayeen* gives to suicide bombers

Islamic terror continues to unfold itself in sporadic bursts in different places from New York to Bali to Akshardham to Ayodhya and has not unfolded itself in its full

fury. Since Sep 11 2001, there have been attacks in 2002 at an Islamabad church (March), Karachi (May), US Consulate, Karachi (June), the notorious Bali bombing (October); Casablanca, Istanbul, Riyadh were some of the targets in 2003 and Madrid, Tashkent, Jakarta and Sinai in Egypt followed in 2004. Throughout this period, terrorist attacks in India continued but that attracted very little international attention.

This terrorism is not simply about opposing democracy or freedoms or a way of life. It is about US policies in the region. It is, as writers like John Gray (Al Qaeda and What It Means To Be Modern) have said, as much about an Islamic rage arising from the rapid globalisation and modernisation and of years of exploitation by external powers helped their own rulers perceived to be lackeys of foreign powers. Ayman al-Zawahiri's warning last November, that America must be forced to submit to what is right through violence, applies to US and its friends.

USA's selective response of tilting at windmills and sheltering our friends is not the best response to terror that is bound to grow. The frightening aspect of this rather pointless and very brutal war in Iraq (Islam's second holiest place) and, earlier in Afghanistan, is that it has created hatred and terrorists where there were none. The entire exercise is seen increasingly as more an opportunity for projection of power and not as war on terror.

As US casualties mount, costs increase (nearing the cost of the Cold War) and there is more strident domestic criticism

Perhaps no other country has faced unending and varied terrorism as we in India



of the war in Iraq, it is possible that the US leadership will find the political cost of continuation of this war becoming increasingly unbearable. The world cannot afford to see US lose yet cannot also afford to see US fight this war in the manner it is doing. Unfortunately, at present there is little likelihood that the US will change its policies of establishing a New American Century and the war in Iraq will not only continue but may even extend in some form to Iran.

The problem is, there will surely come a time, (there are increasing references in USA to Vietnam) when the US chooses to withdraw into fortress America and glower angrily at those outside leaving them to fend for themselves. The price the rest of the world, especially those seen as partners of the US, will have to pay will be enormous. US withdrawal now from Iraq would be seen by the terrorists as the first significant victory in their campaign of driving US out of the Islamic world especially on the Palestine issue.

The next steps would be to purify the Saudi soil by getting rid of the present regime and similar action in other parts of the Islamic world to get rid of the pro-American ruling elite. And having convinced themselves that it was jihad that won them victory in Afghanistan against the Soviets, the present jihadis will claim victory against the other, remaining Super power. This would be the New World Order; Colour Green. Now that India has signed a Defence Pact with the US, it is going to be in much sharper focus on the jihadi radar for India increasingly falls in the category of 'my enemy's friend is my enemy'.

As London, Madrid and the innumerable bomb blasts in India as well as the daily tally in Baghdad has shown, the modern weapon of the terrorist is a truck, a car or a human being laden with bombs. Precision bombs will eliminate leading terrorists but not terrorism. Daisy cutters and cluster bombs will only add to what is described with considerable insensitivity - collateral damage - killing of innocent civilians. For the world has yet to find a way of killing a man or a woman who is willing to die, because that does not kill the mindset. The world is not fighting an American war against terror aimed at American targets only. Global reach should really mean global reach, and not just anti-US.

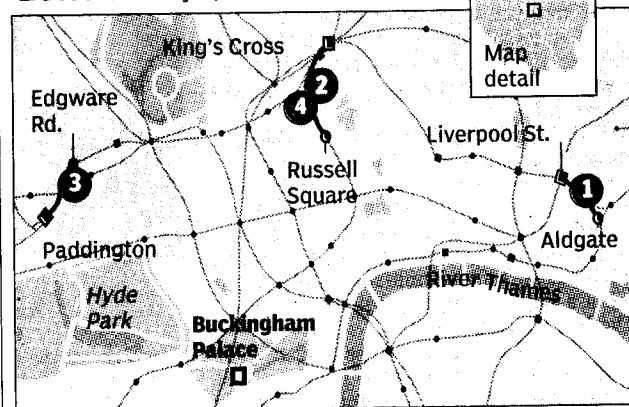
Perhaps no other country has faced unending and varied terrorism as we in India have over the last 57 years. Indians have weathered the storms but not overcome them yet. The experience of the Indian counter-terrorist is possibly the widest in the world. Yet this will not prevent more attacks. The fear today is that since the terrorist infrastructures exist in the neighbourhood and cells exist in India, the kind of terrorist action in Ayodhya can be repeated. So far we have been lucky - each time the security forces were equal to the task; but as they say in this game, the State has to be lucky all the time, the terrorist has to be lucky only once. It takes little imagination to work out what could have happened in India had these six men got through the various security cordons in Ayodhya. And how many places of worship and for how long will the State have to protect them.

The range and timing of the attacks over the last few years indicates that terrorists went global quite some time ago. The funding is global, the weapons acquisition is global, the foot soldiers are redeployable at will and the targets are global. Unless the counter-terrorist goes global we will never, ever, succeed. And a terrorist is a terrorist; not my terrorist and your terrorist or my terrorist first and then yours.

London and Madrid

The striking similarities between the rush-hour bombings of commuter transit systems in London and Madrid:

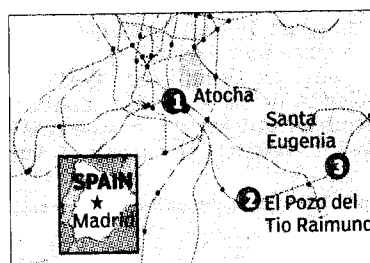
London July 7, 2005



- 1 8:51 a.m. Blast on Circle Line train traveling from Aldgate station to Liverpool Street
- 2 8:56 a.m. Explosion on Piccadilly Line train traveling between King's Cross and Russell Square
- 3 9:17 a.m. Blast on Circle Line train leaving Edgware Road station for Paddington
- 4 9:47 a.m. Blast tears roof off double-decker bus near Tavistock Square; nearby cars also damaged

Note: All times are local Source: BBC

Madrid March 11, 2004



- 1 7:39 a.m. Four bombs explode in train stopped at Atocha station; almost simultaneously, three bombs explode in second train outside the station
- 2 7:43 a.m. Two bombs explode in train at El Pozo del Tio Raimundo station
- 3 7:42 a.m. Bomb explodes in train at Santa Eugenia station

KRT

Terror isn't new...

France, 1789: The word 'terrorism' entered into European languages in the wake of the French revolution of 1789. The use of terror was openly advocated by Robespierre as a means of encouraging revolutionary virtue during the French Revolution, leading to the Reign of Terror (1793-94). The first meaning of the word 'terrorism', as recorded by the Académie Française in 1798, was 'system or rule of terror'.

ভারতেও আল কায়দা

প্রথম পাতার পর

এ সবে সবে অবশ্যই রয়েছে আদর্শ ও ধর্মের মোড়কে সন্ত্রাসবাদকে মিশিয়ে দেওয়ার প্রয়াস। ভারতে আল কায়দার প্রধান ভরসা পাক জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠী লঙ্কর-ই-তাইবার (অযোধ্যা-কাণ্ডের জন্য যে গোষ্ঠীর দিকে আঙুল উঠছে) ফিদাইনের সংখ্যা এই মুহূর্তে সব চেয়ে বেশি বলে অনুমান নয়। অর্থাৎ, ইসলামের জন্য, জেহাদের জন্য এদের কাছে প্রাণও তুচ্ছ। কিন্তু আল কায়দা তুলনামূলক ভাবে অনেক পেশাদার, নির্মম ও যে কোনও ঝুঁকি নিতে প্রস্তুত। এই দুই জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠীর মধ্যে পারস্পরিক সমীকরণ জোরালো হওয়া ভারতের পক্ষে বিপজ্জনক।

আল কায়দার সদস্য, ব্রিটিশ বংশোদ্ভূত ওমর সৈয়দ শেখ জেরার মুখে স্বীকার করেছিল, আলিগড়, হাপুর ও লুধিয়ানার মতো জায়গায় সে ঘুরেছে তরুণ জেহাদির সন্ধানে। তার বক্তব্য ছিল, “বেশ কিছু মসজিদ ও মাদ্রাসায় গিয়েছি সমাজবিজ্ঞানীর ছদ্ম-পরিচয়ে। দেখেছি, বিশেষত মাদ্রাসার ছাত্রদের মধ্যে ইসলামি শক্তির পুনরুত্থান ঘটানোর ক্ষমতা রয়েছে।”

সরকারের শীর্ষ স্তরের মতে, লন্ডনের ঘটনার পর দেশের কোনও বড় শহরই আর নিরাপদ নয়। বেশ কিছু রাজনৈতিক ব্যক্তিত্ব ও শিল্পপতির বিপদের আশঙ্কা রয়েছে। বেশ কিছু দিন আগে ওয়াশিংটনে ভয়েস অফ আমেরিকার দফতরে পাঠানো আল কায়দার চিঠিটি যে নেহাত ফাঁকা আওয়াজ নয়, তা ধরে নিয়ে প্রস্তুতি নেওয়া হচ্ছে। চিঠিতে বলা ছিল, ‘বরফ গললে ভারতকে ফের একটা কার্গিলের মুখোমুখি হতে হবে। ষড়যন্ত্র করে জেহাদ দমন করা যায় না। যখন আফগান, চেচনিয়া ও কাশ্মীরের মানুষ না-খেতে পেয়ে মারা যাচ্ছে, তখন কিছু দেশ উৎসব করছে। এটা হতে দেওয়া যায় না। মার্কিন, রুশ ও ভারতীয়দের বিরুদ্ধে মুজাহিদদের লড়াই চলবে।’

কালকের লন্ডনের পরে এই হুমকি ভারতের কাছে আরও প্রাসঙ্গিক হয়ে উঠল।

ই-মেলে শাসানি, ভয়ে কাঁটা ব্রিটেনের মুসলিমেরা

লন্ডন, ৮ জুলাই: আশঙ্কা ছিলই। ৯/১১-র পরেই প্রতিশোধ আর প্রত্যাঘাতের বহরটা জানা হয়ে গিয়েছিল। তাই বিস্ফোরণের পরের ধাক্কার কথা ভেবেই প্রমাদ গণেছিল মুসলিম মহল্লাগুলো। এ বারও ‘সন্ত্রাসবাদীদের সম্প্রদায়ের লোক’ হওয়ার অপরাধে ‘দৌষী’ সাব্যস্ত হতে সময় লাগেনি। বিনা অপরাধে ‘শান্তি’ পাওয়ার ভয়ে এখন সিটিয়ে আছেন ব্রিটেনে বসবাসকারী মুসলিমেরা।

ঘটনা এক : ফিলবেরি পার্কের মসজিদে শুক্রবারের নমাজ শুরু হওয়ার পরেই বাইরে থেকে উড়ে আসছিল মন্তব্যগুলো। অকথা ভাষা। সদর দরজার বাইরেটা তখনই দিয়ে চলে গিয়েছিল লোকগুলো।

ঘটনা দুই: হাজারেরও বেশি ই-মেলে এসেছে ব্রিটেনের মুসলিম কাউন্সিলের দফতরে। কোনওটাতে ঘৃণা উগরে দেওয়া। বাকিগুলোতে

স্পষ্ট শাসানি। “ব্রিটেনের মুসলিমদের বিরুদ্ধে যুদ্ধ শুরু হয়ে গিয়েছে। এ বার তোমাদের কপালে দুঃখ আছে।”

ঘটনা তিন: পুলিশ-প্রশাসনের সঙ্গে দফায় দফায় বৈঠক করছেন উদ্ভিগ্ন মুসলিম নেতারা। বর্ণবিদ্বেষী দক্ষিণপন্থীরা প্রত্যাঘাতের এমন সুযোগ হারাবেন না, তাঁরা নিশ্চিত। জরুরি নির্দেশ জারি করেছেন সম্প্রদায়ের প্রধানেরা—“মুসলিম মহিলারা দয়া করে একা রাস্তায় বার হবেন না।” আপাতত খুব প্রয়োজন ছাড়া মুসলিমদের রাস্তায় বার হতে নিষেধ করেছে ইসলামিক হিউম্যান রাইটস কমিশনও।

ইতিমধ্যে গোটা আরব দুনিয়া আর সাধারণ মুসলিমদের কাঠগড়ায় দাঁড় না করানোর আবেদন জানিয়েছে সৌদি আরবের খবরের কাগজগুলি। শুক্রবারের নমাজের আগে তেহরানে প্রধান ইমাম বলেছেন, “মুসলিমরা

দৌষী হবেন কোন যুক্তিতে? ওসামা বিন লাদেন আর আল-কায়দা, সবই তো আসলে আমেরিকার সৃষ্টি।”

এমনটা হতে পারে, আঁচ করে কাল জি-৮ বৈঠকেই সতর্ক মন্তব্য করেছিলেন টনি ব্রেয়ার। “কিছু লোক ইসলামের নামে এই ঘটনা ঘটিয়েছে। এ দেশে ও বিশ্বের অন্যত্র বসবাসকারী মুসলিমদের বড় অংশই সন্ত্রাসবাদকে ঘৃণা করেন।” শেষ পর্যন্ত অবশ্য যা আশঙ্কা করা হয়েছিল, তাই হয়েছে।

মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ চিফ ইয়ান ব্রেয়ারকে আজ বার বার বলতে হয়েছে, বহু সংস্কৃতির মেলবন্ধনই লন্ডনের বৈশিষ্ট্য। জনসাধারণ যেন তা মনে রাখেন।

কালকের বিস্ফোরণে আহত-নিহতের মধ্যে বেশ কিছু মুসলিম। একটি বিস্ফোরণ হয়েছিল দক্ষিণ লন্ডনের এজওয়্যার স্টেশনে। এই অঞ্চলে মূলত মুসলিমদের বাস।

জঙ্গিরাই যেখানে হামলা থেকে মুসলিমদের বাদ দেয়নি, সেখানে ঘটনার জন্য সাধারণ মুসলিমদের দায়ী করা যে অযৌক্তিক, সে কথা বোঝানোর চেষ্টা করা হচ্ছে।

বিস্ফোরণের হাত ধরেই টনি ব্রেয়ারের সামনে এসে দাঁড়িয়েছে সেই ইরাক-যুদ্ধের ভূত! মওকা বুঝে কট্টর দক্ষিণপন্থী ব্রিটিশ ন্যাশনালিস্ট পার্টি সরাসরি অভিযোগ করেছে, পশ্চিম এশিয়া, অভিবাসন ও রাজনৈতিক আশ্রয় নিয়ে ব্রেয়ারের ভ্রান্ত নীতির মাসুল গুণতে হল ব্রিটেনকে। একই অভিযোগ সাংসদ জর্জ গ্যালওয়ারের। যুদ্ধের বিরোধিতা করে লেবার পার্টি থেকে তিনি বহিষ্কৃত হন। ইরাক যুদ্ধের সঙ্গে আফগানিস্তান যুদ্ধ, এমনকী আবু

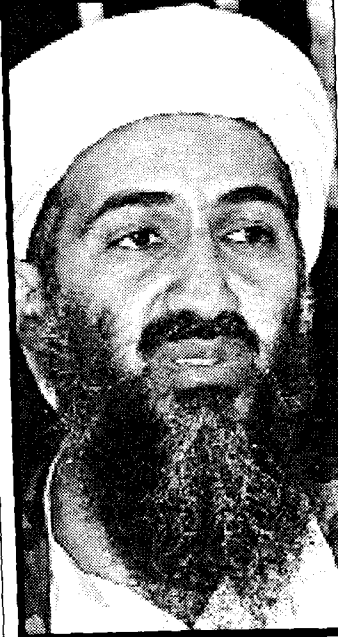
গ্রাইব ও গুয়ানতানামাও বের বন্দি অত্যাচারের প্রসঙ্গও টেনে এনেছেন গ্যালওয়ার। বলেছেন, সর্বক্ষেত্রে আমেরিকাকে সঙ্গ দেওয়া ব্রিটেনের

এটা প্রাপ্য ছিল। তবে ব্রেয়ারের পক্ষে সওয়াল করেছেন স্বরাষ্ট্র সচিব চার্লস ক্লার্ক। পাশে পেয়েছেন কমিশন অফ ইকুয়ালিটিকে। বিএনপি’র উপরে যারা খড়্গহস্ত।

ব্রেয়ার সরকারের একটা লাভ হয়েছে। বিস্ফোরণের পরে বিতর্কিত সন্ত্রাসবিরোধী আইন প্রণয়নে তাদের অনেক কম ঝুঁকি পোহাতে হবে বলে মনে করা হচ্ছে। তাছাড়া, এই সুযোগে অভিবাসন সংক্রান্ত নিয়মকানূনের বিরুদ্ধে লড়াই করা নাগরিক অধিকার রক্ষা সংগঠনকারীদেরও হাত থেকেও দান ছিনিয়ে নিয়েছেন ব্রেয়ার।

রাজনৈতিক কচকচানির দিকে অবশ্য মন নেই ব্রিটেনের সাধারণ মুসলিমদের। ব্রিক লেনের বাংলাদেশি রহমান থেকে শুরু করে প্যারাডাইস কাফের আলজিরীয় আসাস আজিজ, সবাইই আক্ষেপ —“আমরাও শেষে সন্ত্রাসবাদী হয়ে গেলাম।” — রয়টার্স

লাদেনের নজর ভারতেও



২১ ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৯
ওয়াশিংটনে ভয়েস অফ আমেরিকার দফতরে ফ্যাক্স পাঠিয়ে আল কায়দার ঘোষণা, আমেরিকা, ব্রিটেনের মতো ভারতও ‘স্বাধীনতার শত্রু’।
২৪ ডিসেম্বর ১৯৯৯
ইন্ডিয়ান এয়ারলাইন্সের বিমান কাঠমান্ডু থেকে ছিনতাই করে কান্দাহারে আল কায়দার মদতেই।
৮ এপ্রিল, ২০০১
মার্কিন দূতাবাস আক্রমণের ছক, দিল্লিতে ধৃত আল কায়দা সদস্য।
৫ মার্চ ২০০২
ইন্ডিয়ান এয়ারলাইন্সের বিমান ছিনতাই করে সমুদ্রে

মার্কিন জাহাজে হানার ছক, আল কায়দা জঙ্গি ধৃত পেশোয়ারে।
২২ জানুয়ারি, ২০০২
কলকাতায় মার্কিন তথ্যকেন্দ্রে হামলা, পিছনে লাদেন ঘনিষ্ঠ ওমর শেখ।
৭ জুন ২০০২
মার্কিন ভাইস অ্যাডমিরাল ভি জে মেঞ্জগারকে খতমের ছক বানচাল মুম্বইয়ে।
১৬ অক্টোবর, ২০০৩
দাউদকে আন্তর্জাতিক অপরাধী ঘোষণা আমেরিকার। লাদেন-দাউদ যোগের কথা মানল বুশ প্রশাসন।
তথ্যসূত্র: কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রক

সন্ত্রাসের বিশ্বায়ন

নিউ ইয়র্ক ও মাদ্রিদের পর এ বার লন্ডন। সন্ত্রাসবাদের ঘণ্য, কাপুরুষোচিত আক্রমণ আছড়াইয়া পড়িল পশ্চিমের আরও একটি রাজধানী শহরে। স্তম্ভিত ইংল্যান্ড। হতচকিত ব্রিটিশ জনমণ্ডলী। ২০১২ সালের অলিম্পিকের জন্য মনোনীত হইবার আনন্দ ও উৎসবের রেশ লীন হইবার আগেই এমন মর্মান্তিক হত্যাকাণ্ডের ঘটনায় বিচলিত ব্রিটিশ প্রধানমন্ত্রী টনি ব্লেয়ারও। স্কটল্যান্ডে জি-৮ গোষ্ঠীর উন্নত রাষ্ট্রজোটের শীর্ষ সম্মেলন ফেলিয়া তিনি লন্ডনে। সম্মেলন কার্যত বিপর্যস্ত। হতাহতের সংখ্যা প্রচুর। যে পদ্ধতিতে প্রায় একই সময়ে এক সঙ্গে নিত্যযাত্রী-বোম্বাই ব্যস্ত টিউব রেল ও দোতলা বাসে বিস্ফোরণ ঘটানো হইয়াছে, তাহাতে এই হামলার পিছনে মুসলিম সন্ত্রাসবাদী সংগঠন আল কায়দার হাত থাকার সন্দেহ করা হইতেছে। তবে এখনও ইহার পিছনে কোনও নিশ্চিত প্রমাণ নাই। কোনও একটি ইসলামি ওয়েবসাইটে অজানা কোনও সংগঠনের দাবি কিছুই প্রমাণ করে না। প্রমাণ মাদ্রিদ বা নিউ ইয়র্ক বিস্ফোরণের পিছনেও ছিল না। সংশয় হইতেই পারে, আল কায়দা কিংবা তাহার সংগঠক ওসামা বিন লাদেন কয়েকটি সুবিধাজনক নাম, প্রথমেই যাহার উল্লেখ করিয়া প্রশাসন স্বীয় নিরাপত্তাবলয়ের ফাঁকগুলি ভরাট করিতে চায়।

তবে বিন লাদেন বা আল কায়দার হাত থাকুক, না-থাকুক, সন্ত্রাসবাদীরাই যে উপর্যুপরি অপকাণ্ডগুলি ঘটাইতেছে, তাহাতে সংশয় নাই। এবং এই সন্ত্রাসবাদীরা যে মুসলিম জঙ্গি, তাহাও মনে করা অস্বাভাবিক নয়। বিশেষত এই কারণেই অস্বাভাবিক নয় যে মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের নেতৃত্বে ব্রিটেন ও অন্য পশ্চিমী রাষ্ট্রগুলি সন্ত্রাসবাদের বিরুদ্ধে যে অভিযান চালাইতেছে, তাহা মূলত ইসলামি দুনিয়াতেই। সুতরাং তাহার প্রতিক্রিয়ায় সন্ত্রাসের মাত্রা তীব্রতর হইতে পারে। আফগানিস্তানের প্রতিটি গর্ত হইতে সন্ত্রাসবাদীদের বাহির করিয়া মারার নামে কার্যত গোটা আফগানিস্তানে ধ্বংস ও গণহত্যা চালানো হইয়াছে। জঙ্গিরা তালিবানদের আশ্রয় হইতে পাকিস্তানের বিভিন্ন গর্তে গিয়া প্রবেশ করিয়াছে (যে পাকিস্তান আবার সন্ত্রাসবিরোধী অভিযানে ঘনিষ্ঠ মার্কিন মিত্র)। ইরাকে সাদ্দাম হুসেনকে গদিচ্যুত করিতে গিয়া দেশময় মার্কিন-ব্রিটিশ দখলদারির বিরুদ্ধে সশস্ত্র বিদ্রোহের জন্ম হইয়াছে, যাহাকে জর্জ ডব্লিউ বুশ ও টনি ব্লেয়াররা জেহাদি সন্ত্রাসবাদ আখ্যা দিতেছেন। সন্ত্রাসবিরোধী অভিযানের সঙ্গে যদি বিশ্বময় পশ্চিমী রাষ্ট্রগুলির আর্থ-রাজনৈতিক আধিপত্য বিস্তারের অভিযান মিশিয়া যায়, তবে এই মহাশক্তিধরদের বিরুদ্ধে সম্মুখসমরের ক্ষমতাহীন প্রতিবাদীদের ক্ষোভ সন্ত্রাসের চেহারায়ে আছড়াইয়া পড়িতে পারে। উল্লেখ্য, ব্রিটেনের বিপুল মানুষ ইরাকে মার্কিন-ব্রিটিশ আগ্রাসনের প্রতিবাদে মুখর। এতটাই যে গত নির্বাচনেও টনি ব্লেয়ারের ইরাক-নীতিই হইয়া উঠিয়াছিল প্রচারের মূল বিতর্ক। ব্লেয়ার জিতিলেও তাহার সরকারের বিদেশ নীতির প্রতিক্রিয়ায় লন্ডন যে মাদ্রিদ হইয়া উঠিতে পারে, সেই শঙ্কা ছিলই। স্পষ্টতই লন্ডনের নিরাপত্তার ভারপ্রাপ্ত সাক্সিরা সেই শঙ্কা দূর করিতে যথেষ্ট সন্তুষ্ট ছিলেন না। ব্রিটিশ শাসকদের বিহ্বল ও হতচকিত ভাবান্তর তাহারই সংকেত।

মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্র ও ব্রিটেনের এবং অংশত ইউরোপের সন্ত্রাসবিরোধী অভিযান যদি ব্যুমেরাং হইয়া ফিরিতে থাকে, তবে হয়তো এক দিন এ অভিযান অভ্যন্তরীণ অভিযান হইয়া উঠিবে, ইহার জন্য পশ্চিম এশিয়ার জেহাদিদের শিক্ষা দিতে যাওয়ার অবকাশই মিলিবে না। এ ধরনের হামলা যে কেবল বহিরাগতদের দ্বারা সম্ভব নয়, তাহা মনে করার বিলম্বণ কারণ আছে। তাই ইউরোপ-আমেরিকার দেশে-দেশে বসবাসকারী মুসলিম সমাজের বিরুদ্ধে বিদেশ ধুমায়িত হওয়ার শঙ্কাও মূর্ত। শাসকরা সাধারণ ভাবে সংযম ও সহিষ্ণুতার পক্ষে সওয়াল করিলেও এমন এক অবরোধ-মানসিকতায় আক্রান্ত হন যে নাগরিকদের মৌলিক সাংবিধানিক অধিকারও সঙ্কুচিত করিতে থাকেন। ওয়ার্ল্ড ট্রেড সেন্টারে হানার পর মার্কিন গণতন্ত্র যে আর আগের মতো উদার ও সহিষ্ণু নাই, তাহা সুবিদিত। ব্রিটিশ গণতন্ত্রও টনি ব্লেয়ারের আশ্বাস সত্ত্বেও মানবাধিকার ছাঁটাইয়ে ব্রতী হইবে না তো? উপর্যুপরি সন্ত্রাসবাদী হামলার ফলে ক্রমে এমন দিন না আসিয়া উপস্থিত হয়, যখন পশ্চিমের অবাধ গণতন্ত্র ও মুক্ত দুনিয়ার সহিত এশিয়ার ইসলামি স্বেরাচারের মাবতীয় পার্থক্যের খাই ঘুচিয়া গেল। সন্ত্রাসবাদীদের অস্তিত্ব কিন্তু সে দিনই পুরোপুরি সফল হইবে।

EGYPT ENVOY ■ Police looking for killers of Ihab el-Sherif

Iraq urges defiance in face of Egypt envoy killing

ALASTAIR MACDONALD

BAGHDAD, JULY 8

IRAQ urged fellow Arab and Muslim states on Friday to send ambassadors to Baghdad in defiance of attacks by Al Qaeda insurgents, who killed Egypt's kidnapped envoy and have threatened other diplomats.

"The criminals wanted by this act to terrorise Arab and Islamic countries and deter them from upgrading their diplomatic missions in Iraq," Iraq's Foreign Ministry said.

"Arab and Islamic countries are asked to prove their seriousness in combating terrorism and send their ambassadors to Baghdad so they send the right message to the terrorists."

Iraq's President promised top security for diplomats and Interior Minister Bayan Jabbar, who has chided envoys for travelling without protection, said Iraqi armed escorts were always available.

Police were hunting the killers of Egyptian envoy Ihab el-Sherif, a day after Cairo confirmed his death at the hands of Al Qaeda kidnappers. He had been snatched off a Baghdad street on Saturday.

"Our investigations are continuing," a senior Interior Ministry official said. The Islamist militants posted a video showing Sherif speaking but not his killing.

The Iraqi government has decried the abduction and killing of Sherif, as well as at least two other attacks on senior diplomats in the capital this week, as part of attempts by insurgents to isolate the new, US-backed government.



A US Military chopper flies over the Egyptian embassy in Baghdad on Friday. Reuters

Pakistan's ambassador left the country after his motorcade was shot up on Tuesday. The same day, the envoy from the Gulf Arab state of Bahrain was shot in the hand as he drove to work.

Iraq had said last week that Egypt was planning to become the first Arab state to have a full-ranking ambassador in Baghdad since the

fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003—something Cairo never confirmed. Opposition figures in Egypt said plans to upgrade Sherif's job had led to his death.

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani dismissed suggestions that the attacks on the diplomats in Baghdad would further discourage the dispatch of emissaries from Arab capitals:

"It will have no effect," he said late on Thursday during a visit to the Shi'ite religious establishment in Najaf.

"Two countries, Syria and Jordan, have asked to reopen their embassies in Iraq. For our part, we will take strict security precautions to protect embassies and diplomatic residences."

Iraq's Defence Minister signed a military cooperation agreement with Tehran on Thursday, a move that is unlikely to have helped dispel widespread Arab disquiet about the government's sectarian ties to Shi'ite, non-Arab Iran.

Washington, at daggers drawn with Tehran, has not commented.

Iraq's Al Qaeda group, led by Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, announced Sherif's death in a web statement: "We Al Qaeda in Iraq announce that the judgment of God has been implemented against the ambassador of the infidels ... Oh enemy of God, Ihab el-Sherif, this is your punishment in this life."

The Egyptian Presidency said Sherif "lost his life at the hands of terrorism which trades in Islam".

An Egyptian diplomatic source said Egypt had confirmation of the killing "through multiple contacts" but had not received decisive evidence and did not know where Sherif's body might be.

Iraq's interior minister made veiled accusations that Sherif had been in contact with Iraqi insurgents, which had cost him his life. Sherif's ministry said his job was to meet people from all sections of Iraqi society. —Reuters

London's lesson

5/8 9/11
US, Britain must re-assess strategy

While the blasts in London claimed fewer lives than the attacks on the World Trade Tower, they are as audacious if not more so. The New York attacks came when the world was largely unprepared and to that extent naïve. Now, four years later, post 9/11, Bali and Madrid, the world and Europe live generally in a heightened state of security. The blasts occurred at a time the United Kingdom was hosting a G-8 meeting, and by any reasonable calculation security would have been stepped up. Yet terrorists were able to strike, and target the London tube and double-decker bus, both icons of the British capital. Underscoring just how vulnerable urban concentrations are to determined fanatics is the first consequence of the blast.

Two of the areas targeted, Edgware Road and Aldgate, have large concentrations of Muslims. Lebanese and Middle-easterners dominate Edgware Road, while Londoners of Bangladeshi and Pakistani descent can be found in large numbers in the area from Aldgate to Whitechapel. King's Cross and Euston, the other targets, are major transport hubs and see a mish-mash of cultures especially at rush hour. Thus, in each of these places, it would have relatively easy for Islamic terrorists to blend with the crowds. This is likely to be the second consequence of the blasts, to further damage the already fragile multi-cultural fabric of the city. London is a city that thrives on its cultural diversity; to have to view its citizens with suspicion will scar her soul worse than even Hitler's blitzkrieg might have. A divided world is a notion; a divided city is a numbing reality.

While the British political establishment appeared to close ranks in the wake of Thursday's blasts, commentators in mainline London dailies have already laid the blame on Prime Minister Tony Blair and his American-inspired policy on Iraq. Indeed, one respected commentator has gone so far as to draw a parallel between the "collateral damage" of civilian deaths in Iraq as a consequence of Anglo-American aggression and the "barbaric terrorism" unleashed in London.

The voice of public opinion, never as unabashedly jingoistic in Britain as it was in parts of America, is likely to get more critical in coming days and may well force Blair to re-evaluate the political expediency of supporting President George Bush in Iraq. The Spaniards backed off from an unjust engagement, and Britain may well have to do the same. Blair is a politician, and while he will need to make the right noises to suggest that the British lion is as fierce as before, he will also have to consider that his majority in Parliament has been hugely reduced and that his support within the Labour party is no longer unconditional. The rules of engagement have been rewritten; the United States and Britain will have to re-assess their positions.

THE STATESMAN

Timer blasts, not suicide groups: Expert

DON Van Natta Jr
and ELAINE Sciolino
London, July 8

INVESTIGATORS SAID the three bombs used in the London tube were apparently detonated by timers, not suicide bombers, and that a fourth device may have been intended for a target other than the double-decker bus that it destroyed.

American intelligence officials said they had begun a detailed review of data gathered in recent weeks to search for possible clues. "Everybody's going back and looking over their reporting to see if we overlooked anything or failed to share it," a senior intelligence official said.

Counter-terrorism officers in London said they were still trying to determine the type of explosives that were used. One officer speculated that the No 30 bus was demolished accidentally by a suicide bomber. But another theory gaining momentum was that the bomb exploded prematurely as a bomber was carrying it to an intended target, several American and British counter-terrorism officers said.

They said the three subway bombs appeared to have been detonated by timers, not cellphones or other remote triggers. The bombs on the trains were believed to be package bombs and may have been left by the attackers who fled before they went off.

Officers refused to confirm or deny reports that two unexploded package bombs were recovered from trains. A senior American intelligence official said the British had conducted "at least one controlled explosion" of a suspicious package found after the attacks, but he said he could not confirm that the package was another bomb.

Officers have said they worried that the prime target was the 142-year-old Underground, the world's busiest subway system, which ferries three million people each day. "The explosions were designed to elicit panic among the people," said Gen Hamidou Laanigri, Morocco's chief of security. "That is always the logic of terrorism: to get the maximum attention and impact."

Senior police officers immedi-



Forensic experts search for clues among the debris left by one of the explosions.

ately drew parallels between the London bombings and the ones that struck commuter trains in Madrid 16 months ago, which were carried out by a Qaida-inspired cell.

The bombings in Madrid and London were separated by 16 months, and those in Madrid were set off by cellphones. But the attacks bear eerie similarities and grim lessons for counter-terrorism officers.

"Madrid carried terror to the heart of Europe, but we never be-

lieved we would be a lonely, unique case," said Jorge Dezcallar, who was the head of Spain's foreign intelligence service at the time of the Madrid attacks. "We just had the bad luck of being chosen as the first target. London, like Madrid, proves how vulnerable we are."

Like Madrid, the attacks on London were aimed not at symbols of power like Big Ben or Westminster Abbey but at the mundane: ordinary workers making their way to work at the

busiest time of the day. In Madrid, 191 people were killed by the 10 bombs that ripped through four commuter trains during the morning rush hour.

The effect in both cities was to paralyse the ordinary workings of the city. British authorities announced that every inch of every subway train in London would be examined to insure that no more explosives had been planted, just as the Spanish authorities examined every train.

Another similarity is that pol-

itics may have played a role in the timing. Thursday was the first day of the Group of 8 talks, led by Tony Blair at Gleneagles. The bombings in Madrid came three days ahead of a close national election.

Both Spain and Britain sent troops to aid the American-led war in Iraq and the military attack in Afghanistan, although it is not known whether support for American foreign policies played a role in the London attack.

The New York Times

Difficult to verify claim on website

AGENCE-France Presse
London, July 8

THE ORGANISATION of al-Qaida Jihad in Europe, the group claiming responsibility for London's serial blasts, could be part of a complex movement made up of hard-to-infiltrate cells, experts said on Friday.

Nothing is known of the group, and its claim is impossible to verify.

But observers said that in any case, even though it used the name al-Qaida, there was no proof that the group in fact belonged in any way to the network led by Osama bin Laden that is blamed for the September 11, 2001 attacks in the US.

Bin Laden's group was certainly present in European countries, they said — but stressed that it had never been a hierarchical, coherent structure against which it would be easier to fight.

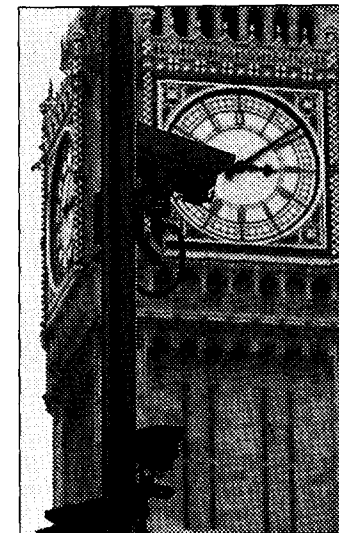
"The main line is that al-Qaida is not really an organisation, but an ideology. So it does not require OBL (Osama bin Laden) or any of his lieutenants to be involved in the activities of any autonomous groups," said Alex Standish, the chief editor of Jane's Intelligence Review.

"There are AQ sympathisers in practically every country on Earth. We have to assume that they are in mainland Europe, in Germany, in France, in Turkey, in Morocco," he said.

"It would be naive to assume that there are no sleeper cells."

Such cells "are impossible to penetrate for the intelligence services" because they count no more than 10 people, all of whom know each other and often share relatives. "Sometimes not even their families know what they are doing," Standish said.

The group believed to have carried out the Madrid train bombings in March last year was based on that model, which law enforcement officers fear most.



Surveillance on the Big Ben.

While extremists who cross borders to train in camps in Afghanistan or Iraq leave traces, even if travelling under false names, those who plot attacks from their apartments in target countries such as Britain leave fewer clues as to their whereabouts and their intent.

"The traditional view was that there were two al-Qaida cells operating in the UK: one was predominantly from North Africa, the other from the Middle East," said Standish.

"Now the prospect with that bombing is that, if it is a third group which is completely unknown to the intelligence services, that would be the real danger, because it's not possible to track these individuals whose existence was unknown," he said.

Another expert, Simon Sole, of a London-based terrorism forecasting company, Exclusive Analysis, wrote in Lloyd's List newsletter that there was "a high likelihood that the perpetrators of the bomb attacks were selected, indoctrinated and trained in their own UK communities."

05 JUL 2005

THE MIDDLETOWN TIMES

Terrorists' strategy is to hit "soft targets"

Duncan Campbell, Richard Norton-Taylor and Conal Urquhart

LONDON: The strategy behind Thursday's attacks was to hit "soft" targets and cause maximum casualties rather than aim for high-profile locations or public figures.

As with the Madrid train attacks, rush-hour commuters were the target, the aim being to cause as many deaths as possible but also to allow the bombers to operate undetected.

There was no immediate indication that suicide bombers were involved.

"There is nothing to suggest anything other than conventional explosives," said Brian Paddick, the deputy assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan police, in response to the question as to whether the dead included Al-Qaeda

members. With about 1,500 police officers and senior security personnel sent to Gleneagles in Scotland, for the G8 summit, there was a shortage of specialist terrorism officers in the British capital. This left 31,000 other Metropolitan police in London, but the bombers would have seen that the police in the capital were stretched.

No bomb warnings were given, a pattern seen also in Istanbul in 2003 when the British consulate and a bank were attacked, and in Bali in 2002, when bombs exploded in a busy nightclub area.

While a few commentators speculated that London had become more of a target after its successful bid to stage the 2012 Olympics, it seems clear that the G8 meeting presented the prime target. The bombings would appear to have

been planned far in advance with a specific date in mind, much in the way that the IRA planned for months before the 1984 Brighton bomb attack which targeted the entire British Cabinet.

Al-Qaeda's method is not to give warnings, nor to claim responsibility at first. While the IRA used to give warnings so that a limited evacuation could take place, Al-Qaeda has always tried to cause as many casualties as possible.

The IRA used a code known to the police to claim responsibility for attacks, but Al-Qaeda's claims have been more difficult to authenticate, not least because a variety of different groups with ever-changing names have made claims.

David Capitanchik, a terrorism expert at Aberdeen University, Scotland, said the rush-hour explosions bore the

hallmarks of Al-Qaeda. "There's no doubt in my mind that this is the work of Al-Qaeda or one of its nodes. They would never target a military base or the G8 summit. They choose the soft targets, ordinary people going about their everyday business, to cause maximum terror."

"Their philosophy is: why attack a tiger when there are so many sheep? We saw this in Bali, in Madrid and, of course, [on] 9/11. Coordinated attacks on a grand scale with ruthless disregard for human life — it's absolutely typical of Al-Qaeda and their allies. They don't even need to use suicide bombers for this type of attack because it's so easy to get on and off a bus or train leaving a bag with explosives behind." — ©Guardian Newspapers Limited 2005

China, Japan offer help to fight terror

P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE: China, Japan, Malaysia and Australia led the way in the wider East Asian region by offering Britain various forms of assistance to fight global terrorism in the aftermath of Thursday's deadly blasts across the London transport network.

Countries across East Asia, including Singapore, host to the ongoing meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) which was attended by several world leaders, have stepped up security alerts and arrangements.

The London blasts, which coincided with the inauguration of an international summit in Scotland, occurred the day after the IOC awarded London the right to host the 2012 Olympics. Friday's IOC session began on a note of remembrance for the blast vic-

tims. Expressing shock over the attacks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said on Thursday night that the global fight against terrorism "remains an arduous task".

Emphasising that "the international community still has a long way to go" in this campaign, Mr. Liu said: "China will continue to enhance cooperation with the international community in this field".

Reaffirming China's opposition to terrorism in any form, he said "anyone who launches terrorist attacks and causes casualties of civilians should be resolutely condemned, regardless of his or her purpose".

Voicing "strong indignation at these [London] terrorist attacks", Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said he was "determined to offer [Britain] a

over th... assistance" to tide
e crisis.

With Japan, a key ally of the United States, strengthening security arrangements at civilian and military-related facilities, including the transport network, the Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told journalists in Tokyo on Friday that "we cannot rule out a possibility that there are terrorists and criminals around us".

Australian Prime Minister John Howard expressed solidarity with "our British friends and allies". V.S. Sambandan

reports from Colombo: The Sri Lankan President, Chandrika Kumaratunga, on Friday expressed her "shock and dismay" over Thursday's terror attacks in London and expressed the conflict-ridden island-nation's solidarity with the victims of the urban bombing in the British capital.

In a message to British premier, Tony Blair, Ms. Kumara-

tunga said: "People of Sri Lanka have suffered immensely as a result of terrorist attacks and we know only too well the devastation that can be caused by terrorists as well as the suffering and agony of the victims and their families." Unreservedly condemning such acts, the Sri Lankan President said, "we share your view that democratic values and the way of life of the civilised world cannot be undermined by terrorism."

The foreign office in Colombo said there were no Sri Lankan victims reported yet in the bomb attacks that shattered normality in Central London on Thursday. The Sri Lankan mission in London has opened hotlines in the British capital to provide or seek information on Sri Lankans. The numbers are: 00442072621841 and 00442072620875

Rethink needed on fighting terror *Remembrance*

A war on world poverty may well do more for the West's security than a war on terror.

Robin Cook

I HAVE rarely seen the House of Commons so full and so silent as when it met on Thursday to hear of the London bombings. A forum that often is raucous and rowdy was solemn and grave. A chamber that normally is a bear pit of partisan emotions was united in shock and sorrow. Even Ian Paisley made a humane plea to the press not to repeat the offence that occurred in Northern Ireland when journalists demanded comment from relatives before they were informed that their loved ones were dead.

The immediate response to such human tragedy must be empathy with the pain of those injured and the grief of those bereaved. We recoil more deeply from loss of life in such an atrocity because we know the unexpected disappearance of partners, children, and parents must be even harder to bear than a natural death. It is sudden, and therefore there is no farewell or preparation for the blow. Across London there are relatives whose pain may be more acute because they never had the chance to offer or hear last words of affection. It is arbitrary and therefore an event that changes whole lives, which turn on the accident of momentary decisions.

But perhaps the loss is hardest to bear because it is so difficult to answer the question why it should have happened. This weekend we will salute the heroism of the generation that defended Britain in the last war. In advance of the commemoration there have been many stories told of the courage of those who risked their lives and sometimes lost their lives to defeat fascism. They provide moving, humbling examples of what the human spirit is capable, but at least the relatives of the men and women who died then knew what they were fighting for. What purpose is there to Thursday's senseless murders? Sometime over the next few days we may be offered a website entry or a video message attempting to justify the impossible, but there is no language that can supply a rational basis for such arbitrary slaughter. The explanation, when it is offered, is likely to rely not on reason but on the declaration of an obsessive fundamentalist identity that leaves no room for pity for victims who do not share that identity.

On Thursday, the Prime Minister described the bombings as an attack on our values as a society. In the next few days we should remember that among those values are tolerance and mutual respect for those from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Only the day before, London was celebrating its coup in winning the Olympic Games, partly through demonstrating to the world the success of our multicultural credentials. Nothing would please better those



REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS: A mourner prays after laying flowers at Kings Cross station, London. —PHOTO: AFP

who planted Thursday's bombs than for the atrocity to breed suspicion and hostility to minorities in our own community. Defeating the terrorists also means defeating their poisonous belief that peoples of different faiths and ethnic origins cannot coexist.

In the absence of anyone else owning up to the crimes, we will be subjected to a spate of articles analysing the threat of militant Islam. Ironically, they will fall in the same week that we recall the tenth anniversary of the massacre at Srebrenica, when the powerful nations of Europe failed to protect 8,000 Muslims from being annihilated in the worst terrorist act in Europe of the past generation.

Osama bin Laden is no more a true representative of Islam than General Mladic, who commanded the Serbian forces, could be held up as an example of Christianity. After all, it is written in the Quran that we were made into different peoples not that we might despise each other, but that we might understand each other.

Osama bin Laden was, though, a product of a monumental miscalculation by Western security agencies. Throughout the 1980s he was armed by the CIA and funded by the Saudis to wage *jihad* against the Russian occupation of Afghanistan. Al-Qaeda, literally "the database," was originally the computer file of the thousands of *mujahideen* who were recruited and trained with help

from the CIA to defeat the Russians. Inexplicably, and with disastrous consequences, it never appears to have occurred to Washington that once Russia was out of the way, Osama bin Laden's organisation would turn its attention to the West.

The danger now is that the West's current response to the terrorist threat compounds that original error. So long as the struggle against terrorism is conceived as a war that can be won by military means, it is doomed to fail.

The more the West emphasises confrontation, the more it silences moderate voices in the Muslim world who want to speak up for cooperation.

Success will only come from isolating the terrorists and denying them support, funds and recruits, which means focussing more on our common ground with the Muslim world than on what divides us.

The G8 summit is not the best-designed forum in which to launch such a dialogue with Muslim countries, as none of them is included in the core membership.

We are not going to address the sense of marginalisation among Muslim countries if we do not make more of an effort to be inclusive of them in the architecture of global governance.

But the G8 does have the opportunity in its communiqué on Friday to give a forceful response to the latest terrorist attack. That

should include a statement of joint resolve to hunt down those who bear responsibility for Thursday's attacks. But it must seize the opportunity to address the wider issues at the root of terrorism.

Eliminating poverty

In particular, it would be perverse if the focus of the G8 on making poverty history was now obscured by the bombings. The breeding grounds of terrorism are to be found in the poverty of back streets, where fundamentalism offers a false, easy sense of pride and identity to young men who feel denied of any hope or any economic opportunity for themselves. A war on world poverty may well do more for the security of the West than a war on terror.

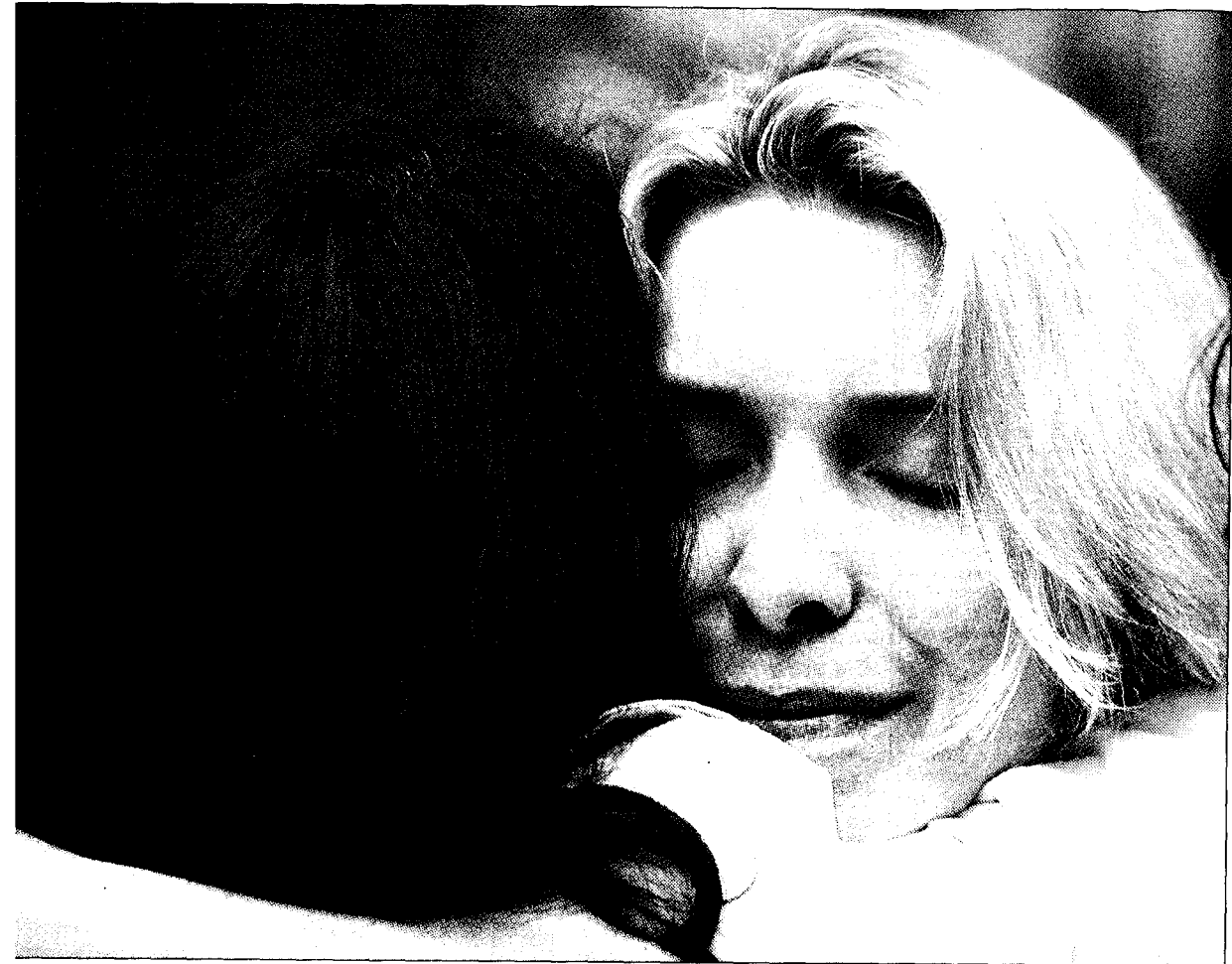
And in the privacy of their extensive suites, Thursday's atrocities should prompt heart-searching among some of those present. President George W. Bush is given to justifying the invasion of Iraq on the grounds that by fighting terrorism abroad, it protects the West from having to fight terrorists at home. Whatever else can be said in defence of the war in Iraq, it cannot be claimed that it has protected us from terrorism on our soil. — ©Guardian Newspapers Limited 2005

(Robin Cook, MP, is a former U.K. Foreign Secretary.)

09 JUL 2005

THE HINDU

ঘাতকের খোঁজে হনো ব্ল্যার



খাঁজ নেই অনেকের। কাতর প্রিয়জনরা। বিস্ফোরণের পবন দিন লন্ডনের ট্যাভিস্টিক স্কোয়ারে। — এ এফ পি

হামলার কায়দা আল কায়দারই, স্বীকার করলেন বিদেশমন্ত্রী

শ্রাবণী বসু • লন্ডন

৮ জুলাই: হু আন্ড হাউ? কারা, কী ভাবে?

কারা বোমা নিয়ে টিউব স্টেশনে ঢুকল? কী ভাবেই বা সেই বোমা ফাটানো হল?

ব্রিটিশ প্রশাসনকে এখন ভূতের মতো তাড়া করে বেড়াচ্ছে এই দুটো প্রশ্ন। পাতাল রেলের সুড়ঙ্গের ভিতরে চলছে অনুসন্ধান-অভিযান। ভাঙাচোরা কামরার মধ্যে আটকে থাকা মৃতদেহ আর বিস্ফোরকের তল্লাশি।

লন্ডনের পুলিশ-প্রধান ইয়ান ব্ল্যার সাফ জানাচ্ছেন, জঙ্গিদের একটি 'সেল' দেশের মধ্যে সক্রিয় রয়েছে। লন্ডনের উপরে হামলা শুধু লন্ডন নয়, সার্বিক ভাবে জাতীয় নিরাপত্তার উপরেই এক বিরাট আঘাত। পুলিশের ধারণা, আত্মঘাতী হামলা নয়। বিস্ফোরণ ঘটানো হয়েছে কোনও টাইমারের সাহায্যে। নিজেদের মধ্যে সংযোগ রেখে কাজ করছিল জঙ্গিদের একটি দল। জঙ্গিরা যদি এখনও আশেপাশেই থেকে থাকে, তাতে অবাধ হওয়ার কিছু নেই। অদূর ভবিষ্যতে আরও হামলা যে হবে না, নিশ্চিত করে বলা যাচ্ছে না তা-ও। সুত্রের খোঁজে মরিয়া পুলিশ জনগণের কাছেও তথ্য চেয়ে আবেদন রেখেছে।

স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী চার্লস ক্লার্ক আজ রেডিওতে বলেন, "আরও হামলার সম্ভাবনার ব্যাপারে সাবধান থাকতে হবে। সেই জন্যই এখন আমাদের প্রধান প্রয়াস, হামলাকারীদের শনাক্ত করা।"

শনাক্ত করা অবধি অবশ্য অপেক্ষা করেননি ব্রিটেনের বিদেশমন্ত্রী। টনি ব্ল্যার থেকে শুরু করে ব্রিটেনের পুলিশ-কর্তারা গত কাল কেউই কিন্তু এক বারও সরাসরি আল কায়দার দিকে আঙুল তোলেননি। অথচ আজ বিদেশমন্ত্রী জ্যাক স্ট্র রাখটাক না করেই বলেছেন, "বিস্ফোরণের কায়দাকানুন আল কায়দার যোগসাজশই ইস্তিত করছে।" কাল একটি ওয়েবসাইটে "ইউরোপে আল কায়দার গুপ্ত সংগঠন" বলে পরিচয় দিয়ে একটি গোষ্ঠী হামলার দায় স্বীকার করেইছিল। সেটি আসল কি না, দেখা হচ্ছে তা-ও। বিশেষজ্ঞেরা বলছেন, ওয়েবসাইটের ভাষ্যটি নেহাতই কাঁচা হাতের কাজ। এমনকী, মুজাহিদিন বানানটিও ভুল। ফলে, এমন হতেই পারে যে, কোনও ছোটখাটো সংগঠন আল কায়দার নাম করে খানিকটা জাতে উঠতে চাইছে।

তবে এ কথাও ঠিক, ওসামা বিন লাদেনের আল কায়দা কোনও একক দৃঢ়বদ্ধ সংগঠন নয়। বরং বিশ্বের নানা প্রান্তে বিভিন্ন জেহাদি গোষ্ঠী আল কায়দার ছাতার তলাতেই সক্রিয়।

আল কায়দার যোগসাজশ নিয়ে সামান্য সংশয় থাকলেও এ ব্যাপারে সন্দেহ নেই যে, হতের সংখ্যা বাড়ছে। সরকারি হিসাবেই নিহতের সংখ্যা এখন ৫০ ছাড়াচ্ছে। তার উপরে রাসেল স্কোয়ারে অক্রান্ত ট্রেনটির মধ্যে এখনও বহু মৃতদেহ আটকে রয়েছে। ফলে, সব মিলিয়ে সংখ্যাটা বেড়ে ১০০-র কাছে পৌঁছতে পারে বলে আশঙ্কা করা হচ্ছে। অনুমান, সাড়ে চার কিলো ওজনের বোমাগুলো ছিল ট্রেনের মেঝেতে। লিভারপুল-অল্ডগেটের ট্রেনে বিস্ফোরণ ঘটে সুড়ঙ্গের ৯২ মিটার

ভিতরে। তৃতীয় কামরায়। কিংস ক্রস-রাসেল স্কোয়ারের ট্রেনে প্রথম কামরা এবং এজওয়ার রোডেরটিতে দ্বিতীয় কামরার প্রথম দরজার কাছে।

ট্যাভিস্টিক স্কোয়ারের যে বাসে বিস্ফোরণে অস্তিত ১৩ জনের মৃত্যু হয়েছে, সেটির ঠিক কোথায় বিস্ফোরক ছিল—মেঝেতে, না আসনের উপরে তা জানা যায়নি। সন্দেহ করা হচ্ছে, এই বোমাটিও হয়তো আর একটি টিউব-স্টেশনে বিস্ফোরণের জন্য নিয়ে যাওয়া হচ্ছিল। কিন্তু আগেভাগেই তা ফেটে যায়। আর একটি তত্ত্ব, এটি আত্মঘাতী হামলা হতে পারে। কিছুই এখনও স্পষ্ট নয়। ইতিমধ্যে রাসেল স্কোয়ারের কাছে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত ট্রেনটির ভিতরে পৌঁছানোর চেষ্টা চলছে। কিন্তু যে কোনও মুহূর্তে সুড়ঙ্গের ছাদ ভেঙে পড়তে পারে, বা

লুকনো বিস্ফোরক ফেটে পড়তে পারে বলে আশঙ্কা। অন্ধকার আর 'কুট গন্ধে' ভরা ওই এলাকায় মৃতদেহ উদ্ধার আর সূত্র খুঁজতে হিমশিম পুলিশ। তাদের সাহায্য করতে ইউরোপোল-এর পাশাপাশি স্পেন থেকে আসছেন তদন্তকারীরা। মাদ্রিদের ট্রেনে গত বছরই আল কায়দার বিস্ফোরণে ১৯১ জনের মৃত্যু হয়। মাদ্রিদে মোবাইল ফোনকে 'টাইমার' হিসাবে ব্যবহার করা হয়। এখানে তেমন প্রমাণ না-মিললেও ঘটনার সময় লন্ডনে মোবাইলে আদান-প্রদান হওয়া যাবতীয় কল ও মেসেজ পরীক্ষা করে দেখা হচ্ছে।

এই কাটাছাঁড়ার মধ্যেই আজ হাসপাতালে আহতদের অনেককে দেখে এসেছেন রানি এলিজাবেথ।

৯/১১-র পর থেকেই সম্ভাব্য জঙ্গি হামলা নিয়ে সতর্ক থেকেছে ব্রিটেন। কিন্তু জি-৮ সম্মেলনের সময়টি যে আলাদা করে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ হয়ে উঠতে পারে, তেমন খবর গোয়েন্দাদের কাছে ছিল না। ক্লার্ক অবশ্য মাসখানেক আগে নিরাপত্তা-সতর্কতা এক ধাপ নামানো হয়েছিল কেন, তা নিয়ে বেশি মাথা ঘামাতে নারাজ। উচ্চ-সতর্কতা ঘোষণা করলেই, বিস্ফোরণ এড়ানো যেত, এমনও মনে করছেন না তিনি।

ওঁদের আশঙ্কা, ব্রিটেনের অভ্যন্তরেই নবীন প্রজন্মের শিক্ষিত সংখ্যালঘুদের মধ্যে জেহাদি মনোভাব মাথা চাড়া দিচ্ছে। অন্য দিকে উত্তর আফ্রিকার দেশগুলোতেও ব্রিটেন-বিরোধী মনোভাব দানা বাঁধছে। ফলে ব্রিটেনে যেমন বাইরে থেকে জেহাদিরা আসছে, তেমন ব্রিটেন থেকেও অনেকে আফগানিস্তান বা ইরাকে গেরিলাদের সঙ্গে যোগ দিচ্ছে। এরা জীবন বিপন্ন করেও আক্রমণ চালাতে পিছপা নয়।

তবে এর পরে টিউব রেলের নিরাপত্তা নিয়ে নতুন করে ভাবনাচিন্তা শুরু হতে চলেছে। যাত্রীদের জন্য অত্যাধুনিক 'বডি স্ক্যানার' বসানোর কথা ভাবা হচ্ছে। তাতে পোশাকে লুকনো বিস্ফোরকও ধরা পড়বে। কিন্তু তাতে কি যাত্রীদের শালীনতায় হাত পড়বে না? তার জন্যও ব্যবস্থা রাখা হবে, আশ্বস্ত করছেন সাইমন স্ট্রিংগার, ভারপ্রাপ্ত সংস্থার প্রধান। তা ছাড়া যেখানে জীবন নিয়ে টানটানি, সেখানে যুটবামেলা পোয়াতে হবে বই কি! দেড় বছরে ২৭০টি স্টেশনে বডি স্ক্যানার বসানোর পরিকল্পনা রয়েছে। কিন্তু আট হাজার বাসের কী হবে? তার আশু সমাধান এখনও দূর অস্ত।

হামলার হুমকি রোমেও, সতর্ক পশ্চিমী দুনিয়া

ওয়াশিংটন, ৮ জুলাই: লন্ডনের পরে এ বার কি রোম? নিজেদের আল কায়দার সহযোগী দাবি করে 'জেহাদ ইন দ্য আরব পেনিনসুলা' নামে এক জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠী হুমকি দিয়েছে, আমেরিকাকে ইরাক যুদ্ধে মদত দেওয়ার জন্য শীঘ্রই তারা রোমে হামলা চালাবে।

এক ইসলামি ওয়েবসাইটে পাঠানো বার্তায় এই জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠী জানিয়েছে, "বিধর্মীদের রাজধানী রোমকে সতর্ক করে দিচ্ছি, জেহাদিরা শত্রুদের উপর হামলা করতে প্রস্তুত।" কালকের বিস্ফোরণের জন্য মুজাহিদের অভিনন্দন জানিয়ে সেই বার্তায় বলা হয়েছে, "আল্লাহ কুপায় তাঁরা লন্ডনে চারটি বিস্ফোরণ ঘটাতো সক্ষম হয়েছেন।" লন্ডনে বিস্ফোরণের পরে গোটা পশ্চিমী দুনিয়াই নড়েচড়ে বসেছে। তার উপরে ওয়েবসাইটের এই বার্তা অনেককেই শঙ্কিত করে তুলেছে। যদিও ওসামা বিন লাদেন বা তাঁর ঘনিষ্ঠ সহযোগীরা যে ওয়েবসাইটে বার্তা দেন, এটি তা নয়। এই জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠীর আদৌ অস্তিত্ব আছে কি না, গোয়েন্দারা তা তদন্ত করছেন। কিন্তু ইরাক যুদ্ধে আমেরিকার সহযোগী ব্রিটেনের পরে এ বার আর এক সহযোগী ইতালিকে ভুগতে হবে কি না, সেই আতঙ্কও সরকারি কর্তাদের ছাড়ছে না।

লন্ডনে বিস্ফোরণ আমেরিকাকে এতটাই ফের চিন্তিত করে তুলেছে যে তড়িঘড়ি কালই অভ্যন্তরীণ নিরাপত্তা বিভাগের কর্তার সঙ্গে স্টল্যান্ড থেকে 'ভিডিও কনফারেন্স' করেন প্রেসিডেন্ট বুশ। তার পরেই নিরাপত্তা বিভাগের শীর্ষ কর্তারা আমেরিকায় সতর্কতার মাত্রা 'কমলা' করে দেন, যা সর্বোচ্চ নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থার থেকে মাত্র এক ধাপ নীচে। জি-৮-এর শীর্ষ বৈঠকে অংশ নিতে স্টল্যান্ডে গিয়েছেন জর্জ বুশ। বিস্ফোরণের পরে তাঁর মন্তব্য, "সন্ত্রাসবাদের বিরুদ্ধে যুদ্ধ আমাদের চালিয়ে যেতে হবে।" হোয়াইট হাউস সুত্রের খবর, আমেরিকার নিরাপত্তা বিভাগের বিভিন্ন শীর্ষ কর্তার সঙ্গে ভিডিও কনফারেন্সের মাধ্যমে নিয়মিতই যোগাযোগ রাখছেন প্রেসিডেন্ট।

আমেরিকার অভ্যন্তরীণ নিরাপত্তা বিভাগের কর্তা মাইকেল শেরটফ জানান, পরিবহণ ব্যবস্থার উপরেই বিশেষ জোর দেওয়া হচ্ছে। ওয়াশিংটন ও নিউ ইয়র্কের বেশ কয়েকটি ব্যস্ত মেট্রো স্টেশনে আজ সকাল থেকেই গোয়েন্দা-কুকুর নিয়ে তল্লাশি চালানো হয়। আমেরিকার নিরাপত্তা খাতে বরাদ্দ ৫০০ কোটি

এর পর পাঁচের পাতায়

হামলার হুমকি রোমেও

প্রথম পাতার পর

ডলারের ৮৪ শতাংশই বায় হয় বিমানবন্দরে। কিন্তু আকাশপথের যাত্রীর ৩০ গুণ ট্রেন, মেট্রো বা বাসে যাতায়াত করলেও সাধারণ পরিবহনে নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থার দিকে বিশেষ নজর দেওয়া হয় না। এ দিকে, লন্ডনের ঘটনা সম্পর্কে মার্কিন সঙ্কাস-বিশেষজ্ঞদের সন্দেহ, আল কায়দার নেতা আবু মুসাব আল-জারকোয়াইয়ের কাছে ইরাকে প্রশিক্ষণ নিয়ে ইউরোপে ফিরে আসা জঙ্গিরা ওই বিস্ফোরণ ঘটিয়ে থাকতে পারে। লাদেন এ জন্য জারকোয়াইকে প্রয়োজনীয় নির্দেশ দিয়েছিলেন বলে তাঁদের ধারণা।

ফ্রাঙ্ক, ইতালি, জার্মানি ও রাশিয়ার বড় বড় শহরের নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা, বিশেষত পরিবহণ ব্যবস্থার উপরেও কড়া নজরদারি রাখা হচ্ছে। সীমান্তে নিরাপত্তায় বিশেষ জোর দিচ্ছে ফ্রাঙ্ক। স্বরাষ্ট্র, প্রতিরক্ষা ও বিদেশমন্ত্রীর সঙ্গে বৈঠকের পরে প্রধানমন্ত্রী দোমিনিক দ্য

ভিলেপ্যাঁ জানান, ইংলিশ চ্যানেল দিয়ে পারাপারের উপরে বিশেষ নজর রাখা হয়েছে। সেখানে নজরদারির জন্য সেনাসংখ্যা প্রায় চার গুণ বাড়িয়ে ১১০০ করা হয়েছে। বিশেষ নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা হিসেবে 'বৈদ্যুতিন পাসপোর্ট' চালু করার কথা ভাবছে জার্মানি।

নতুন করে শঙ্কিত জাপানও। ১৯৯৫ সালে টোকিওর সাবওয়েতে এক বিস্ফোরিত গ্যাস হামলায় ১২ মারা গিয়েছিলেন, অসুস্থ হয়ে পড়েছিলেন পাঁচ হাজারেরও বেশি। লন্ডনের বিস্ফোরণের পরে আজ জাপানের পুলিশ, পরিবহণ ও প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রীরা বৈঠকে বসে দেশের নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থার পর্যালোচনা করেন। প্রতিটি শহরে দূতাবাস এবং পরিবহণ ব্যবস্থায় প্রহরা বাড়ানো হয়েছে। টোকিওয় মেট্রোর প্রতিটি স্টেশনে প্রচুর পুলিশ মোতায়েন করা হয়েছে। সতর্কতামূলক ব্যবস্থা হিসেবে স্টেশনের সব জঞ্জালের টিন সরিয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে। — রয়টার্স

০৯ JUL ২০০৫

ANADABAZAR PATEIKA

Serial blasts throw London into chaos

The mood in the city was sombre and subdued, but there was little sign of outright panic

LONDON: Buses had to be used as ambulances. An emergency medical station was set up at a hotel. Rescue workers, police and ordinary people streamed into the streets to help.

Nearly simultaneous blasts on three subway trains and a double-decker bus brought chaos to the streets of London on Thursday.

Ambulances sped from the wreckage of the bus torn apart by a blast near central London's Russell Square.

Mangled remains

Its mangled upper deck was open to the sky and debris littered the street. The facade of a nearby building was blackened and scarred by shrapnel.

"I could see the bus with the roof ripped off and one side peeled down," said Jenny Gimpel, who was on her way to work when she saw the blasted bus. "It looked absolutely horrific."

Just a day before, London had been basking in the glory of winning the 2012 Olympic Games, with wild celebrations on Trafalgar Square. On Thursday, an eerie quiet had taken hold in some parts of the city.

"Yesterday we were quite glad that we got the Olympic bid," said Arvind Mavji, a transport worker at Euston Station, near the site of the Russell Square bus blast. "Today we are wondering if it was worth it."

Buses were pressed into ser-

vice as ambulances as dozens of casualties were taken to hospitals. At the scene of several blasts, specialist emergency workers in orange biochemical suits searched for evidence of biological, chemical or nuclear agents.

At the London Hospital, a medic pumped the chest of a man who lay on a stretcher, clothes ripped and body blackened.

"There was an explosion and the flash of flames down the side of the train," said Derek Price (55), who was on a subway train near Liverpool Street station. "It was all very quick — a loud bang happened in a matter of seconds."

Emergency workers set up a medical command post in a Hilton hotel near Edgware Road subway station, where an explosion ripped through a crowded train.

Deep underground, a Swedish woman riding the subway toward the station said she heard the blast behind her train.

"The car quickly filled with smoke and a lot of people used their umbrellas to try to break the windows so that we could get air. A mother with her two small children sat next to me and cried desperately."

When passengers were evacuated, there were body parts scattered around them, she said.

American Sean Barron (20), said he helped treat the wound-

ed at Edgware Road station.

"One gentleman told me that the floor of the train he was on was blown out, it was just gone. I believe another gentleman was ejected from the train".

Gary Lewis (32), was evacuated from a subway train at King's Cross station and described a scene of panic as medics tended to casualties brought to a ticket hall.

"People were covered in black soot and smoke. People were running everywhere and screaming. It was chaos," he said.

"The one haunting image was someone whose face was totally black and pouring with blood."

Subways shut down

As police shut down subways and buses across the city, central London streets became all but empty of traffic. Some commuters tried to make their way to work or home on foot.

Groups gathered around corner shops with televisions, watching in silence pictures of a mangled red bus.

The mood was sombre and subdued, but there was little outright panic. People tried to call loved ones on cell phones, and many loaned their phones so strangers could make calls.

Many tourists in central London were caught up in the blasts.

"I think these were terrorists. They were successful," said Nadia Ivanova from Bulgaria. — AP

London under siege

The threat is global and it demands

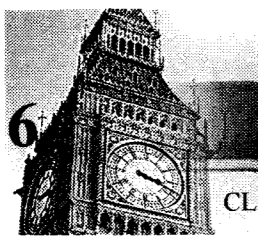
a global response

877
THE contrast could not have been sharper. The jubilation that had greeted London's successful bid for the 2012 Olympic Games was replaced — in just a few short hours — by mass panic and terror as a series of calibrated blasts tore through London's lifeline, its transport system. The two conflicting images of a City Energised and a City Under Siege demand a moment of pause. Together they appear to convey a contemporary truism — that the promise and delights of ordinary life will prove elusive unless they are immured against the threat of incandescent terror.

London, as one of the world's most powerful capitals and a hub for international finance, was long under threat. As city after city came under terror attacks — Moscow, Madrid, Istanbul, Jakarta, New Delhi — London held its breath. On Thursday morning, the inevitable happened. The timing of the attack was too pat to be a coincidence. This was nothing more than a direct message to the G8 nations assembled at Gleneagles that the phantom still walks amidst them. Tony Blair acknowledged this and was direct in his recognition of the challenge before him when he told

his audience there that "our determination to defend our values is greater than theirs to impose extremism... whatever they do, it is our determination that they will never succeed." But how this can be done is the issue that has been agitating minds ever since that earlier fateful morning of September 11, 2001.

The problem of defeating terror lies in its very fluidity. Terrorists can cross national borders, work in tandem, lie in wait for the right moment to strike, meticulously perpetrate their damage, and then melt into the scenery. These forces mean business, they cannot be allowed to get away each time. Their asymmetric skill to perpetrate discrete acts of terror demands a new alertness and a new intelligence from the international community. But, first, they need to be isolated from civilised society. Groups like the Al-Qaeda portray themselves as defenders of Islam. But in actual fact they represent everything that is contrary to Islamic law and teaching. This recognition that terrorism — and its conscious targeting of ordinary people — represents an absolute evil, that is contrary to everything that civilised society values, should be the basis for the world's response.



How the terror unfolded

08.49: An incident on the Metropolitan Line between Liverpool Street and Aldgate reported

09.15: Emergency services called to Liverpool Street Station after reports of an explosion

09.24: Transport police apprehend a collision between two trains, power cut or a power cable explosion

09.33: Passengers are told Underground services are suspended due to power fault across the network

09.33: Another incident at Edgware Road station reported

09.40: Police say power surge incidents have occurred on the Underground at Aldgate, Edgware Road, King's Cross, Old Street and Russell Square stations

10.02: Scotland Yard says it is dealing with a "major incident"

10.08: Witness Christina Lawrence, on a train leaving King's Cross, says: "There was a loud bang in the tunnel... and all of a sudden the train was filled with black, gassy smoke..."

10.14: Another eyewitness says a bus has been ripped apart in central London

10.21: Scotland Yard reports "multiple explosions" in London

10.23: A blast on a bus in Tavistock Place

10.25: 10 Downing Street is "still unsure" if the explosions are a terrorist attack

10.49: Police say there are serious casualties, but no deaths are confirmed

10.53: Home secretary Charles Clarke speaks of "dreadful incidents" and advises the public not to make unnecessary journeys

10.55: A doctor reports at least 90 casualties at Aldgate station

11.18: Metropolitan police commissioner Ian Blair confirms "about six explosions" and advises Londoners to "stay where you are". Refuses to confirm any casualty

11.26: European Parliament President Josep Borrell blames terrorism for a "co-ordinated series of attacks" and "confirmed deaths"

11.30: Signs on major roads into London warn: "Avoid London. Area closed. Turn on radio"

12.00: Israeli embassy placed under emergency amid reports of all phone lines being down

12.05: Bishop of London Richard Chartres says: "This is a grave day for London"

12.05: Tony Blair, at the G8 summit in Scotland, says: "It is reasonably clear this is designed and timed to coincide with the opening of the G8"

12.10: BBC locates a website linked to al Qaeda with a statement claiming responsibility

(All times in British Summer Time (BST), which is four-and-a-half hours behind IST)

Blasts in Britain, Africa hit

BHARAT BHUSHAN

Gleneagles (Scotland), July 7: The co-ordinated terrorist attacks on several locations on London's transport network virtually blew the G8 summit away. Perhaps that was the real target of the terrorists.

The excitement of the morning about the outcome of the deliberations on debt relief to Africa and action on climate change unexpectedly gave way by the forenoon to shock and horror at the tragedy unfolding in London.

As the enormity of the terrorist attack sank in, the G8 leaders gathered before cameras in a show of solidarity with Britain. While Prime Minister Tony Blair announced his decision to leave the summit midway, others vowed to continue their deliberations and said they were united in their resolve to defeat terrorism.

"We condemn utterly these barbaric attacks," they said in a joint statement read fittingly on their behalf by Blair before departing for London. "This is not an attack on one nation but on all nations and on all civilised people everywhere," they declared.

"We shall prevail. They shall not," Blair said. He claimed that the bombings in London would not weaken the resolve of the world leaders to protect their deeply held beliefs.

US President George W. Bush condemned the attacks, saying the blasts showed that the war on terror must continue. "We will find them and we will bring them to justice," he vowed.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said such incidents show that "global terrorism does not recognise international boundaries". He, therefore, underlined the need for international cooperation to counter terrorism.

What has happened in London, Singh said, "underscores our contention that terrorism is a global scourge that needs to be tackled with concerted efforts". He recalled how only a couple of days ago India, too, had experienced a major terrorist attack.

The day had begun fairly well for Blair as he and Bush discussed the prospects of a pact on climate change. But soon after his meeting with Bush, Blair received the first indications of what had happened in London. His aides kept

It is particularly barbaric that this has happened on a day we were discussing poverty: Blair

US on alert, but no sign of panic



Tony Blair waits for other G8 leaders as reports of the London blasts reach Gleneagles on Thursday. (Reuters)

Washington, July 7 (Reuters): The US government raised the terrorism alert level for buses, subways and trains today in the wake of deadly bombings in London but said it expected no similar attack in America.

Federal officials said they were promptly in contact with local authorities and commuters were urged to be alert after the series of explosions rocked London, killing several people.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said it was an apparent terrorist attack coinciding with a meeting of G8 leaders in Scotland.

US President George W. Bush was in Scotland for the G8 session (in AFP picture) and said he directed homeland



goes on — George W. Bush

security officials to be extra vigilant as Americans headed to work. Vice-president Dick Cheney was at his ranch in Wyoming.

"The war on terror goes on," Bush said.

But initial reaction in US cities had been muted.

After first issuing a statement that US officials had no indication of a similar attack in the country, homeland security secretary Michael Chertoff hours later announced a hike in the terror alert level to high, or orange, for the railway and subway systems. The alert level was also raised for intra-city bus lines.

While US stocks slid on word of the attacks, operations in the capital proceeded largely without interruption with no extraordinary measures taken before the alert level was raised for transportation systems. The alert did not affect airports.

Treasury in a tizzy

The US treasury department sounded an all-clear after asking those in the treasury building to move away from windows due to the presence of a suspicious vehicle today.

A spokesman said a bomb-sniffing dog had smelled something amiss in the vehicle outside the building, located next door to the White House.

him informed as he prepared to make his televised statement from the Gleneagles Hotel.

As the news of death and chaos poured in, the British Prime Minister was forced to take a decision to leave the G8 summit for London. With utter shock reflecting on his

face, a determined Blair came on television to declare that the terrorists would not succeed in destroying "our values and our way of life".

Blair said it was reasonably clear that the series of blasts were terrorist attacks designed to coincide with the G8

summit. "It is particularly barbaric this has happened on a day when people are meeting to try to help the problems of poverty in Africa and the long-term problems of climate change and the environment."

However, Blair insisted that the deliberations of the G8

summit continue even though he would be away in London. "It is the will of all the leaders of the G8, however, that the meeting should continue in my absence, that we should continue to discuss the issues that we are discussing and reach the conclusions that we

were going to reach," he said.

Since Blair left for London, his bilateral meeting with Singh was cancelled.

The British Prime Minister said each of the countries around the table at the G8 summit "have some experience of the effects of terrorism".

He said all the leaders "shared our complete resolution to defeat this terrorism".

Blair said: "Just as it's reasonably clear this is a series of terrorist attacks, it's also reasonably clear that it is designed and meant to coincide with the G8."

G8 hub loses shine

BHARAT BHUSHAN

Gleneagles, July 7: The dark shadow of terrorism brutally overshadowed the agenda set by the G8 leaders for their annual summit at Scotland's luxury golfing resort here.

World leaders, who had gathered to discuss how to provide debt relief to Africa and involve the emerging economies of the world with problems of climate change, suddenly found themselves thrown off gear by a series of co-ordinated bomb blasts in the British capital.

There was palpable tension in the air. The mood was

sombre but not panicky. The protesters against the G8 summit, who had prompted even the import of policemen from London to Glasgow and Gleneagles, were stunned into silence. Only police sirens and security helicopters hovering over the golf resort signalled a heightened state of security.

The protesters themselves were preparing for more confrontations today. However, their leaders gave a call for desisting from any violent acts.

"The real news development is taking place in London. What are we doing here?" wondered a journalist

at the high-security press centre constructed specially for the G8 summit. Suddenly, those interested in African debt and climate change had turned their attention to the breaking news from London.

Some journalists tried to rush to London. There was a scramble for flights. Those turning back to go to Glasgow airport did not know when or how they would reach London — the air space apparently had been closed for a brief while. But their editors were telling them they were at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Others wondered as the events unfolded whether

they would be able to get into London at night as the entire transport network had been shut down for the day. "Surely, by the evening they will restore some transport links," a French journalist wondered to no one in particular.

As the events unfolded, the horror grew. Initially, the speculation was of power surges having caused a couple of explosions. Then cell-phones started ringing and the television reported that a double-decker bus had been blasted.

Policemen and commandos, dressed in black, joined journalists in front of the television to see live pictures

of the developments in London.

A gutted bus here, reports of another blast there and constantly scrolling of breaking news kept them glued to the TV screens. Only yesterday, the mood was euphoric in Britain — after all traditional rivals France had been pipped at the post for hosting the 2012 Olympic Games. Today's events were a terrible downer.

The rumour that British Prime Minister Tony Blair was to come before TV cameras at noon was soon confirmed as a fact.

The moment Blair appeared, while journalists

with notebooks and tape recorders of varying technological sophistication hung on his every word, others started capturing by posterity the excitement of the moment.

Just as journalists reacted, so did markets across Europe. The FTSE (Financial Times Stock Exchange) 100-share index plummeted by 3.2 per cent. Stock market indices in Germany, Holland and Spain fell by more than three per cent. At 11.40 am, after the news of the explosion spread, in Paris the CAC-40 was down 3.06 per cent at 4,149.04 points after falling as low as 4,123.05.

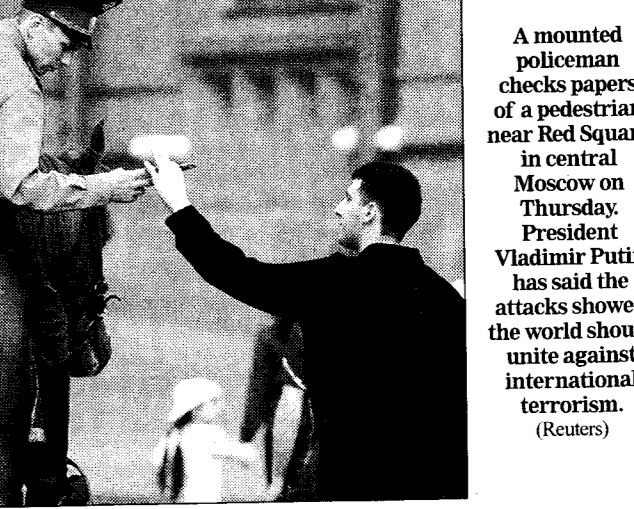
GLENEAGLES VIGIL SPREADS ACROSS THE GLOBE: FROM WASHINGTON TO MOSCOW



Police personnel keep vigil on the area around the Gleneagles Hotel during the G8 summit on Thursday. Leaders of member countries Britain, Russia, France, the US, Japan, Italy, Germany and Canada and guests India, China, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa are gathered at the Scottish golf resort. (AFP)



An officer of the Washington DC Metro Special Response Team patrols the subway on Thursday. Security in Washington was heightened following the attacks in London. (AFP)



A mounted policeman checks papers of a pedestrian near Red Square in central Moscow on Thursday. President Vladimir Putin has said the attacks showed the world should unite against international terrorism. (Reuters)

TERROR STRIKES LONDON

'Half the bus was in the air'



This is not an attack on one nation, but on all nations and on civilised people everywhere
— G8 statement read by Blair

We condemn utterly these barbaric attacks. We are united in our resolve to confront and defeat terrorism
— US President George Bush



I have instructed homeland security to know about the facts of what took place in London and be extra vigilant
— Russian president Putin



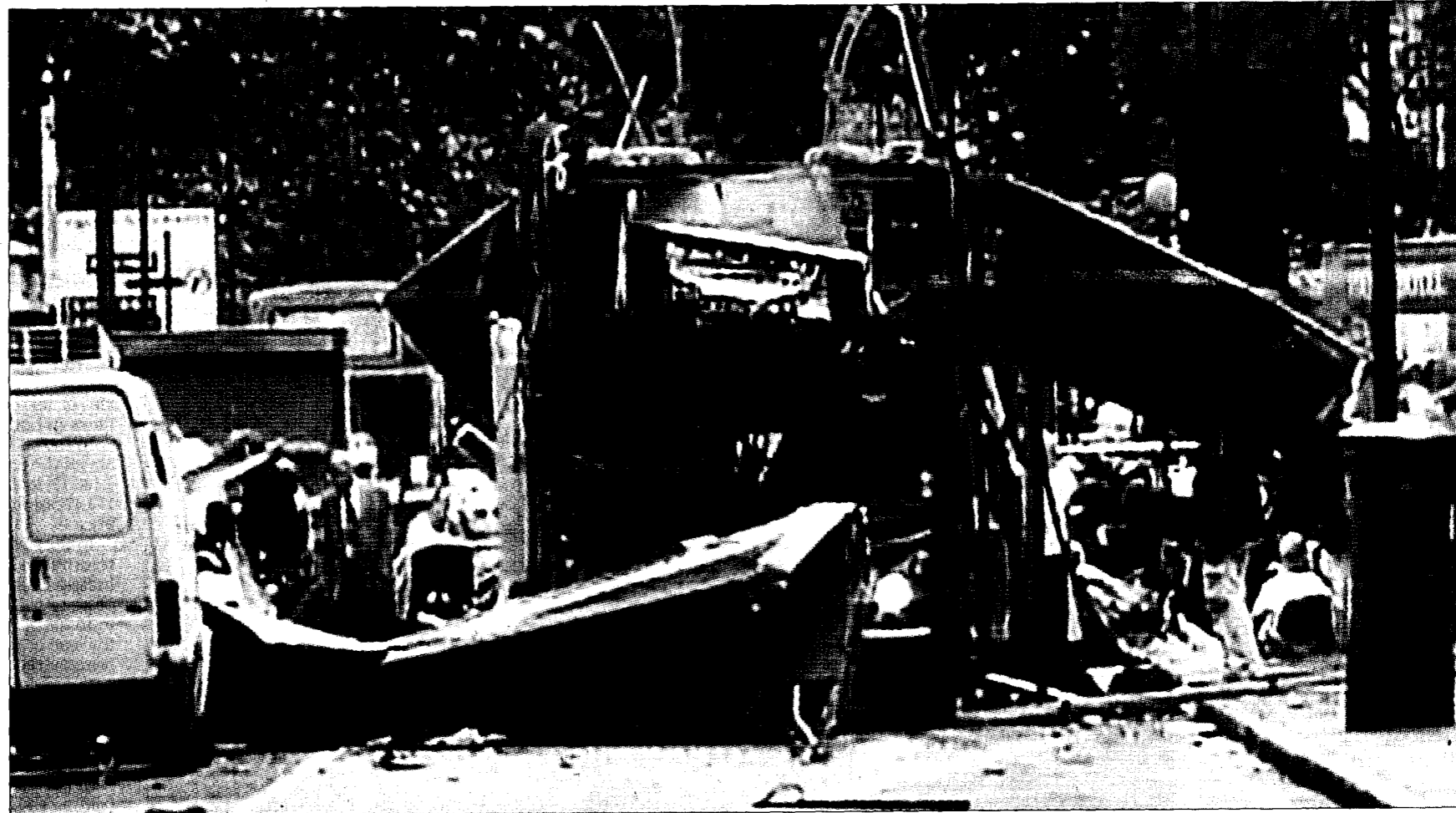
We must unite all civilised countries in the struggle against international terrorism
— Gerhard Schroeder



These incidents show that global terrorism does not recognise boundaries and we all need to work together to counter it
— PM Manmohan Singh



The international community must do everything possible and use all available means to fight terrorism together
— Irish PM Bertie Ahern



A video grab from ITN shows the wreckage of the double-decker bus after the explosion at Tavistock Square blew it to bits on Thursday.

Terror Timeline

- 08.49 Emergency services called to Liverpool Street Station after reports of an explosion between Liverpool Street and Aldgate. Initially reported as a power surge
- 08.50 Police called to Aldgate station in east London
- 09.22 King's Cross, Liverpool Street and Aldgate stations cleared
- 09.31 Underground stations across the capital closed
- 09.33 Another incident at Edgware Road station in northwest London reported
- 09.53 The First Great Western train company announces its services into Paddington station would terminate at Reading in Berkshire because of the crisis
- 10.00 The National Grid, which supplies power to the Underground, said there had been no problems with its system
- 10.13 Union officials said there was a definite blast at Edgware Road and the possibility of two other explosions at King's Cross and Aldgate
- 10.14 A bus is ripped apart in an explosion in central London
- 10.19 Mainline services halted short of London. The Silverlink company, which normally operates into Euston station, terminates trains at Watford Junction in Hertfordshire
- 10.32 Mainline London to Scotland train company GNER said it did not expect its East Coast Main Line services to run as far as London at any time on Thursday
- 11.02 Home Secretary Charles Clarke confirmed that there had been "terrible injuries" in the explosions across London
- 11.24 Mobile networks report delays after a surge in the volume of calls
- 11.30 Police Commissioner Sir Ian Blair said: "We are not aware of any warning at the moment. We have concluded that this is a co-ordinated attack."
- 12.00 Tony Blair says: "It is reasonably clear that there have been a series of terrorist attacks in London."
- 12.05 Standed Express rail service is suspended, although flights to operate normally at Stansted airport in Essex
- 12.16 Emergency services called to Leicester Square underground station
- 12.21 More than 100 casualties and one of the dead were taken to the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel
- 12.45 Superintendent Jon Morgan of the Metropolitan Police said there had been a number of fatalities as well as serious casualties at Edgware Road station. All the dead and injured have been moved from the scene
- 13.01 Al-Qaida terrorists claimed responsibility for the London blasts on an Islamic website and said: "Britain is now burning with fear, terror and panic in its northern, southern, eastern, and western quarters."
- 13.03 Metropolitan Police deputy assistant commissioner Brian Paddick said initial reports were that 150 people had been seriously injured in the blasts

Eyewitnesses in the grip of terror

London, July 7

THREE BLASTS rocked the London Underground during Thursday morning's rush hour and the roof of a bus blew off in another explosion. Here is what eyewitnesses had to say about the blasts:

"I was on the bus in front and heard an incredible bang. I turned round and half the double-decker bus was in the air... It was a massive explosion and half the bus was flying through the air. I think it was the number 205. There must be a lot of people dead as all the buses were packed, they had been turning people away from the tube stops. We were about 20 metres away, that was all."

Belinda Seabrook, who was travelling from Euston to Russell Square in London

"The explosion seemed to be at the back of the bus. The roof flew off and went up about 10 metres. It then floated back down. I shouted at the passengers to get off the bus. They went into Tavistock Park nearby. There were obviously people badly injured. Aman thought a piece of human flesh had landed on his arm."

Raj Martoo, 35, who was standing on a street corner near Tavistock Square.

"I was walking along. There was a whole crowd of people around the bus. The next thing I knew, I was on the floor. There were sheds of glass raining down on us. Someone fell on me and someone else on him. For a moment I thought I was going to be trampled. I picked myself up and everyone was running. There was glass everywhere. We ran into a building and a security guard was saying 'get in, get in'. Then the security guard said 'get out' which was a bit scary."

Eyewitness in Tavistock Place area

"I have been in the military and I've never heard anything like it before. But the whole incident was screened by trees in front of the hotel which may be protected us from any blast."

Chris Gladysz, hotel worker, Tavistock hotel

"I got off the train, walked off about five paces. There was a huge, I mean huge, explosion which appeared to come from the back end of the train or the tunnel. Everybody just froze — what the hell's going on? Then everybody walked out of the station quite calmly... There was no pushing. I went upstairs and got out. It was

then you think how lucky you are."

Michael Searle, had just got off a Circle Line train from Victoria to Liverpool Street

"Everything was normal. Suddenly there was a massive bang, the train jolted. There was immediately smoke everywhere and it was hot and everybody panicked. Everywhere, people started screaming and crying."

BBC worker, Jacqui Head, who was on a Piccadilly Line train at King's Cross

"I was first on the scene at the explosion at Aldgate, all of which has now been evacuated. I was pulling people out of the bus. There are definitely some dead. We are advising people to get off the streets. You are better off in a basement today — anywhere off the street."

Unnamed police officer, Houndsditch Road

"I was on the train and there was a sudden jolt forward... There was a really hard banging from the carriage next door to us after the explosion — that's where it happened. There was a fire beside me. I saw flames outside on the window of my carriage... I saw bodies. I think some people may have died."

Sarah Reid, at Aldgate Agencies



Passengers wrapped in emergency blankets at the site of the bus blast in Tavistock.

Stay-at-home warning for UK Muslims

London, July 7

FEARS THAT Muslims may become the victims of reprisals following Thursday's series of bombings in central London have prompted a warning for them to stay indoors.

Massoud Shadjareh, chairman of the Islamic Human Rights Commission, appealed for calm and condemned the bombings.

He said: "The Islamic Human Rights Commission utterly condemns this attack, but now we appeal that there should be no further victims as a result of reprisals."

There was no immediate confirmation of who was responsible for the attacks, but a claim was made on the al-Qal'ah (Fortress) internet site, by a group calling itself the Secret Organisation Group of al-Qaida of Jihad Organisation in Europe.

Shadjareh said some members of the Muslim community suffered a backlash following the September 11 2001 terror attacks in the US and the Madrid train bombing in March 2004.

He said he was "very concerned about a backlash" and called on British Muslims to "remain vigilant and calm and stay indoors".

He said: "IHRC is advising

BACKLASH FEAR

Muslims not to travel or go out unless necessary, and is particularly concerned that women should not go out alone in this climate.

"In the event of being attacked, IHRC urges victims not to retaliate and to report the matter to the police and appropriate authorities."

Dr Mohammed Naseem, chairman of the Birmingham central Mosque, questioned the advice and said it was "a bit over the top".

Speaking on behalf of the

city's sizeable Muslim community, he said: "We are shocked and condemn without reservation this horrendous atrocity."

"Our hearts and minds go out to the innocent victims of this crime and we offer our condolences."

"We have to ask everybody to be calm and offer the government our support to apprehend the culprits," he said.

But he expressed concern about the potential use of existing anti-terrorism legislation that has been criticised in recent years by the Muslim community.

The government should be open about the evidence it has

against potential suspects and not help foster a "climate of suspicion" about the Muslim community, he said.

"There are dangers that if we work on the basis of suspicions, the harmony between communities will be the first victim of these attacks," he added.

The Muslim News, based in Harrow, Middlesex, unreservedly condemned the bombings in London.

Its editor, Ahmed Versi, said: "We unequivocally condemn these terrorist attacks. We express our deep condolences to the families, relatives and friends of the victims."

Guardian News Service

G8 pledged to protect rail networks in June



Evacuation from Edgware Road.

London, July 7

LESS THAN three weeks ago, G8 ministers had agreed on international co-operation to protect underground and train networks against terrorist attack. A meeting of home affairs and justice ministers from the eight industrialised nations discussed the issue at a Sheffield summit last month.

Britain, the US, Russia, Japan, Canada, Germany, Italy and France said they would unite to research ways to prevent explosions and other terror strikes on transport systems. British home secretary, Charles Clarke, said at the time: "We particularly agreed to work together about underground systems from our different countries to see what can be learned from the different issues that arise."

Russian interior minister Rashid Gumarovich Nurgaliyev said the joint work would encompass both railway and underground networks. No details of the proposed research were announced, and it is unlikely to have even begun in such a short time.

The ministers also agreed to carry out wide-ranging research on how new generations become involved in terrorism. They refused to say whether they would look specifically at whether the US's detention of "enemy combatants" at Guantanamo Bay has played a role in turning other Muslims to extremism.

Asked whether delegates believed the terrorist threat was increasing or was holding stable, Clarke said at the summit: "It is our opinion that the threat from terrorism is changing and

we need to understand that change properly. I don't think there is a single number which can say (it is) growing or going down. It's a question of a changing threat and understanding that threat will be a very important part of how we work together."

On the new programme examining how people turn to terrorism, he said: "The research will go through all possible sources of recruitment for terrorism and analyse from the bottom up how this happens and why it happens. We are not including or excluding any particular issues. There is a wide range of contributory factors which we think need to be taken into account."

Asked whether it would look at Guantanamo Bay, Clarke said: "It's designed to look at issues in the round."

GNS

NIILM School of Business founded by promoters of NIILM Centre for Management Studies (CMS) Which is now counted among India's Top ranking Business Schools in A+ Category

NIILM has entered into an academic exchange program with CASS Graduate School of International Management, Brussels, Belgium/University of Poitiers, Institute of Business Administrative, Poitiers, France.

CASS Offers you a unique option to earn a fully accredited European MBA Degree in addition to NIILM Post Graduate Diploma, on the basis of credit transfer & by attending the final module of the program at CASS/Poitiers.

PGDMMBA Degree
Admission to 3rd Batch (2005-07)

Dual Program: NSB offers 2 years full time Postgraduate Diploma in Management along with a MBA Degree from a UGC recognized Government University. Dual Specialization: NSB offers dual Specialization as Major and Minor in the area of Marketing, HR, Finance, International Business, IT, Media & Healthcare.

Feature Highlights: • Dynamic TLR (teaching-learning-research) systems • Built-in schedules for peripheral skills development • Strong faculty base Strong Linkages with the industry & 100% placement assistance • Rich Library, excellent classrooms, conferencing and cafeteria facilities • State-of-the-art Computer Lab with 24x7 wireless internet (512 kbps) • Meadows, one of the finest residential campuses in the region for both boys & girls. **LAPTOPS FOR ALL STUDENTS**

Visit us at Education World Wide India on 8th, 9th & 10th July, Pragati Maidan, N. Delhi at Hall No. 7, Stall No. 100 B-1/61, MCIE, Delhi Mathura Road, New Delhi-44 Ph: 011-29894544 / 29893859, M: 09312940935, 09350195229 www.niilm.in

রাত পোহাতেই আতঙ্ক নামল উৎসবনগরীতে

শ্রাবণী বসু • লন্ডন

৭ জুলাই: উৎসবের রেশ কাটতে না-কাটতেই ঘোর বিপর্যয়। ঘোরতর আতঙ্ক।

ব্যবধানটা ২৪ ঘণ্টারও নয়। কালকেই ২০১২-র অলিম্পিক ছিনিয়ে নিয়ে যে শহরটা উৎসবে মেতেছিল, আজ সেখানে শুধু আতঙ্ক আর বিহ্বলতা। বিয়ারের ফোয়ারা আর ছল্লোড়কে যেন এক লহমায় গলা টিপে থামিয়ে দিয়েছে কেউ। শহর জুড়ে এখন শুধু রক্ত, ধোঁয়া-ধুলো, ভাঙা গাড়ি আর কংক্রিটের চাঙড়। এবং ভীতি।

অফিসযাত্রীদের ভিড়ে ঠাসা ব্যস্ত সকালে লন্ডনকে আজ দিশাহারা করে দিয়েছে পরপর চারটি বিস্ফোরণ। বিস্ফোরণ ঘটানোর জন্য বেছে নেওয়া হয়েছে লন্ডনের বিখ্যাত টিউব রেল আর যাত্রীবোঝাই দোতলা বাসকে। এখনও পর্যন্ত, ৩৭ জন নিহত, আহত অন্তত ৭০০। তাঁদের মধ্যে ৪৫ জনের অবস্থা আশঙ্কাজনক। হতাহতের সংখ্যা আরও বাড়তে পারে। আল কায়দা-সহযোগী একটি গোষ্ঠী ইতিমধ্যেই এই ঘটনার দায়িত্বও স্বীকার করেছে।

আজই স্কটল্যান্ডে শুরু হয়েছে জি-৮ শীর্ষ সম্মেলন। তার মধ্যে এই আচমকা আঘাতে দৃশ্যতই বিভ্রান্ত হয়ে পড়েন প্রধানমন্ত্রী টনি ব্ল্যার। ঘটনাটিকে 'বর্বরোচিত আক্রমণ' বলে অভিহিত করে কিছুক্ষণের জন্য লন্ডনে ফিরেও আসেন তিনি। তবে সম্মেলন বন্ধ হচ্ছে না। যদিও অলিম্পিক নিয়ে উৎসব স্থগিত রাখা হয়েছে। লন্ডনের মেয়র কেন লিভিংস্টোন এখন অলিম্পিক-বৈঠকের জন্যই সিঙ্গাপুরে। ঘরের মাটিতে এই 'গণহত্যার' খবর বিধবস্ত দেখাচ্ছিল তাকে।

যে ভাবে টেমস-নগরী জুড়ে অল্প সময়ের ব্যবধানে পরপর বিস্ফোরণ হয়েছে, তাতে বিশ্বজুড়ে আল কায়দাকেই সন্দেহ করা হচ্ছিল। ইউরোপে ওসামা বিন লাদেনের 'আল কায়দা'র গুপ্ত সংগঠন বলে পরিচয় দিয়ে একটি গোষ্ঠী ওয়েবসাইটে ঘটনার দায় স্বীকারও করেছে। 'পরিকল্পিত জঙ্গি হানার কথা' বললেও ব্ল্যার কিন্তু সরাসরি 'আল কায়দা'র নাম নেননি। শুধু বলেছেন, "জঙ্গিরা ইসলামের নামে হামলা চালিয়েছে। কিন্তু মুসলিম জনসাধারণের অধিকাংশই শান্তিকামী মানুষ। তাঁরাও আমাদের মতোই সন্ত্রাসের বিরুদ্ধে।" ব্রিটিশ বিদেশমন্ত্রী জ্যাক স্ট্র অবশ্য আরও পরিষ্কার করে বলেছেন, "এই হামলায় আল-কায়দার হাত থাকার চিহ্ন স্পষ্ট। সবটাই খতিয়ে দেখা হচ্ছে।"

ইরাক যুদ্ধের পরে মুসলিম-দুনিয়ায় ব্ল্যার এমনিতেই খুব জনপ্রিয় নন। ব্রিটেনের সংখ্যালঘু নাগরিকদের মধ্যেও বিরাট অংশ মুসলিম। ফলে ব্ল্যারের বিবৃতিতে সতর্কতার ছাপ স্পষ্ট। তাঁকে বলতে হয়েছে, "যা আমাদের কাছে অত্যন্ত দামি, সেটা কখনওই ওরা (জঙ্গিরা) ধ্বংস করতে পারবে না।" স্কটল্যান্ড ইয়ার্ডের ডেপুটি অ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট কমিশনার ব্রায়ান প্যাডিকও বলেন, "ঘটনার দায় নিয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের কাছে কোনও বার্তা আসেনি। ওয়েবসাইটের কথা শুনেছি। কিন্তু তার সত্যতা এখনও পরীক্ষিত নয়।" তবে সরকারি ভাবে আল কায়দার নাম উচ্চারিত হোক বা না হোক, '৯/১১-র

পরে ৭/৭'-এর গল্প লোকমুখে ঘুরছে।

আত্মঘাতী হামলার সম্ভাবনাও উড়িয়ে দেওয়া হচ্ছে না। স্কটল্যান্ড ইয়ার্ডের গোয়েন্দাদের বক্তব্য, শরীরে বোমা বেঁধে কেউ যাত্রী সেজে ট্রেনে উঠলে ঠেকানো মুশকিল। ট্রেনের মধ্যে বিস্ফোরণের ক্ষেত্রে তাই আত্মঘাতী জঙ্গির হাত থাকতেই পারে বলে সন্দেহ করা হচ্ছে।

প্যাডিক জানিয়েছেন, সব মিলিয়ে মোট চারটি বিস্ফোরণ হয়েছে। স্থানীয় সময় সকাল ৮ টা ৫১ মিনিটে প্রথম বিস্ফোরণটি ঘটে লিভারপুল স্ট্রিট-অল্ডগেট-অল্ডগেট ইস্টের চৌহদ্দিতে মেট্রোপলিটান লাইনের একটি চলন্ত ট্রেনে। নিহতের সংখ্যা অন্তত ৭ জন। ৮ টা ৫৬ মিনিটে কিংস ক্রস ও রাসেল স্কোয়ারের মধ্যে দ্বিতীয় বিস্ফোরণ, সেখানে নিহত কমপক্ষে ২১। এজওয়ার রোড স্টেশনের দিকে যাওয়া একটি ট্রেনে তৃতীয় বিস্ফোরণ আরও দুটি ট্রেনকে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত করে। এতে অন্তত ৫ জন মারা যান। অর্থাৎ তিনটি বিস্ফোরণই ঘটে যায় আধ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে। আবার, তার আধ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে, ৯ টা ৪৭ মিনিটে আপার উডবার্ন প্লেসে, ট্যাভিস্টক স্কোয়ারে বিস্ফোরণ হয় একটি দোতলা বাসে। সেখানে নিহতের সংখ্যা এখনও স্পষ্ট নয়। বস্তুত হতাহতের কোনও হিসাবই এখনও চূড়ান্ত নয়।

ইউস্টন এলাকায় এক ট্রেনযাত্রী বিস্ফোরণের পরে রাস্তায় বেরিয়ে এসেছিলেন। একটু পরেই ট্যাভিস্টক স্কোয়ারে তাঁর চোখের সামনেই ফের বাসের বিস্ফোরণটি ঘটে। তিনি শুধু দেখেন, প্রচণ্ড শব্দ করে সামনের বাড়ির একটা অংশ ভেঙে পড়ল। বুঝতে পারেননি, ঘটনাটা বাসে ঘটল, না কি বাড়িটায়। আবার বাসে বসেছিলেন, এক মাঝবয়সী মহিলা। তিনি বলেছেন, "বিকট আওয়াজ। ঘুরে দেখি, পিছনের আসনগুলো আর নেই।" টিউবের যাত্রীরা দেখতে পেয়েছিলেন, জানলার বাইরে একটা সাদা রঙের শিখা আর ফটা জানলার কাচ। ফাঁকুনিতে সকলে ছিটকে পড়েছিলেন আসন থেকে। এক যাত্রীর মোবাইল ক্যামেরায় ধরা পড়েছে, অনেকে নিজেরাই হাত লাগিয়ে ভেঙে দিয়েছিলেন কাচের জানলাগুলো। ফলে, ধোঁয়ায় শ্বাসরোধ হওয়া থেকে অন্তত রেহাই মেলে। আস্তে আস্তে নজরে আসে, কোথাও দুমড়ে গিয়েছে কামরা, উড়ে গিয়েছে ছাদ। একে একে আহত আর অক্ষত সকলেই বেরিয়ে পড়েন। কুলকালি মাখা চেহারাগুলো হাঁটতে থাকে লাইন ধরে।

বস্তুত অল্ডগেট এলাকায় প্রথম বিস্ফোরণটি ঘটানোর পরে বেশ কিছুক্ষণ কেউ বোঝেননি, কী হয়েছে। ভাবা হয়েছিল, বৈদ্যুতিক গোলযোগই হয়তো বিপত্তির কারণ। অস্ফোর্ড সার্কাসে মাইকে ঘোষণা করা হচ্ছিল, 'লন্ডন জুড়ে বৈদ্যুতিক বিভ্রাটে ট্রেন চলাচল বন্ধ রয়েছে।' কিন্তু ক্রমশ অন্য সব বিস্ফোরণের খবর আসতে থাকায় পরিষ্কার হয়ে যায়, এটা নিছক দুর্ঘটনা নয়। রেললাইনে একটি জয়গায় বিস্ফোরকের অবশেষও পাওয়া গিয়েছে। আরও বিস্ফোরণের সম্ভাবনাও উড়িয়ে দেওয়া হচ্ছে না। প্যাডিক জানান, লন্ডনে জঙ্গি হামলার আশঙ্কা কিছু দিন ধরেই ছিল। কিন্তু নির্দিষ্ট তথ্য

এর পর দেশের পাতায়

SUFI COMEBACK THREATENS JEHADI INTERESTS

Now, terror targets Kashmiriyat

Statesman News Service

SRINAGAR, July 6. — A day after the deadly fideen (suicidal) attack on the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, security agencies operating in Kashmir have received inputs that the Pakistan-backed terrorists are intending to target the Sufi culture in the Valley.

With the return of normalcy in Kashmir in the past couple of years, there has been a revival of Sufi culture in the Valley.

Ziarats which were earlier neglected and now being restored and religious activity is on the rise. The region, after a long time, is apparently seeking back its roots in Sufism and in the ideology of Kashmiriyat.

Although security has been beefed up in entire Jammu and Kashmir after yesterday's attack, there has been a further deployment of troops around the Sufi shrines in Kashmir and the temples in

Jammu. In the past, terrorists had targeted the Hazaratbal shrine in the heart of Srinagar city and the 600-year-old Sufi Shrine of Nund Rishi at Charar-e-Sharif in Budgam district. The historic Raghunath Temple constructed by Dogra rulers in Jammu city had also come under suicidal attacks twice in the past few years.

Official sources said the terrorists who apparently were feeling threatened by

this public enthusiasm for revival of the Sufi culture, were sending a message to the people — money should be spent for upgrading madarasas that preach and breed jihad and not on Ziarats.

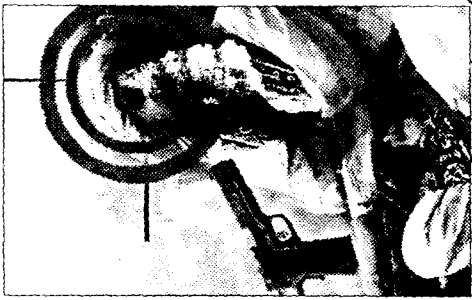
"Foreign terrorists are aware of the fact that revival of Sufism and Kashmiriyat will sound their death knell. It would be a clear indication that the ideology of jihad that justifies their presence in the Valley has been reject-

ed by people," a senior official said, adding that the ultras, in order to stem this mass-inclination towards reviving their distinct cultural identity, have been directed by their mentors from across border to resort to coercive tactics for imposing a restrictive and fundamentalist agenda upon the people of Kashmir.

Only a couple of weeks back, terrorists had torched a Sufi shrine near Aishmuqam in Anantnag

district of south Kashmir. The Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Lt-Gen. SK Sinha, had visited the shrine and later announced that the Army would take up its reconstruction.

Reports tell that those who don't comply with terrorists' dictates are being threatened with physical elimination. Plots are being hatched to target Ziarats and people visiting them with the intention of instilling fear.



অযোধ্যায় আত্মঘাতী অভিযান

সেই অযোধ্যা
হৃদয়তায়
ফেরাল বাম,
কংগ্রেসকে

দীপ্তেন্দ্র রায়চৌধুরী • নয়াদিল্লি

৫ জুলাই: ডেল বা পেনশন বিলের মতো বিতর্কিত প্রসঙ্গকে পিছনে ঠেলে দিয়ে বাম-কংগ্রেস সম্পর্কে আজ আবার নতুন হৃদয়তা নিয়ে এল অযোধ্যা।

প্রধানমন্ত্রী মনমোহন সিংহের সঙ্গে আলোচনায় বসে আজ বাম নেতারা অনেকটা সময় ব্যয় করলেন সত্ত্ব পরিবার এবং হিন্দু ও মুসলিম সাম্প্রদায়িক শক্তি নিয়ে। পাকিস্তানের সঙ্গে শান্তি-একিধা যাতায়ে বাহত না-হয়, অথবা হিন্দু সংগঠনগুলি যাতে পরিবেশ বিধিয়ে তুলতে না-পারে, সেই বিষয়ে একত্রে কাজ করার প্রতিশ্রুতিও পরস্পরকে দিলেন তারা। এমনকী, উত্তরপ্রদেশের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মুলায়ম সিংহ যাদের সঙ্গে ঘনিষ্ঠ যোগাযোগ রেখে কাজ করার ব্যাপারেও একমত হল।

অতএব কাল বিদেশ যাওয়ার সময় তার সরকারের স্থায়িত্ব নিয়ে যে অন্তত ভাবতে হবে না, বুঝতে অনুবিধা হওয়ার কথা নয় মনমোহনের।

তার মানে এই নয় যে, ডেল বা পেনশন বিল নিয়ে বিরোধ শেষ হয়ে গেল। চা-পানের কাঁচকে আজও এ বি বর্ধন-সীতারাম ইয়েচুরি-অবনী রায়েরা ডেল প্রসঙ্গ ভুলেছেন। প্রধানমন্ত্রী তাঁদের জানিয়েছেন, বিদেশ থেকে ফিরে দশ বা এগারো তারিখে তিনি বিষয়টি নিয়ে তাঁদের সঙ্গে বৈঠকে বসবেন। তবে আজকের হৃদয়তা বজায় রাখতে আপাতত বিল্লিকরণ স্থগিত করবেন কি না, তার কোনও স্পষ্ট ইঙ্গিত তিনি দেননি। ইতিমধ্যে আজ সংসদীয় স্থায়ী কমিটি পেনশন বিল অনুমোদন করলেও গুরুদাস দাশগুপ্ত ভিন্নমত জানিয়ে নোট দিয়েছেন। বাকি তিন বাম ও এক ডি এম কে সমস্যাও একই ধরনের নোট জমা দিবেন।

তবে আজ সরকার ও বাম, দু'দফেরই মূল সুর হয়ে উঠেছে সাম্প্রদায়িক শক্তির বিরোধিতাই। এমন দিনে উত্তরপ্রদেশের মুখ্যমন্ত্রীকেও জোলেবনি বাধে। বহুজন সমাজ পার্টির মায়ারতী থেকে শুরু করে উত্তরপ্রদেশ কংগ্রেসের এর পর সাতের পাতায়

আজ বন্ধের

ডাক চার রাজ্যে

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার: অযোধ্যায় হামলার ঘটনার প্রতিবাদে আজ, বুধবার চারটি রাজ্যে বন্ধের ডাক দিয়েছে সত্ত্ব পরিবার ও বিজেপি। এই রাজ্যগুলি হল উত্তরপ্রদেশ, মধ্যপ্রদেশ, ঝাড়খণ্ড ও ওড়িশা। মহারাষ্ট্রে বন্ধ ডাকা হয়েছে আগামী ৭ তারিখ। অযোধ্যার ঘটনার পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে আসন্ন রথযাত্রা উপলক্ষে পুরীতে নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা ঢেলে সাজা হচ্ছে। পুলিশ কড়াকড়িতে তীর্থযাত্রীরা বিপাকে পড়তে পারেন বলে আশঙ্কা। তবে দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব রেল সূত্রে জানানো হয়েছে, বন্ধের জন্য কোনও ট্রেন বাতিল করা হচ্ছে না। পুরীতে ৮ জুলাই রথযাত্রা উৎসবে হামলার আশঙ্কায় রাজ্য পুলিশ একটি বিশেষ অপারেশন দল তৈরি করেছে। দলটি তিন ভাগে বিভক্ত হয়ে ইতিমধ্যেই ডুবনেশ্বর, কোদার্ক ও ব্রহ্মবিরিতে দিনরাত নজরদারি শুরু করেছে। অক্ষরধাম মন্দিরে হামলার পর থেকেই গোয়েন্দারা সতর্ক করেছেন, পুরীধাম জঙ্গি-হামলার লক্ষ্য হতে পারে। গুজরাতের আমদাবাদে রথযাত্রা উপলক্ষেও সিসআরপিএফ-প্রহরার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে।



অপারেশন শেষ। নিহত জঙ্গির ছিন্নভিন্ন শরীরে বিস্ফোরকের খোঁজে নিরাপত্তারক্ষী। মঙ্গলবার অযোধ্যায়। — রয়টার্স

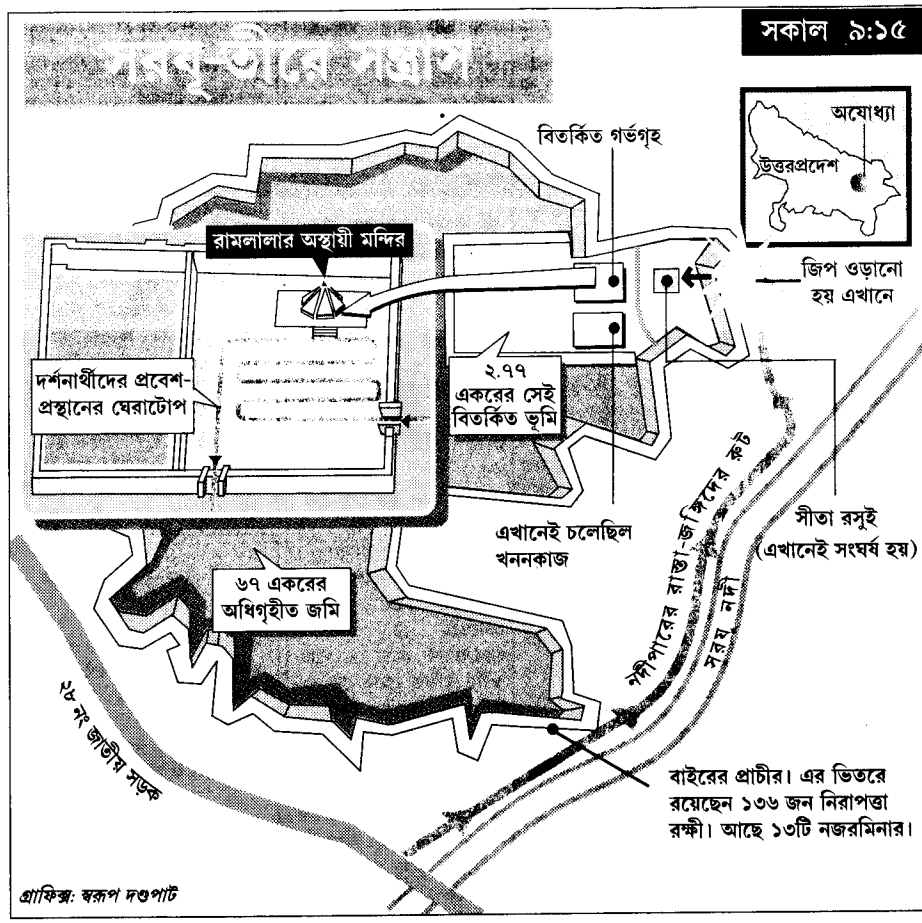
আগাম খবরেও ঠেকানো গেল না হামলা, ঢুকল মানববোমা, সন্দেহের তির সেই লঙ্করের দিকে

দিগন্ত বন্দোপাধ্যায় ও
অগ্নি রায় • নয়াদিল্লি

৫ জুলাই: যে চত্বরে মাছি পর্যন্ত গলতে পারে না, সেখানে চারখানা একে-৪৭, গ্রেনেড, রকেট লঞ্চার নিয়ে মানববোমা-সহ ছ'জন জঙ্গি ঢুকল কী করে?

এটা কি নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থার চূড়ান্ত গাফিলতি নয়? এবং সেই গাফিলতির দায় কার? প্রধানমন্ত্রী মনমোহন সিংহ বলেনছেন, রাজনীতি ও সমাজে অস্থিরতা ছড়ানোর লক্ষ্যেই এই হামলা। তার সরকার কড়া হাতে এর মোকাবিলা করবে।

কিন্তু ঘটনা হল, আগাম খবর সত্ত্ব ও আজকের হামলার মোকাবিলা করা যায়নি। জাতীয় নিরাপত্তা উপদেষ্টা এ কে নারায়ণন আজ বাম নেতাদের জানিয়েছেন, মে মাসের শেষে গোয়েন্দা রিপোর্ট এসেছিল যে, পাঁচটি জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠী দেশের বিভিন্ন ধর্মস্থানে নাশকতামূলক কাজের পরিকল্পনা ফাঁদে। তার মধ্যে তিনটি গোষ্ঠীকে চিহ্নিত করে তাদের ধ্বংস করে দেওয়া হলেও বাকি রয়ে গিয়েছে আরও দু'টি গোষ্ঠী। বিএসএফ-এর কর্তারা জানাচ্ছেন যে ২০০৩ সালে কাশ্মীরে মন্জির জাহির চৌধুরী নামে এক জঙ্গি সংঘর্ষে মারা যায়। তার কাছে পাওয়া নথিপত্র থেকে জানা গিয়েছিল যে খুব শীঘ্রই অযোধ্যার মতো ধর্মস্থানে হামলা হতে পারে। কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রকের আরও দাবি, রাজ্য সরকারের কাছে এই ব্যাপারে বেশ কয়েকটি সতর্কবার্তা পাঠানো হয়েছিল। উত্তরপ্রদেশের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মুলায়ম সিংহ যাদবও বলেছেন, এত অল্প সময়ে ওদের শেষ করে দেওয়া সম্ভব হলেও-কারণ এমন সজাবনার কথা অক্ষরকেই বলেছিলেন।



একই দাবি কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রকের। তবে আগে থাকতেই আট পাওয়া এই জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠী তারা তা নিয়ে মুখ খুলতে চায়নি নয়াদিল্লি। তবে এই সূত্রেই উঠে আসছে লঙ্কর-ই-তইবার নাম। আজকের জঙ্গি হানা রামলালা মন্দির সংলগ্ন চত্বরের নিরাপত্তা নিয়ে একাধিক প্রশ্নের জন্ম দিয়েছে। এক, জিপে করে এতগুলো লোক নিরাপত্তা বেইনদী এড়িয়ে ভিতরে ঢুকলো কী করে? দুই, তখন প্রথম নিরাপত্তা বলয়ে রাজ্য পুলিশের কেউ ছিল না কেন? তিন, ক'দিন আগেই কেন ওই চত্বরের নিরাপত্তা কমিয়ে দেওয়ার কথা ঘোষণা করেছিলেন মুলায়ম? চার, প্রথম দশ মিনিট জঙ্গিরা একতরফা গুলি চালালেও পাল্টা কোনও গুলি কেন চলেনি? পাঁচ, চত্বরে ঢোকানোর সময় সকলের আপাদমস্তক তলাশি হয়। মানিবাগ,

কলম, মোবাইল, ওয়শ পর্যন্ত ছাড় পায় না। অথচ জঙ্গিরা ঢুকেছে প্রচুর অস্ত্রসহ নিয়ে। তা হলে নিরাপত্তা বাহিনীর মধ্যেই কি শিথিলতা ছিল? ছয়, রাতের ডিউটি শেষে জওয়ানদের নতুন টিম আসার পরেই পুলিশ বেসরকারি ভাবে জানিয়ে দেয় লঙ্কর-ই-তইবা এ কাজ করেছে। পরে অবশ্য ফৈজাবাদের পুলিশ কমিশনার অরুণ সিংহ বলেন, তাঁদের কাছে এখনও পূর্ণাঙ্গ তথ্য আসেনি।

বাত পর্যন্ত কেন্দ্রের তরফেও সুনির্দিষ্ট ভাবে কোনও সংগঠনের নাম জানানো হয়নি। এই ধরনের ঘটনার ক্ষেত্রে সাধারণত জঙ্গিরা সংবাদসংস্কার দফতরে ফোন করে দায়িত্ব নেয়। এক্ষেত্রে সেটাও ঘটেনি। ঘটনার নিদ্রা করেছে হিজবুল মুজাহিদিন। হামলার খবর আসার পরেই রাজধানীতে তৎপরতা শুরু হয়ে যায়। নাগপুর থেকে তড়িৎগতি ফিরে আসেন স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী শিবরাজ পাটিল। সোজা চলে যান মন্ত্রিসভার নিরাপত্তা বিষয়ক বৈঠকে। বৈঠক চলার মধ্যেই খবর আসে ছ'জন জঙ্গিই মারা গিয়েছে। মন্দিরের ক্ষতি হয়নি। তার পরেই সরকার বলতে থাকে যে, তারা যথাযথ ভাবে দায়িত্ব পালন করেছে।

বিজেপি নেতা যশবন্ত সিংহ অবশ্য বলেছেন, কেন্দ্র সম্মানস্বায় সম্পর্কে নরম মনোভাব নেওয়ার ফলেই এই কাণ্ড। কিন্তু জওয়ানদের প্রশংসা করেছেন বিনয় কাটিয়ার।

রকেট লঞ্চার নিয়ে হানা, হত জঙ্গি-সহ ৭ জন

পার্শ্বসারথি সেনগুপ্ত • অযোধ্যা

৫ জুলাই: গাড়ির মেঝে রক্তে ভেসে যাচ্ছে। ভিতরে কাতরাচ্ছেন সি আর পি এফের দুই জওয়ান। আহত, কিন্তু গর্বিত। বড় বিপর্যয়ের হাত থেকে গোটা দেশকে বাঁচিয়েছেন যে।

বগলের তলা দিয়ে গুলি ঢুকে পৌঁছে গিয়েছে বৃকের কাছাকাছি। তা সত্ত্বও চকচক করছে সি আর পি এফের সাব-ইন্সপেক্টর নন্দকিশোর শর্মার মুখ। বলছেন, "ওদের কিন্তু গর্ভগৃহের ধারেকাছে যেতে দিইনি। তার আগেই যতন করে দিয়েছি।" দেড় ঘণ্টার লড়াইয়ে প্রাণ গিয়েছে মোট সাত জনের।

লখনউয়ের ট্রা সেন্টারে বাওয়ার পথে আহতদের রক্ত আর অস্ত্রজেন দিতে মুখপুড়ায় কয়েক মিনিট দাঁড়িয়ে ছিল গাড়ি। তার ফাঁকেই নন্দকিশোর এবং তার সহকর্মীরা জানালেন ঠিক কী ঘটেছিল আজ।

সকাল ৯টা। তখনও তেমন করে জেগে ওঠেনি রামলালা মন্দির সংলগ্ন চত্বরে। নিরাপত্তার দায়িত্বে থাকা ১৩৬ জন জওয়ানও বান্ধিকটা তিলেচোপা। হঠাৎই চত্বর লাগোয়া দো রাহি কুয়া এলাকার সর্গ গুলি দিয়ে ঢুকে পড়ল একটা মার্শাল জিপ। এই রাস্তায় গাড়ি ঢোকান কথা নয়। গোটা চত্বর চারটি নিরাপত্তা বলয়ে ঘেরা। তার প্রথমটায় পাহারা দেন প্রভিন্সিয়াল আর্মড কন্স্টাবুলারির জওয়ানেরা। এখানেই দর্শনাধীদের থামিয়ে তলাশি চালানো হয়। তার পরে ক্যামেরা, এমনকী মোবাইল নিয়ে যাওয়ারও হুকুম নেই।

নিরাপত্তার এমন বেরাটোপে ছড়মুড়িয়ে গাড়ি ঢোকান বিষয় কাটার আগেই বিস্ফোরণ। ৬৭ একরের গোটা চত্বর মোটা রেলিং দিয়ে ঘেরা। দো রাহি কুয়ায় সেই রেলিংয়ের ধারে দিগম্বর জৈন মন্দির। তার পাশেই একটা পিপুল গাছ। সেই গাছের কাছে রেলিং বরাবর গাড়ি দাঁড় করিয়ে নেমে পড়ে হামলাকারীরা। রিমোট কন্ট্রোল বিস্ফোরণ ঘটিয়ে উড়িয়ে দেয় গাড়ি। গাড়িতে তখনও এক জন ছিল। বলা হচ্ছে, সে গাড়ির খালি। জঙ্গিরা তার গায়ে বিস্ফোরক বেঁধে উড়িয়ে দেয় বলে প্রাথমিক ভাবে পুলিশের ধারণা। আর এক আহত জওয়ান হেড কন্সটেবল সুলতান সিংহ বলছেন, "এতেই হতচকিত হয়ে পড়ি আমরা। চোখের সামনে একটা জলজাতীয় মনুষ্য উড়ে গেল!"

এই বিহ্বলতার সুযোগটাই যোলা আনা নেয় জঙ্গিরা। তারা ঢুকে পড়ে চত্বরে। যথেষ্ট গ্যেনেড ছুড়তে ছুড়তে দৌড় লাগায় গর্ভগৃহের দিকে। নিরাপত্তাকর্মীদের ঘোর কাটতে সেনাে যায় দশ মিনিট। তার পরে পাল্টা গুলি ছুড়তে শুরু করে তারা। খবর যায় উত্তরপ্রদেশ পুলিশের কাছে। অল্প সময়ের মধ্যেই হাজারি হয় তাদের কুইক রিঅ্যাকশন টিম।

চত্বরে ঢুকে পড়া জঙ্গিদের মধ্যে আরও এক জনের শরীরে বাঁধা ছিল বিস্ফোরক। কিন্তু বিস্ফোরণ ঘটানোর সুযোগ পায়নি সে। চত্বরের ভিতরে চতুর্ভু তথা শেষ নিরাপত্তা বলয় সীতা রসুইয়ের কাছে। এখানে সি আর পি এফের তোকি আছে। তার জওয়ানেরাই গুলি করে মারে দ্বিতীয় আত্মঘাতী জঙ্গিকে। বাকিরা ঢুকে পড়ে ২.৭৭ একর বিতর্কিত এলাকার ঠিক লাগোয়া সীতা রসুইয়ের ভিতরে। জঙ্গিরা যেখানে পৌঁছেছিল তার মিটার পঁচাত্তর মিনিটের খননকার্য চালিয়েছে আর্কিওজিক্যাল সার্ভে অব ইন্ডিয়া। গর্ভগৃহ, যেখানে ১৯৪৯-এর ডিসেম্বরের রাতে রামলালার মূর্তি স্নেহে আসা হয়েছিল, বড়জোর ৬০-৭০ মিটার দূরে। শক্তসোক্ত বেড়ায় ঘেরা বিতর্কিত চত্বরে ঢোকা যাবে না আশঙ্ক করেই সম্ভবত রকেট লঞ্চার নিয়ে এসেছিল জঙ্গিরা। রকেট ছুড়তেছিল। কপাল ভাল কাটেনি।

এব জঙ্গিদের বিতর্কিত এলাকায় ঢুকে না-পারাকেই নিজেদের সাফল্য বলে দাবি করতে শুরু করেছে উত্তরপ্রদেশ পুলিশ। ফৈজাবাদের কমিশনার অরুণকুমার সিংহ বলেছেন, "নিরাপত্তা রক্ষীরা প্রশংসনীয় কাজ করেছেন। জঙ্গিরা যারা একটা বেড়াই ভাঙতে পেরেছে। বিতর্কিত এলাকা, যেখানে এ এস আই খননকাজ চালিয়েছে ও অস্থায়ী মন্দির আছে, সেখানে ঢুকে পেরেনি তারা। বাইরের বেড়া ভাঙার পরে ১০০ মিটারের মধ্যেই তাদের মারা হয়েছে।"

কিন্তু মারা যাওয়ার আগে সীতা রসুইয়ের ভিতরে থেকে নিরাপত্তারক্ষীদের সঙ্গে ঘণ্টা দেড়েক যুঝেছে জঙ্গিরা। নির্ধিকারে গুলি চালিয়েছে একে-৪৭ রাইফেল থেকে। গ্যেনেড ছুড়ছে। লড়াইয়ের মধ্যে পড়ে প্রাণ হারিয়েছেন এক মহিলাও। আহত চার সি আর পি জওয়ান। তাঁদের মধ্যে এক জনের অবস্থা আশঙ্কাজনক। সংঘর্ষ শেষে ঘটনাস্থল থেকে প্রচুর অস্ত্র উদ্ধার করেছে পুলিশ। তার মধ্যে আছে

এর পর সাতের পাতায়

দুই শিবিরেই সুযোগ, সঙ্ঘ উজ্জীবিত, স্বস্তিতে আডবাণীও

জয়ন্ত ঘোষাল • নয়াদিল্লি

মিলে গিয়েছে বুকেই বিন্দুমাত্র সময় ব্যয় করেননি আডবাণী। গুয়াহাটিতে আজ সাংবাদিক বৈঠক এবং পরে কর্মসভায় তিনি বলেছেন, "দেশের অভ্যন্তরীণ নিরাপত্তার মতো একটি বিষয়ে বর্তমান কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার যে কোনও গুরুত্বই দিচ্ছে না, সে কথা বিজেপি এক বছর ধরে বলে আসছিল। আডবাণীর রাজনৈতিক সচিব সূরীন্দ্র কুলকার্নি ইস্তফা দেওয়ার পরেও সত্ত্বের ক্ষোভ সামাল দেওয়া যায়নি। আডবাণীর 'রক্তপানে' তারা এবং বিজেপি-একাশ মরিয়্য ছিল। আজ সুরাতের সম্মেলনে আরএসএস নেতারা এমন কথাও বলতে ছাডেননি যে, "বর্ধারি ধ্বংসকে তাঁর জীবনের সব চেয়ে দুঃখের দিন বলে বর্ণনা করেছিলেন আডবাণী। আজ তা হলে কী বলবেন?"

৫ জুলাই: দুই শিবিরকে দু'টো সুযোগ এনে দিল অযোধ্যার ঘটনা। সত্ত্ব পরিবার তথা বিজেপি-র কটর হিন্দুদের রাস্তায় ফেরার জন্য লালকৃষ্ণ আডবাণী-সহ বিজেপি নেতৃবৃন্দের উপরে ক্রমাগত চাপ দিয়ে আসছিল আরএসএস এবং বিশ্ব হিন্দু পরিষদ। অযোধ্যার রামমন্দির চত্বরে জঙ্গি হানার ঘটনাকে সামনে রেখে হিন্দুদের নীড়িকেই আবার লড়াইয়ের হাতিয়ার করে তোলার সুবর্ণ সুযোগ মিলে গিয়েছে আজ। সত্ত্ব পরিবার তাই এখন আশ্বাসিত যে, হিন্দু ভাবাবেগ নিয়ে আন্দোলন শুরু করার জন্য আডবাণীর উপরে চাপ দিতে সুবিধা হবে।

আর আডবাণীর স্বস্তি অন্যত্র। পাকিস্তান সফরে তাঁর জিমা-সংক্রান্ত মন্তব্যের পরে দলের ভিতরে বিরোধ সামলাতেই টানা চেষ্টা করে যেতে হয়েছে বিজেপি সভাপতিকে। আজও সেই কাজ করে যেতে হচ্ছে তাঁকে। বিজেপি-কে প্রকৃত বিরোধী দলের ভূমিকায় দাঁড় করানোর চেয়ে দলীয় কোন্দল সামলানাই গুরু দায়িত্ব হয়ে গিয়েছে আডবাণীর। অযোধ্যার জঙ্গি হানার পরে তিনি সুযোগ পাচ্ছেন নিরাপত্তায় সরকার উদাসীনতার কথা বলার। দলের গোষ্ঠী, উপগোষ্ঠীগুলোকে একত্রিত করে সরকার-বিরোধী একটা অবস্থানে নিয়ে যাওয়ার এমন সুযোগ তিনি ছাড়তে চান না।

দলের মধ্যে চলতে থাকা আদর্শগত বিরোধ আপাতত সুরিয়ে রেখে একাত্ম চেষ্টার নির্মাণের মতকা

এর পর সাতের পাতায়

স্বস্তিতে আডবাণীও

প্রথম পাতার পর

গাফিলতির প্রশ্ন তুলে কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী শিবরাজ পাটিল ও উত্তরপ্রদেশের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী তথা পুলিশমন্ত্রী মুলায়ম সিংহ যাদবের ইস্তফা দাবি করেছে পরিষদ এবং বিজেপি। কাল উত্তরপ্রদেশে বন্ধ ডেকেছে পরিষদ ও বজরং দল। দেশ জুড়ে সপ্তাহভর 'শান্তিপূর্ণ' প্রতিবাদের ডাক দেওয়া হয়েছে। তবে মুম্বইয়ে প্রতিবাদের নামে পাকিস্তানের পতাকা পুড়িয়েছে শিবসেনা। গুজরাতের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী নরেন্দ্র মোদী আবার মন্দির-রক্ষার কৃতিত্বের জন্য সিআরপিএফ জওয়ানদের ১০ লক্ষ টাকা পুরস্কার দেওয়ার কথা ঘোষণা করেছেন।

অভ্যন্তরীণ লড়াইয়ে আপাতত সমঝোতার ইস্তিহাস দিয়ে সঙ্ঘ নেতারা বলেছেন, বিতর্কিত প্রশ্নগুলি নিয়ে পরে আলোচনা হবে।

অন্য দিকে, বিজেপি-র পক্ষে সাংবাদিক সম্মেলনে যশোবন্ত সিংহ বলেছেন, “এটা কোনও নির্দিষ্ট স্থানে হামলা নয়। পুরো হিন্দু বিশ্বাসের উপরেই আক্রমণ।” তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ হল, ‘হিন্দু বিশ্বাসের উপরে আক্রমণের দিনেও বিজেপি-র হয়ে কথা বলতে এগিয়ে এসেছেন যশোবন্ত। উদারপন্থী মুখ হিসাবেই দলে যার পরিচয়। তার আগে অটলবিহারী বাজপেয়ী ও যশোবন্তের সঙ্গে কথা বলেন আডবাণী। বাজপেয়ীও কেন্দ্র ও মুলায়ম সরকারের ঘাড়ে দোষ চাপিয়েছেন।

পাকিস্তান সফরের পরে আডবাণী বলেছিলেন, ইসলামাবাদের মানসিকতাতেও অনেক পরিবর্তন এসেছে। আজকের ঘটনার পরে সঙ্ঘ পরিবার থেকে প্রশ্ন উঠেছে, পাকিস্তানের মানসিকতা বদলের এই কি নমুনা? আর ঠিক এই প্রশ্নটা নিয়েই আপত্তি রয়েছে আডবাণীর। গুয়াহাটি থেকে দিল্লি ফিরে তিনি বলেন, “অযোধ্যার মন্দিরে এ কে-৪৭ নিয়ে আগে কেউ ঢুকতে পারেনি। এটা সরকারের ব্যর্থতা, এর প্রতিবাদ করতেই হবে। এর সঙ্গে আমার পাক সফরের কোনও সম্পর্ক নেই। মুশারফকে তো আমি বলেছিলাম, জঙ্গি ঘাঁটি ভাঙতে হবে। তা ছাড়া,

অযোধ্যাকে আমরা তো সামনে আনি। এই ঘটনায় সেটা চলে এল।”

অযোধ্যা সামনে চলে আসার পরে যাতে ধর্ম নিয়ে রাজনীতি শুরু হয়ে না-যায়, সে জন্য সাবধান থাকার কথা বলেছে মুসলিম পার্সোনাল ল বোর্ড। “জঙ্গি হানা নিয়ে ধর্মীয় রাজনীতি শুরু হলে অত্যন্ত লজ্জাজনক হবে। যারা এমন জঘন্য কাণ্ড ঘটায়, তারা কোনও ধর্মে বিশ্বাসী হতে পারে না,” বলেছেন বোর্ডের সদস্য মৌলানা খালিদ রশিদ।

এমন পরিস্থিতিতে আজ রাতেই অযোধ্যা রওনা হয়ে গিয়েছেন রাজনাথ সিংহ, কল্যাণ সিংহের মতো বিজেপি নেতারা। কাল যাবেন জর্জ ফার্নান্দেজ। কাল যাবেন বলে ঠিক করেও উদ্ভেজনা ছড়াতে পারে ভেবে যাত্রা বাতিল করেছেন আডবাণী। বন্ধের দিনে উত্তরপ্রদেশে আডবাণী গরম বক্তৃতা দিন— এমনটা চাইছিল সঙ্ঘ ও বিজেপি-র একাংশ। সেই রাজনীতি থেকে সচেতন ভাবেই দূরে থাকছেন আডবাণী। সঙ্ঘের সঙ্গে আডবাণীর এই রাজনৈতিক লড়াইয়ে অযোধ্যা-কাণ্ড যে নতুন মাত্রা এনে দিল, তাকে দুই শিবির কী ভাবে কাজে লাগায়, সে দিকে এখন কৌতূহলী দৃষ্টি রাখছে রাজনৈতিক শিবির।

রকেট লঞ্চার নিয়ে হানা

প্রথম পাতার পর

চারটি একে-৪৭, একটা রকেট লঞ্চার, ১৭টা চিহ্ন তৈরি গ্রেপ্তার।

জঙ্গিরা যে মার্শাল জিপ চড়ে এসেছিল তার চালক রেহান আলমকে গ্রেফতার করেছে পুলিশ। তার সঙ্গে জঙ্গিদের যোগ ছিল কি না, এই সংশয়ের এখনও অবসান হয়নি। জেরার উত্তরে সে যা বলেছে তাতে বেশ কিছু প্রশ্নের উত্তর যেমন মিলেছে, তেমনই তৈরি হয়েছে নতুন অনেক প্রশ্নও। রেহান বলেছে, ফৈজাবাদ স্টেশনের কাছে একটা পেট্রোল পাম্প তার গাড়ি ভাড়া করে পঁচিশ-তিরিশ বছরের চার যুবক। তার একটা টাটা সুমোতে মালপত্র নিয়ে বসেছিল। এক জন এসে বলে, তারা রাম জন্মভূমি দর্শন করে লখনউ ফিরে যাবে। দরাদরি করে ভাড়া ঠিক হয়। খন্দের ভাঙিয়ে নেওয়া নিয়ে তর্কও হয় টাটা সুমোর মালিকের সঙ্গে। তাকে ৭০ টাকা দিয়ে ঝগড়া মিটিয়ে নেয় রেহান।

সরযু নদীর লাগোয়া রাজঘাটের পথ ধরে প্রথমে নির্মোচন ঘাটে আসে তারা। রাস্তা যেখানে নদীতে গিয়ে মিশেছে সেখানে একটা ছোট মন্দির আছে। জঙ্গিরা সেখানে নেমে প্রণাম করে বলে জানিয়েছে রেহান।

রেহানের কথা মতো চার জন উঠেছিল তার গাড়িতে। সরকারি সূত্র বলেছে, সংঘর্ষে মারা গিয়েছে মোট ছয় জন জঙ্গি। প্রশ্ন, বাকি দু'জন জঙ্গি কোথা থেকে এল। কেউ কেউ বলছেন,

জিপের সঙ্গে মোটর বাইক এবং সাইকেলে করে এসেছিল আরও দু'জন জঙ্গি। রেহানের দাবি, গোটা অপারেশনের কিছুই সে জানতো না। নির্মোচন ঘাট থেকে রওনা হওয়ার পরেই জোর করে গাড়ির দখল নিয়ে নেয় জঙ্গিরা।

কিন্তু প্রশ্ন হল, অত সুরু গুলি দিয়ে যাওয়ার সময়ও সে চেষ্টা না কেন? কেনই বা গাড়ি থেকে নামার পরে পালিয়ে গেল? খালাসিকে জঙ্গিরা বিস্ফোরক বেঁধে উড়িয়ে দিলেও তাকে ছেড়ে দিল কেন প্রশ্ন সেটাও। পুলিশ সূত্রে খবর, রেহানের কাছ থেকে প্রচুর টাকা মিলেছে। একটা সূত্রে এমনও বলা হচ্ছে, পরিমাণটা দশ লক্ষ।

প্রশ্ন জঙ্গিদের মন্দিরে প্রণাম করার খবর নিয়েও। হামলার পরেই প্রথম সন্দেহের তির ইসলামি জঙ্গিদের দিকে। বাবরি মসজিদ ভাঙার বদলা নিতেই তারা এই কাণ্ড ঘটিয়েছে, এমনটাই মনে করা হচ্ছে।

বস্তুত ২০০৩ সালে লঙ্কর-ই-তইবার ডেরায় হানা দিয়ে অযোধ্যার চত্বরে হানা দেওয়ার পরিকল্পনার কথা জানতে পেরেছিল বিএসএফ। কিন্তু জঙ্গিরা মুসলিম হলে হিন্দু মন্দিরে প্রণাম করল কেন এই প্রশ্নের জবাব মেলেনি। সুতরাং নানা বিতর্কে জেরবার সঙ্ঘ পরিবার নিজের পক্ষে হাওয়া টানতেই এই কাণ্ড ঘটিয়েছে এমন কথাও এর মধ্যেই উড়তে শুরু করেছে অযোধ্যার হাওয়ায়।

HR 3 672 Turodina

VHP calls weeklong protest

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, July 5

ENRAGED OVER the attempted strike on the makeshift Ram temple at Ayodhya on Tuesday, the VHP has given a call for weeklong agitations across the country.

Announcing this in Surat on Tuesday VHP leaders Ashok Singhal and Praveen Togadia said their cadres would organise bandhs in Uttar Pradesh and Orissa on Wednesday while the MP and Rajasthan units would observe bandhs the day after.

The VHP and Bajrang Dal have called for Maharashtra bandh on July 7. "We have called for a bandh on July 7 to protest the attack on Ramjanmabhoomi in Ayodhya," VHP zonal secretary Prof. Venkatesh Abdev said in Mumbai. "What happened at Ayodhya is unpardonable as the terrorists tried to strike at the centre of Hindu religious sentiment," VHP's Orissa state secretary Gouri Prasad Rath said in Bhubaneswar.

Describing the attack on the site as an assault on the Hindu faith as well as the entire nation, the VHP demanded resignations of the Union and Uttar Pradesh home ministers, holding them responsible for intelligence and security failure.

Condemning the incident, VHP se-



Bajrang Dal activists burn the Pakistani flag in Bhopal on Tuesday to protest against the terrorist attack in Ayodhya.

nior leader Acharya Giriraj Kishore charged Pakistan with helping the attackers and said the neighbour had the motive of creating instability in India.

"This is an insult to the Hindus... Their peaceful nature must not be mistaken for weakness. I fear that if such attacks continue, the Hindu community's patience will soon wear out," he warned.

While calling for a countrywide protest against the temple attack, Kishore said the VHP would have no coordination with the BJP, which is also organising similar protests on Wednesday.

"The BJP protest is Advaniji's programme. We have nothing to do with it. All politicians hold such protests to further their own personal interests," Kishore told reporters here.

PTI

“Human bomb” lands in Delhi police net

Devesh K. Pandey

NEW DELHI: An alleged Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) militant who had purportedly agreed to serve as a “human bomb” for monetary considerations to help out his family has been arrested by the Crime Branch of the Delhi police.

The arrest was made at Majnu Ka Tila in North Delhi by the Inter-State Cell of the Crime Branch on Monday. The police claim to have seized a pistol and 15 live cartridges from him.

A team led by Inspector Pankaj Sood received a tip-off on Monday evening that BKI militant Satnam Singh, who was allegedly part of the module headed by Jagtar Singh Hawara, the BKI chief of operations in India now under arrest, had taken refuge at Gurdwara Majnu Ka Tila. Subsequently a raid was conducted and he was arrested.

According to the police, Hawara had disclosed during his interrogation that Satnam and



- “Part of Babbar Khalsa chief Hawara’s module”
- Had offered to “sacrifice” his life for family’s sake
- Was targeting bigwigs on BKI “hit list”

some other BKI militants had agreed to serve as human bombs. Last year, while Hawara was lodged inside the high-security Burail Jail in Chandigarh, Sukhdev Singh and Amrik Singh of the Panjpyara group used to meet him regularly. During their visits, Hawara purportedly motivated them to work for BKI. At his instance, Sukhdev roped in Satnam who was pursuing religious studies with him.

Sukhdev, who allegedly had already agreed to serve as a human bomb, prepared Satnam for

the same to eliminate those on the BKI “hit list” as they had shown “disrespect” to their religion. Sukhdev also purportedly promised to pay Rs. 10 lakhs to Satnam’s family after his “sacrifice” for the “noble cause”.

During his interrogation by the police after his arrest, Satnam allegedly disclosed that at least two attempts to eliminate senior Congress leader Bhajan Lal, one at Ambala and the other at Hisar during the Haryana Assembly elections this year. He

was also a part of the group that was allegedly asked to eliminate Ashutosh Maharaj of Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan and Paniyarewala Baba.

The police said Satnam, whose is handicapped in one leg due to polio, studied till Class XII after which he joined a computer course and left it halfway. He then joined Gurdwara Mehta Chowk at Amritsar in 1996 for religious studies and then started preaching. “His motive was to instigate students into militancy on religious grounds,” said the Joint Commissioner of Delhi Police, Ranjit Narain. At the instance of the gurdwara head, Baba Thakur Singh, he shifted base to Anandpur Sahib Dera at Ropar in Punjab. During his stint as a preacher, he went to Hong Kong in a bid to migrate to Canada but did not succeed. Later he visited Canada and England with Baba Thakur Singh on the pretext of performing “Shabad Kirtan”. Satnam has been remanded to police custody till July 2.

29 JUN 2005

THE HINDU

Termin

Irish, Canadian leaders pay homage to victims of the Kanishka crash

Emotions run high at the 90-minute memorial ceremony ^{24/6} ^{HD-12}

CORK (IRELAND): In the biggest ever memorial service for the victims of the bombing of Air India's Kanishka flight that killed 329 persons, some 200 relatives of the dead joined by Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin and Irish President Mary McAleese paid their homage to mark the 20th anniversary of the tragedy on Thursday.

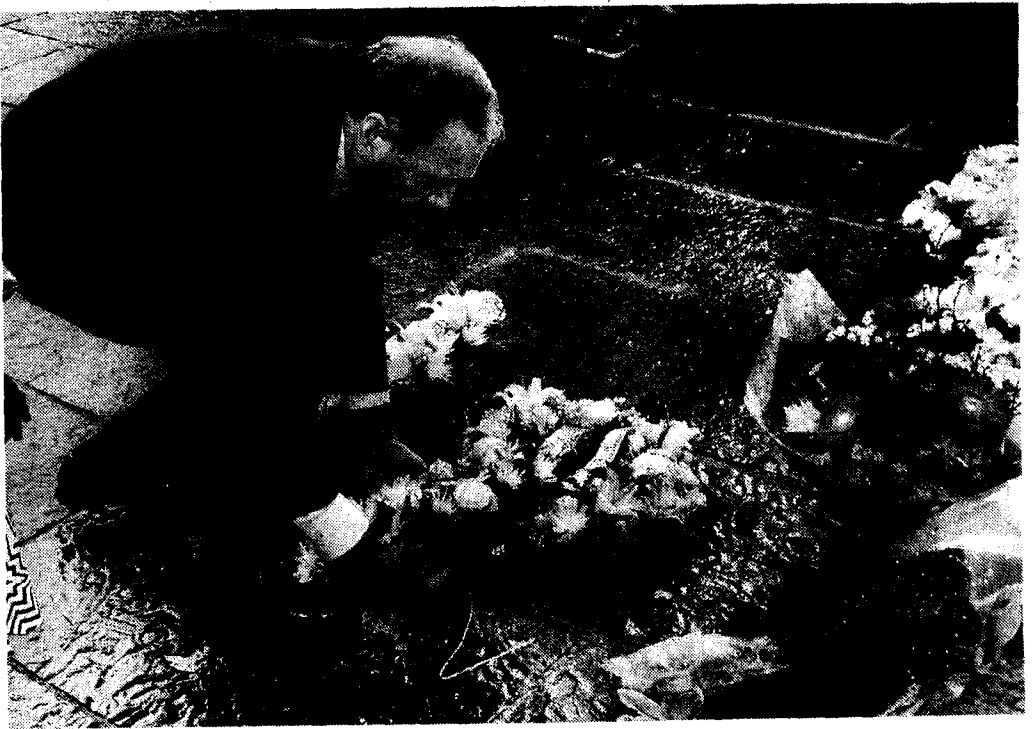
The 90-minute ceremony, where emotions ran high, took place at the memorial site at Ahakista, the place closest to the 1985 disaster, in western Cork.

"Dreadful event"

Describing the bombing as a "dreadful" and "wicked" event, Ms. McAleese said: "This is not how things are supposed to be. No one on that plane on that fateful day had this destination in mind." "The tragic cruel end to the lives of so many men, women and children who left Toronto for Bombay full of thoughts of tomorrow and the next day was to mark the start of a journey of sorrow for the bereaved," she said. Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin and Irish President Mary McAleese joined victims' families at an emotional ceremony on Thursday in the southwest of Ireland to mark the 20th anniversary of the Air India Flight 182 bombing.

All 329 persons on board the plane were killed when it blew up over the Atlantic Ocean on June 23, 1985, in the worst-ever mid-air terrorist attack.

Only 131 bodies were recovered. A third of them were un-



UNDYING MEMORIES: Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin lays a wreath for the victims of the 1985 Air India plane crash during a ceremony at Ahakista in the west coast of Ireland on Thursday. - PHOTO: AP

der 17. To mark the anniversary, about 200 relatives of victims have been gathering during the week in Cork, the Irish county closest to the disaster.

Ms. McAleese described the bombing as a "dreadful" and "wicked event" that had wreaked devastation off Ireland's shores.

The commemoration united "in sadness and in solidarity" the people of Ireland, Canada

and India. Mr. Martin said the terrorist attack was one of the greatest tragedies Canada had ever suffered.

Haunting loss

"The loss haunts us to this day," he said in a statement. "I join with all Canadians in expressing our sorrow and indignation at this cruel and premeditated act."

Mr. Martin has recommended

to Canada's Governor-General that June 23 should be proclaimed an annual national day of remembrance for the victims.

Among other notables at the ceremony was Canadian Opposition leader Stephen Harper, British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell, Irish Transport Minister Martin Cullen, Indian Ambassador Saurabh Kumar and representatives of Ireland's emergency services. - PTI, AFP

N 2005

T. M. M. M.

জঙ্গি প্রশিক্ষণ-বিতর্কে ইক্বান আমানুল্লাহ

ইসলামাবাদ, ১৭ জুন: ইয়াসিন মালিকের পরে এ বার জেকেএলএফের আর এক নেতা আমানুল্লাহ খান। পাক তথ্য ও সম্প্রচারমন্ত্রী শেখ রশিদ আহমেদ পাক অধিকৃত কাশ্মীরে জেহাদীদের প্রশিক্ষণ শিবির চালাতেন বলে ফাঁস করে দিয়েছিলেন মালিক। এ বার আমানুল্লাহ অভিযোগ করেছেন, জঙ্গিদের সামরিক প্রশিক্ষণ দিত পাক গুপ্তচর সংস্থা আইএসআই।

ইয়াসিন মালিক পরে সুর নরম করতে চাইলেও তাঁর সাফাই নড়বড়ে হয়ে গিয়েছিল প্রাক্তন পাক স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী নাসিরুল্লাহ বকবর এবং জেকেএলএফ নেতা হাসিম কুরেশির বক্তব্যে। তাঁরা দু'জনেই মালিকের অভিযোগের পক্ষে

তথ্য পেশ করেন। কূটনৈতিক স্তরে নয়াদিল্লি ইসলামাবাদকে জানিয়ে দেয়, কাশ্মীরে শেখ রশিদ স্বাগত নন। তাঁকে ৩০ তারিখ শ্রীনগর-মুজফ্ফরাবাদ বাসে চড়ার অনুমতি দেওয়া সম্ভব নয়। ভারত-পাক শান্তি প্রক্রিয়ায় এটি বিরূপ প্রভাব ফেলবে জেনেও দিল্লি নরম হয়নি। তার পরেই আমানুল্লাহর আজকের মন্তব্যে দু'দেশের সম্পর্কে নেতিবাচক প্রভাব পড়তে পারে বলে কূটনীতিকদের আশঙ্কা।

উর্দু ভাষায় আত্মজীবনী লিখছেন



আমানুল্লাহ খান। 'জেহাদ-ই-মুসলসল' (ফ্রমাগত সংগ্রাম) তার দ্বিতীয় খণ্ড। এই বইয়েই আইএসআই-এর জঙ্গি প্রশিক্ষণের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ দেওয়া হয়েছে। আমানুল্লাহর কথায়, "আমরা সবাই জানতাম, কাশ্মীর নিয়ে লড়াইয়ে সর্বেসর্বা হল আইএসআই। ওদের

সঙ্গে অলিখিত চুক্তি হয়েছিল।" চুক্তি মতো, জেকেএলএফ ভারতের বিভিন্ন জায়গা থেকে ছেলেদের জোগাড় করে আনত, তাঁদের জঙ্গি আদর্শ শেখাত। আর আইএসআই তাঁদের সামরিক

প্রশিক্ষণ দিত। তার পরে ছেলেদের ভারতে ফেরত পাঠানো হত। পাক সামরিক শাসক জিয়া-উল-হকও 'স্বাধীন' কাশ্মীরের সমর্থক ছিলেন বলে জেকেএলএফ প্রধান জানিয়েছেন।

১৯৮৯-৯০ সাল পর্যন্ত এ ভাবেই কাজ চালায় আইএসআই। তার পরে জেকেএলএফের সঙ্গে তাদের দ্বন্দ্বের সূত্রপাত। তার জেরে জেকেএলএফের জঙ্গি প্রশিক্ষণ থেকে পাক গুপ্তচর সংস্থা হাত গুটিয়ে নেয়। আমানুল্লাহর বক্তব্য, জেকেএলএফের দলীয় ব্যাপারে আইএসআই নাক গলানো শুরু করতেই বিরোধ বাধে। সেই সময় আইএসআই অন্য জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠীগুলিকে মদত দিতে শুরু করে বলেও জানিয়েছেন তিনি। - রয়টার্স, পিটিআই

Pakistan inks anti-terror pact with Australia

Press Trust of India

CANBERRA, June 15. — In a bid to boost their efforts in the fight against terror, Pakistan and Australia today signed a counter-terrorism accord which will allow the two countries to share intelligence and hold joint training exercises.

The MoU was signed in the presence of visiting Pakistan President Gen. Pervez Musharraf and Australian Prime Minister Mr John Howard at Parliament House here.

Australian foreign minister Mr Alexander Downer said the counter-terrorism treaty was a "key outcome" of the visit of Gen. Musharraf to Australia. The pact covers cooperation in law enforcement, intelligence, security and border controls.

A joint statement issued after the signing ceremony stated: "Pakistan has played a vital role in efforts to dismantle global terrorist networks. (We) agreed that international terrorism and transnational organised crime are best combated within a framework of cooperation." It said the two countries were "key partners in the international campaign on terror." Australia has signed similar agreements with 11 other countries, including India.

Gen. Musharraf said that during his talks with Howard, he briefed the Australian Premier and other cabinet members on efforts of his government to deal with militants. "On the issue of security we did highlight the role that we have played in countering terrorism, in fighting against the Al-Qaida and the successes that we have met in neutralising and marginalising Al-Qaida from Pakistan."

After holding talks with Gen. Musharraf, Mr Howard said: "I've told the President how much I personally, and the Australian government admires his courageous participation and that of his country in the fight against terrorism."

'Osama, Omar alive and well'

Osama bin Laden and Taliban chief Mullah Mohammad Omar are safe and healthy, a former Taliban commander has said, a report adds from Islamabad. Mullah Akhtar Usmani told Pakistan's Geo TV yesterday in an interview taken at an undisclosed site, that he cannot reveal their whereabouts. "We hear his voice. I can vouch that Mullah Omar is alive and commanding the Taliban," he said. As for Osama, he said "by the grace of God he is in good health".

15 JUN 2005

THE STATESMAN

Explosion outside J&K school kills 15

Hurriyat's Pakistan visit provoked attack

RASHID Ahmad and
RAJNISH Sharma
Pulwama/New Delhi, June 13

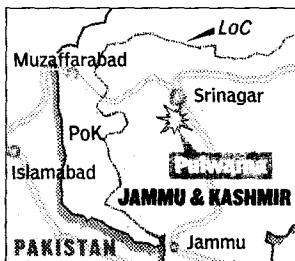
AT LEAST 15 people, including two schoolchildren and three CRPF personnel, were killed and over 100 wounded in a blast outside a school at Pulwama in Jammu & Kashmir on Monday.

Residents said the bomb was dropped from the air, but the police said militants triggered the blast from a car. They believe the target might have been a CRPF camp, 50 metres from the site.

Intelligence experts feel the blast was in retaliation to the recent visit of Hurriyat leaders to Pakistan. Intelligence experts said the blast could have been a "joint effort" of the LeT and the Hizbul Mujahideen.

A home ministry official said militants were disturbed by the activities of the Hurriyat, which they believe is in favour of finding a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue. "Through these incidents, such groups want to make their presence felt even though their activities have been crippled," the official said.

He ruled out the possibility



ty of militants wanting to target children. "The school was chosen to get more mileage, but kids were probably not the target as the militants would not want public to turn against them," he said.

After the blast, hundreds of residents took to the streets, accusing government agencies of being involved. The police opened fire, injuring three.

Altaf Ahmad, who is undergoing treatment, recalled the blast: "I heard a frightening sound, felt something hot pierce through my leg and fell."

Around 30 shops, government buildings and a dozen vehicles were damaged. The impact was felt across a radius of 2 km. "I was attending to customers when the blast shook the entire town," said shopkeeper Abdul Salam Dar.



Residents rush a hastily-bandaged victim to hospital.

Babbar Khalsa chief arrested in Delhi

9/6
9-1

Two More Militants Held for Cinema Hall Blasts

New Delhi: Dealing a major blow to Babbar Khalsa, the Delhi police on Wednesday arrested Jagtar Singh Hawara, chief of the Pakistan-based militant outfit's India operations and an accused in assassination of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, along with two other militants in connection with the May 22 twin blasts in cinema halls here.

The police, who recovered a huge quantity of arms and explosives, including 10.35 kg of RDX, four pistols, 207 cartridges, a hand grenade, timers and detonators, said the arrested militants were plotting to kill some politicians and bureaucrats.

Hawara, who along with two others had escaped from Chandigarh's Burail jail in January last year and carried a reward of Rs 5 lakh, was nabbed on Wednesday morning in a north-west Delhi area. Jaspal Singh alias Raja, and Vikas Sehgal, accused in the cinema hall blasts, were also arrested along with Hawara, Delhi police commissioner K K Paul told reporters here.

The three had come from Punjab to apparently collect money from a hawala operator on their way to Nepal, he said, adding "Hawara is a very big catch, one of the biggest in the recent history of Delhi police."

Hawara was allegedly instrumental in the assassination of Beant Singh outside the Punjab secretariat in Chandigarh in August, 1995 by a suicide bomber. He was arrested in 1996 and was lodged in Burail Jail.

Jaspal is the main accused

in the blasts in Liberty and Satyam cinema halls last month in which one person was killed one person over 50 others were injured. Two persons, Balvinder Singh and Jagannath, were arrest-



Jagtar Singh Hawara (left), chief of Babbar Khalsa, along with his associates Vikas Sehgal (centre) and Jaspal Singh

ed last week in connection with the blasts.

Asked whether Hawara was directly linked to the twin blasts, the commissioner said "It is too early to say. He was lying dormant for some time but it seems he was masterminding operations and channelising funds. He had been instructed not to expose himself and further details can be got only after his interrogation." Hawara had been lying low since his escape and was motivating youths, especially those with criminal background, to indulge in extremist activities, Paul said. The interrogation of those arrested had revealed that Babbar Khalsa was trying to revive militancy in Punjab, the police said.

After the arrest of Balvinder and Jagannath, investigators got information that Jaspal and Vikas were trying to contact Hawara. When this information was developed, it emerged that the three had met and were coming to Delhi on Wednesday morning. PTI

09 JUN 2005

THE HINDU OF INDIA

Move to get Hizb on UN terror list

RAJNISH Sharma
New Delhi, May 27

THE UNION home ministry has initiated efforts to get Hizbul Mujahideen, the biggest militant outfit operating in Kashmir Valley, on the UN security sanctions list. India has already managed to secure the inclusion of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Tayyeba on the list of militants and outfits banned by the UN.

However, senior home ministry officials argue that inclusion of Hizbul in the list will be a severe blow to militancy in the Valley since the outfit has nearly "80 per cent local component". Unlike Jaish and LeT - the other two major militant outfits operating in the Valley - Hizbul has primarily local recruits as its cadre. In that respect, Hizbul has been providing crucial support, particularly for hideouts and local intelligence, to both LeT and Jaish.

Ministry sources said that, initially, the issue of banning Hizbul would be taken up at the meetings the Joint Working Group (JWG) will hold with important European countries and the US. India's argument is that even Hizbul has links with the Al-Qaida through Jaish and LeT.

The ministry is hopeful that the US, Canada and some European countries will ban Hizbul. "The response from these countries has been extremely positive", an official said. A UN ban will force all members to freeze the accounts of Hizbul and its frontal organisations. Jaish and LeT are already facing a financial crunch because of the UN ban. Security forces in the Valley have been facing stiff resistance from Hizbul even as the activities of Jaish and LeT have been severely pruned due to a sharp drop in infiltration.

27 MAY 2005

Militant website claims Zargawi replaced by deputy

SIMON Jeffery
Baghdad, May 26

SPECULATION OVER the fate of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the insurgent leader in Iraq, grew today as a statement on a militant website said a deputy had been appointed to take over his duties. The statement, whose authenticity could not be verified, was soon contradicted by a second denying its claims. But both statements follow recent rumours that Zarqawi suffered a bullet wound to the chest in fighting and is either receiving medical care outside Iraq or is possibly dead.

"The leaders met after the in-

jury of our sheik, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and decided to appoint a deputy to take the lead until the return of our sheik," said the first statement, signed in the name of al-Qaida in Iraq, Zarqawi's group.

It named Abu Hafs al-Gharni as "deputy of the holy warriors", saying he "was known for carrying out the hardest operations". The second statement, signed in the name of an al-Qaida in Iraq spokesman, denied the militant group had appointed a deputy. "We deny all that has been said about appointing the so-called Abu Hafs or anyone by any other name," it said.

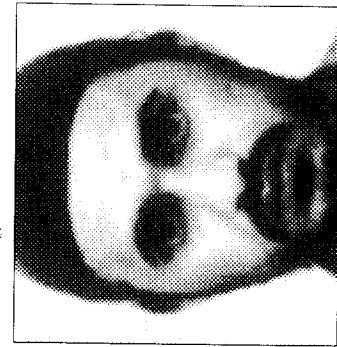
Meanwhile Iraqi interior min-

ister Bayan Jabr told reporters he has information that the insurgent had been wounded, but wasn't sure how seriously.

"We are not sure whether he is dead or not, but we are sure that he is injured," Jabr said.

The Associated Press, speaking to experts on Middle Eastern militant groups, said the man named as the deputy leader is a Saudi who has served as Zarqawi's military adviser and is a senior commander of the military committee of al-Qaida in Iraq.

There have been growing rumours in the intelligence community in recent weeks — compounded by the frequency of the militant statements — that Zar-



Abu Musab al-Zarqawi

qawi had been shot, possibly in western Iraq near the Syrian border where US forces are battling insurgents.

An Iraqi doctor claims he treated Zarqawi earlier this month for gunshot wounds sustained in a US offensive near al-Qaim, 100 miles north of the western city of Ramadi.

He told an Iraqi reporter that the militant leader, who he recognised from photographs, was driven off by his henchmen after he told them he would need to keep him in hospital for further observation.

"He was bleeding heavily and his escorts were well dressed with a look about them that was different from the casualties and family members we had been receiving from the al-Qaim offensive," he was quoted as saying.

The men threatened him with machine guns when he followed them to their vehicle to try and convince them the patient should stay in hospital.

Zarqawi, 38, has been linked to the bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad in August 2003 and is thought to be responsible for the kidnapping of western workers including Ken Bigley, the engineer from Liverpool. Reports since Bigley's death last October suggest Zarqawi may have personally headed the 62-year-old.

Since the first reports of Zarqawi's injury emerged, militant websites have asked followers to pray for the US's number one tar-

get in Iraq. The latest statement urged more of the same, saying: "We will go on in our way of jihad until victory or martyrdom and we call upon Muslims to pray for the mojahedin and for the safety of our sheik."

An aide to Abdul Aziz Al-Hakim, the leader of Iraq's largest political party, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said it was not certain that the appointment of Zarqawi's deputy meant he was dead.

"We are not 100 per cent sure that al-Zarqawi is dead and we can't consider this step as a confirmation of his killing," he said.

Guardian News Service

TERROR RETURNS TO MADRID

■ 34 injured as car bomb goes off
■ Newspaper gets warning call
■ Cops get 45 mins to clear the area
■ Car bomb was believed to have been planted by ETA guerrillas

DANIEL TROTTA
& EMMA PINEDO
MADRID, MAY 25

A CAR bomb injured at least 34 people in the Spanish capital on Wednesday in an apparent rebuff by Basque separatist guerrillas ETA to government peace overtures.

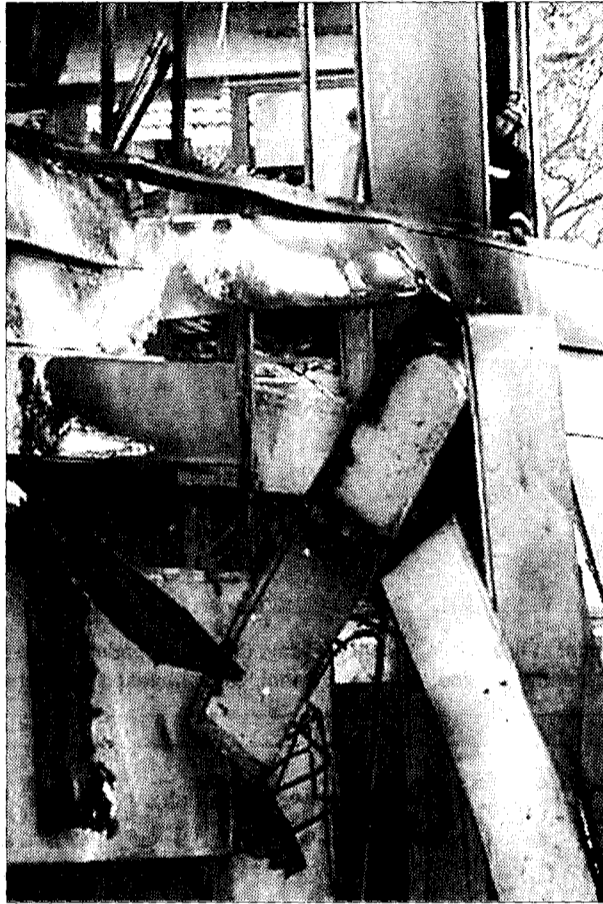
The bomb, in a stolen car, blew up in an industrial zone in northeastern Madrid 45 minutes after a Basque newspaper received a warning in the name of ETA, officials said.

The warning gave police time to seal off the area, but dozens were hurt by flying glass or the force of the blast.

Black smoke rose into the air as fire engines and police vehicles blocked the street in the San Blas district.

The blast wrecked about five cars and smashed windows in nearby buildings, including an Opel car dealership, witnesses and news reports said.

An emergency services spokeswoman told state ra-



A fireman looks out from a window of a building damaged by the car bomb in Madrid on Wednesday. Reuters

dio that 34 people had been treated so far, mostly for cuts and hearing damage, but only one person required hospital treatment. Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso said the bomb was estimated to contain between 18 and 20 kgs of explosives, he said.

The blast appeared to be a defiant response by ETA to a vote by the Spanish Parliament last week granting the government permission to open peace talks with the group if it laid down its arms.

The bomb came two days after French police detained three suspected ETA members and hours before two leaders of Batasuna, banned as the political wing of ETA, were due to appear in a Madrid court to answer charges of belonging to ETA.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero condemned the bombing as an "act of terror". "The terrorist group ETA's only fate is to give up its arms and disband," he told the Spanish Senate.

ETA has killed nearly 850 people since 1968 in a bombing and shooting campaign for an independent Basque state in northern Spain and southwestern France. Spain, the United States and the European Union consider it a terrorist organisation.

Madrid Mayor Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon, a leading member of the Opposition Popular Party, sent a thinly veiled message to Zapatero who has pledged to grasp any chance for peace in the Basque country. "We must call on everyone to remove any blinkers which might make them think that ETA is something different to what it is. ETA is a terrorist group," he said.

A local bar owner told state radio that police told him to close the shutters and take shelter at the far end of the bar. "Ten minutes later, there was a pretty strong explosion... my car must have been destroyed," he said.

ETA has been weakened in recent years by a sustained police crackdown that has led to hundreds of arrests in France and Spain. It has continued to carry out bombings from time to time, but no one has been killed in an ETA attack since May 30, 2003 when a bomb killed two police officers and seriously injured a third in northern Spain. It last struck in Madrid on February 9 when 43 people were injured when a car bomb exploded near a convention centre.

Spain's former government blamed ETA for the Madrid train bombings which killed 191 people on March 11 last year before radical Islamists claimed responsibility. —Reuters

Militant websites say al-Zarqawi wounded



AGENCIES
Baghdad, May 24

ABU MUSAB al-Zarqawi — the Jordanian-born insurgent leader in Iraq — has been wounded, several Islamist militant websites reported on Tuesday. The message — which could not be independently verified — is attributed to militant Abu Maysara al-Iraqi, who has posted al-Qaida messages.

It said that al-Zarqawi's comrades

are proud of what they described as his heroic wounds and threatens that the "resistance will get tougher" as US-led attacks on insurgents intensify. The message also asks for "prayers for our leader".

While the statement sounds similar to previous messages from al-Zarqawi's group, it doesn't bear the group's logo. American troops nearly captured al-Zarqawi earlier this year in Iraq, Pentagon officials have said. This month, the US military said it

had seized a letter from Iraqi insurgents believed to be intended for al-Zarqawi complaining about low morale among followers and weakening support for the insurgency.

The United States has posted a \$25 million reward for information leading to al-Zarqawi's capture. Al-Zarqawi's group has claimed responsibility for car bombings, kidnappings and beheadings in Iraq.

The Bush administration identified al-Zarqawi as an al-Qaida terror-

ist who fled to Iraq from Afghanistan in May 2002 for medical treatment.

According to the government, al-Zarqawi stayed in Iraq to organise terror plots with Ansar al-Islam, a radical Islamic group that operated a training camp in northern Iraq that came under the control of the US-led coalition in the 2003 invasion. Last year, al-Zarqawi pledged his allegiance to Osama bin Laden, who later praised the insurgent's work against coalition troops in Iraq.

বর্ষপূর্তিতে সম্ভ্রান্ত রাজধানী

‘যো বোলে..’ চলাকালীন দু’টি হলে বিস্ফোরণ ● হত ১, জখম ৫৬



শুধু আতঙ্ক আর উদ্বেগ। বিস্ফোরণের পরে নয়াদিল্লির ‘লিবার্টি’ প্রেক্ষাগৃহের সামনে। রবিবার। — এ এফ পি

শিখ জঙ্গিরা কি ফের সক্রিয়, প্রশ্ন

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, নয়াদিল্লি, ২২ মে: ইউপিএ সরকারের প্রথম বর্ষপূর্তির সন্ধ্যায় জোড়া বিস্ফোরণের জেরে তীব্র আতঙ্ক ছড়াল রাজধানীতে। মধ্য ও পশ্চিম দিল্লির দু’টি সিনেমা হলে অল্প সময়ের ব্যবধানে এই বিস্ফোরণে মারা গিয়েছেন এক জন। সাত জন মহিলা ও তিনটি শিশু-সহ অন্তত ৫৬ জন আহত হয়েছেন। তবে মৃতের সংখ্যা বাড়ার আশঙ্কা রয়েছে। রবিবারের সন্ধ্যায় ছুটির মেজাজে থাকা শহরে এই কাণ্ড ঘটানোর পিছনে কোনও বড় জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠীর হাত রয়েছে কি না, খুঁজে দেখছে কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রক।

পুলিশ সূত্রের খবর, আজ রাত সাড়ে আটটা নাগাদ মধ্য দিল্লির ‘লিবার্টি’ হলে প্রথম বিস্ফোরণটি ঘটে। তার মিনিট কুড়ি পরেই কয়েক কিলোমিটার দূরে ‘সত্যম’ হলে ঘটে আর একটি বিস্ফোরণ। দু’টি হলেই বিতর্কিত ‘যো বোলে সো নিহাল’ ছবিটি চলছিল। ‘লিবার্টি’তে আসনের নীচে বিস্ফোরক ছিল। ফলে, আহতের সংখ্যা এখানেই বেশি। ‘সত্যম’-এর বিস্ফোরণটি ঘটে প্রেক্ষাগৃহ-চত্বরের মধ্যেই শৌচাগারে। দু’টি ক্ষেত্রেই কম শক্তির বিস্ফোরক ব্যবহার করা হয়েছে।

‘যো বোলে সো নিহাল’ ছবিটি মুক্তি পাওয়ার পর থেকেই হুইচই শুরু হয়েছিল। ছবি থেকে আপত্তিকর অংশ ছেঁটে ফেলার দাবি তোলে শিরোমণি গুরুদ্বার প্রবন্ধক কমিটি (এসজিপিএস)। প্রতিবাদের জেরে পঞ্জাব ও হরিয়ানায় ছবিটির প্রদর্শন স্থগিত করে দেওয়া হয়। দাঙ্গার প্রসঙ্গকে উদ্ভাসিত হিসাবে ব্যবহার করে শিখ জঙ্গি আন্দোলনকে জিইয়ে তোলার চেষ্টা হচ্ছে কি না, সেটাই স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রকের অন্যতম চিন্তার বিষয়। এসজিপিএস-র প্রধান বিবি জাগির কৌর অবশ্য বলেছেন, ছবিটি নিয়ে তাঁদের প্রতিবাদকে কাজে লাগিয়ে কেউ শিখদের ‘বদনাম’ করার চেষ্টা করেছে। উত্তেজনা এড়াতে রাতেই তড়িঘড়ি মুম্বই, বডোদরা, পুণে, লখনউ প্রভৃতি শহরে ছবিটি দেখানো বন্ধ করে দেওয়া হয়েছে। কলকাতায় বিশেষ সতর্কতা জারি করা হয়েছে। অন্য রাজ্যেও সতর্কতা নেওয়া হয়েছে।

প্রত্যক্ষদর্শীরা জানিয়েছেন, ‘লিবার্টি’তে বিস্ফোরণের জেরে বহু আসন ওড়িয়ে গিয়েছে। ছাদ দুমড়ে নেমে এসেছে। পুলিশ জানিয়েছে, দু’টি প্রেক্ষাগৃহ থেকেই বেশির ভাগ দর্শককে নিরাপদে বার করে আনা গিয়েছে। তবে শুধু ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত দু’টি হলই নয়, আতঙ্কের জেরে গোটা দিল্লি জুড়েই সিনেমা হল এবং ‘শপিং মল’গুলি দ্রুত ফাঁকা করে দেওয়া হয়। ছেলেমেয়েদের নিয়ে উদভ্রান্তের মতো দৌড়তে দেখা যায় বহু মানুষকে। ‘উপহার’ সিনেমা হলে অগ্নিকাণ্ডে বহু মৃত্যুর দুঃস্বপ্ন তখন তাড়া করছে রাজধানীকে। অল্প ক্ষণের মধ্যেই কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্র প্রতিমন্ত্রী শ্রীপ্রকাশ জয়সওয়াল জানান, দিল্লিতে ‘রেড অ্যালার্ট’ জারি হয়েছে।

ইউপিএ-র বর্ষপূর্তির অনুষ্ঠানের পরেই বিস্ফোরণের খবরে উদ্ভিগ্ন হয়ে পড়েন প্রধানমন্ত্রী মনমোহন সিংহ ও কংগ্রেস সভানেত্রী সনিয়া গান্ধী। প্রধানমন্ত্রী ফোনে কথা বলেন স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী শিবরাজ পাটিলের সঙ্গে। দিল্লির পুলিশ কমিশনার কে কে পল রাজধানীর সীমানা ‘সিল’ করার নির্দেশ দেন।

কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রক সূত্রের খবর, প্রাথমিক ভাবে তিন রকম সম্ভাবনা উঁকি দিচ্ছে। ১) ‘৮৪-র সেই শিখ দাঙ্গার তদন্তের জন্য এনডিএ সরকারের তৈরি নানাবর্তী কমিশনের রিপোর্ট সম্প্রতি জমা পড়েছে। সংসদে অবশ্য তা এখনও পেশ করা হয়নি। তবে তিনি যদিও নামে অভিযোগ পেয়েছেন, তাঁদের বিরুদ্ধে ঠিকমতো তদন্ত হচ্ছে না বলে কয়েক দিন আগেই মন্তব্য করছেন বিচারপতি নানাবর্তী। এই পরিস্থিতিতে বিতর্কিত ছবিটিকে ঘিরে খলিস্তানি জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠী সক্রিয় হয়ে উঠতে পারে। সম্প্রতি দিল্লিতে সব রাজ্যের ডিঙ্গি এবং মুখ্যসচিবদের বৈঠকে এই খলিস্তানি গোষ্ঠীর জিইয়ে ওঠার বিষয়টি আলোচিত হয়েছে। ২) আইএসআই বা কোনও পাক জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠী ভাবাবেগ উস্কে দিয়ে স্থানীয় শিখ জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠীকে দিয়ে এই কাণ্ড ঘটিয়ে থাকতে পারে। ৩) ভারত-পাক শান্তি-প্রক্রিয়া বানচাল করার আরও একটি যড়যন্ত্র হতে পারে এই ঘটনা।

জয়সওয়াল অবশ্য বলেছেন, সবই এখনও অনুমান মাত্র। জয়সওয়ালের কাছে ঘটনার উচ্চ পর্যায়ের তদন্ত দাবি করেছেন দিল্লির মুখ্যমন্ত্রী শীলা দীক্ষিত। দিল্লিতে ‘৯৮ সালে পরপর কয়েকটি ছোট বিস্ফোরণ ঘটিয়েছিল বাংলাদেশি ও পাক জঙ্গিরা। এ বারেও তেমন কিছু ঘটেছে কি না, তদন্ত করছে দিল্লি পুলিশ।

23 May 2005 ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

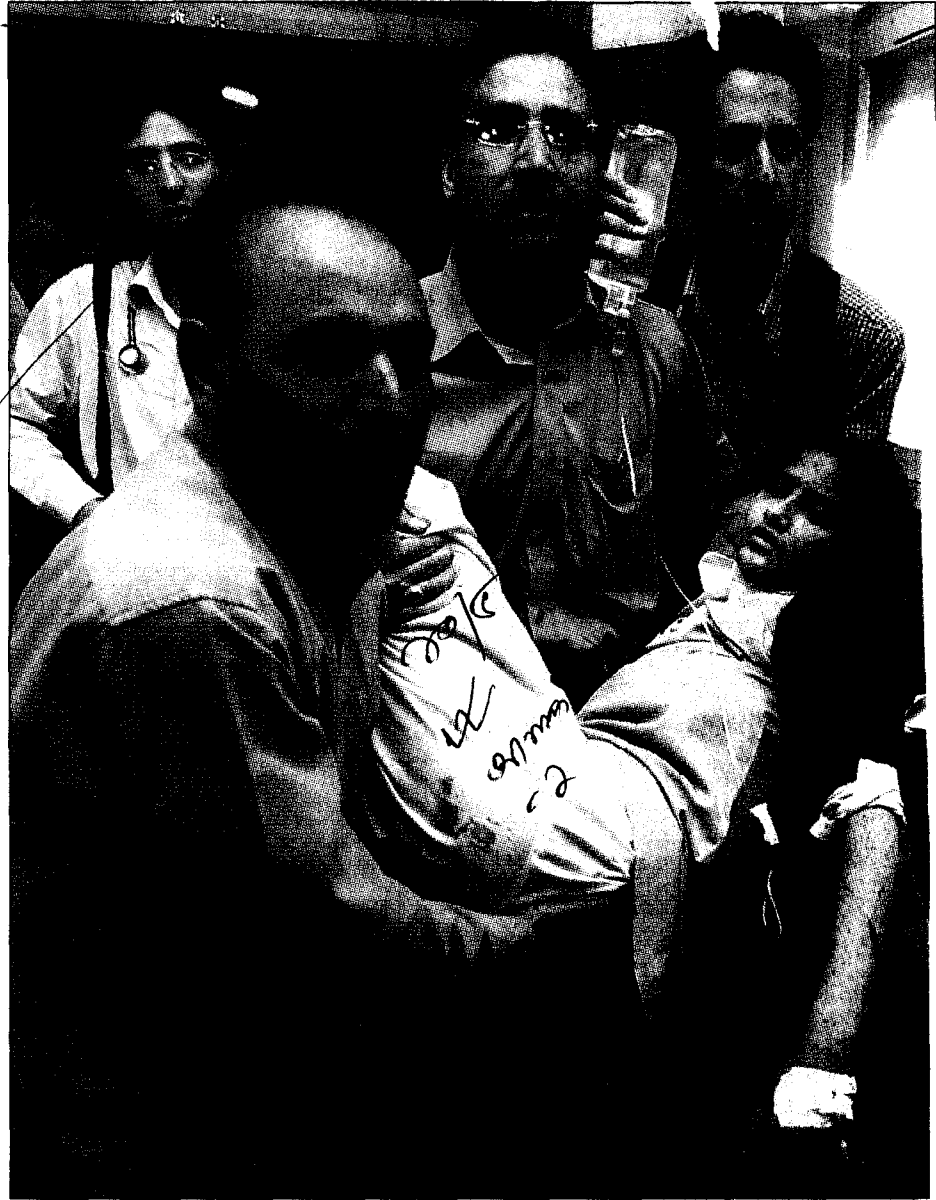
Zarqawi wounded: Report

London, May 15 (PTI): Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Iraq's most wanted terrorist with a £13-million bounty on his head, was seriously wounded and briefly treated at a hospital in Iraq last week before he was driven away by his men, a British daily reported today.

The doctor, who claimed to have treated him, told an Iraqi reporter in the western city of Ramadi that Zarqawi, also described as al Qaida leader Osama bin Laden's 'emir' in Iraq, was bleeding heavily when he was brought into hospital on Wednesday. *The Sunday Times* reported.

After treating his wounds, the doctor tried to persuade him to remain in hospital, but the Jordanian-born terrorist's minders drove him away, it said.

"He was bleeding heavily and his escorts were well dressed with a look about them that was different from the casualties and family members we had been receiving from the al-Qaim offensive," the doctor, who recognised Zarqawi from his photograph on television, was quoted as saying by the paper.



শেষ পর্যন্ত স্কুলপড়ুয়াও কান্ধারে জঙ্গি-আক্রমণের শিকার। শ্রীনগরের ভিড়ে ঠাসা মাল চক এলাকায় নিরাপত্তা বাহিনীর একটি গাড়ি লক্ষ করে ছোড়া গ্যেনেডটি ফাটে নিকটবর্তী মিশনারি স্কুলের সামনে বিস্ফোরণে দুই মহিলা নিহত হয়েছেন। আহত পঞ্চাশেরও বেশি। তাদের অধিকাংশই স্কুলপড়ুয়া। তাদের এক জনকে নিয়ে যাওয়া হচ্ছে চিকিৎসার জন্য বৃহস্পতিবার।—এ এফ পি

13 MAY 2005 ANADABAZAR PATRIKA



INNOCENT VICTIMS: A girl injured in a grenade explosion outside a school in Srinagar on Thursday.— PHOTO: AP

Grenade attack near school

Two killed, 25 children injured as militants strike again in Srinagar

Special Correspondent

SRINAGAR: In yet another militant attack in the heart of Srinagar, at least two women were killed and 60 persons, including 25 children, injured when a grenade exploded outside a school on Thursday afternoon. The condition of seven persons, including two children, is stated to be critical.

On Wednesday, two persons were killed and 34 injured when

militants detonated a car bomb in a busy commercial area.

On Thursday, home-bound students of the Tyndale Biscoe School, along with pedestrians, bore the brunt of the blast as an unidentified militant threw a grenade at a security force vehicle on Lal Chowk around 2.40 p.m. It caused a crater on the road and a number of vehicles were damaged:

"We could not see who hurled the grenade as the street was

overcrowded," said a policeman.

The blast, which occurred at 2.40 p.m. hardly 50 yards from office of *The Hindu*, brought traffic to a halt. The boys' school adjoins the Mallinson Girls' School, both run by Christian missionaries.

Parents who came to the school to pick up their children cried for help. The injured children, who were in a state of shock, took shelter on the school premises. They were taken to

hospital in police vans.

People were in tears on seeing blood-soaked uniforms. Blood-stained school bags lay near the school gates.

The two women, who died of their injuries in the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, have not been identified. Director Sheikh Jalal said two children, who were in a critical condition, were operated on. "We have received 17 injured people."

13 MAY 2005

THE HINDU

U.S. names Bangladesh outfit a terrorist group

Harakat's hand suspected in attempt on Hasina's life #19. 18

Haroon Habib

DHAKA: The United States has named the Harakat ul-Jihad-I-Islami organisation of Bangladesh as a "terrorist group" having links with the Al-Qaeda.

The group has been listed in the "selected terrorist groups" in the U.S. State Department's "Country Reports on Terrorism for 2004," released recently. "Bangladesh supports the global war on terror but its ability to combat terrorism is undermined by various factors and its long practice of moderate Islam is increasingly under threat from extremists," says the re-

port released on April 27. It mentioned Harakat's suspected involvement in an attempt on the life of the former Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, and in explosions at cultural gatherings in many parts of the country.

Aim of Islamic rule

The avowed mission of Harakat is to establish Islamic rule in Bangladesh. It has connections to Pakistani militant groups such as Harakat ul-Jihad-I-Islami and Harakat ul-Mujahidin, which advocate similar objectives in Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir, said the report

adding, "these groups all maintain contacts with the Al-Qaeda network in Afghanistan." The report said Bangladesh's long tradition of inclusive, moderate Islam is increasingly under threat from extremists.

The report said Bangladesh, with U.S. technical assistance, is strengthening police institutions. The U.S. is assisting Bangladesh in developing laws to enhance banking supervision and enforcement.

Appreciating the Dhaka's efforts, the report said it is committed to enforcing U.N. Security Council resolutions and actions related to terrorism.

4 MAY 2005

THE HINDU

Al Qaida talks of targeting Vatican

Cairo/Baghdad, April 30

THE DEPUTY of al-Qaida's frontman in Iraq, Abu Musab al Zarqawi, has asked for orders to attack the White House and the Vatican, according to an audiotape posted on the internet on Saturday. This is believed to be the first time an al-Qaida leader has specifically talked of attacking the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church.

This follows a similar audiotape posted on Friday by Zarqawi himself, threatening more attacks against US forces in Iraq and urging followers to be wary of any US attempts at dialogue. Zarqawi also took a swipe at Shia Muslims – considered heretical by the largely Sunni al-Qaida – calling them “rotten.”

“After conducting a technical analysis, we assess with high confidence that the voice is that of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi,” said a US intelligence official who spoke on condition of anonymity. The voice on the tape directly addresses US President George W. Bush. “You, Bush, we will not rest until we avenge our dignity,” the voice said. “We will not rest while your army is here as long as there is a pulse in our veins.”

Zarqawi refers to a newspaper article he said was dated March 19. The tape urged his followers to step up attacks on US soldiers.

“Move ahead with God's bless-



Egypt terror

A BOMBER and two veiled women attacked tourists in separate incidents, killing two people in Cairo on Saturday, targeting a museum and a tourist bus.

Reuters, Cairo

ing,” the voice commands. “Before the fall of this night, I want to see your swords dripping with the blood of your enemy.”

The speaker warns followers against any US overtures for dialogue, a reference to attempts by Iraqi leader Ayad Allawi to persuade Iraqi insurgents to lay down their arms.

“Be aware, these are the devil's tricks,” he warns.

The speaker also blasted Iraqi Sunni Muslim clerics for failing to support the insurgency. “Where are the Sunni scholars? Why we do not hear their voices?” he asks.

AP/AFP

01 MAY 2005

STAMPED

Naxalites and Ulfa put on US terror list

H. Khogen Singh
New Delhi, April 28

THE UNITED Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa) has become the first militant outfit in the north-east to be designated a terrorist organisation by the United States.

In its *Country Reports on Terrorism, 2004*, released by the State Department on Wednesday, the Ulfa has been put on the Other Selected Terrorist Organisations (OSTO) list. Groups on the OSTO list are those that do not target the national security of the US or its citizens.

The report also added the Communist Party of India (Maoist), formed by the merger of various Maoist groups, to the OSTO list, and expanded the description of Lashker-e-Tayyeba (LeT) to include its op-

eration under various fronts and names of convenience.

Describing the Ulfa as "north-east India's most prominent insurgent group," the report says it conducts hit and run operations on security forces in Assam, selective assassinations and explosions in public places.

In spite of important functionaries having surrendered, incidents of violence continue, though on a lesser scale. The Ulfa reportedly procures and trades in arms with other militant groups and gets aid from unknown external sources, the report adds.

Former Assam chief minister Prafulla Mahanta is known to have pushed for branding Ulfa as a terrorist outfit because of its links with Islamic terror groups of Bangladesh. There were also demands that the US

designate the NSCN and the National Democratic Front of Bodoland as terrorist groups.

The report cited India as an "important ally" in the global war on terror and underlined both countries' continuing political commitment to combating terrorism together. It noted the important changes in India's counter-terrorism legislation, particularly the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (Pota) and its replacement by a revamped Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (ULPA). It stressed that India suffered from "hundreds of terrorist attacks" during the year, particularly in Kashmir, the northeast, and the "Naxalite belt" and noted the Indian government's engagement with its neighbours in supporting Bhutanese and Nepalese counter-terrorism efforts.

29 APR 2005 THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

US report on global terror given a burial

By Indrani Bagchi/TNN

New Delhi: The US has killed its annual report on global terrorism. The US state department's "Global Patterns of Terrorism" will now be replaced by a simpler "Country Reports on Global Terrorism".

The "Global Patterns..." report was generally regarded as the last word on trends in global terrorism, listing and proscribing terrorist groups from around the world.

It was one US report that the Indian government eagerly awaited every year. It served as a vindication of the

secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, shortly after she took over.

In 2004, the US administration suffered a huge humiliation of having to retract this report after it became clear that it had under-reported the number of terrorist attacks, which was a central plank for US President George Bush's claim that the US was winning the war on terrorism.

According to Larry Johnson, a former CIA official, writing in a counter-terrorism blog, if the number of significant attacks in 2003 was 172, in 2004, they had jumped to 655,



Condoleezza Rice

In 2004, the Bush administration suffered the humiliation of having to retract this report after it became clear that it had under-reported the number of terrorist attacks

degree and kind of terrorism that India regularly faces, particularly at the hands of Pakistan-sponsored jihadi groups.

The new report, said US officials at the embassy here, would be submitted to the US Senate on April 30, but significantly, it will be devoid of any data. "The statistical appendix will not be there," said a spokesperson of the US embassy.

However, he said, the report would have several new elements like a list of "umbrella" terrorist groups and one on "global jihadi networks". According to sources, the decision to kill the report was taken by the new US

the highest since 1985. Of these, 300 attacks happened in Jammu and Kashmir alone, particularly in a year when the India-Pakistan peace process was on. The figures, which he said, came from the newly-created National Counter-terrorism Centre, did not include the attacks in Iraq.

The all-important statistics are expected to be released by the National Counter-terrorism Centre, though no dates for that have been set.

For India, it is a loss of sorts, because for years, New Delhi has lobbied with the US government to proscribe Pakistani groups like Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed in this report.

Punishment for twin faces of terror

Moussaoui admits Laden said 'remember your dream'

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

ALEXANDRIA (Virginia), April 23. — French Al-Qaeda member Zacarias Moussaoui has admitted that Osama bin Laden told him to "remember your dream" and fly an airplane into the White House. Zacarias Moussaoui admitted that had Al-Qaeda's terror plot gone according to plan, the White House also would have been destroyed by a hijacked commercial airliner.

Laden's order was described in a five-page "Statement of Facts" that Moussaoui signed at a hearing in which he pleaded guilty to six charges related to 9/11 attacks on the United States. By signing the document, he

agreed that if the case were to go on trial, the government would prove the facts "beyond a reasonable doubt." "Moussaoui knew of Al Qaeda's plan to fly airplanes into prominent buildings in the United States and he agreed to travel to the United States to participate in the plan," the document said.

"Laden personally selected Moussaoui to participate in the operation to fly planes into American buildings and approved Moussaoui attacking the White House. Laden told Moussaoui: 'Sahrawi, remember your dream,'" according to the document.

Moussaoui also uses the name ~~Aby~~ Khalid Al Sahrawi.



Moussaoui & Badat

Al-Qaida man gets 13 years for plot to blow up jet

JAMES STURCKE
THE INDEPENDENT

LONDON, April 23. — A British-born Muslim who admitted plotting to blow up an aircraft bound for America has been jailed for 13 years in the first major prosecution of an Al-Qaida terrorist in the UK since 9/11.

Saajid Badat, 25, had planned to set off a bomb at the same time as the British "shoe bomber" Richard Reid, who is serving a life sentence in the United States. But Badat changed his mind and dismantled his shoe bomb, which was seized by police at his home in Gloucester in November 2003.

At the Old Bailey yesterday,

Mr Justice Fulford said Badat deserved credit for pleading guilty. "It would not be in the public interest to send out a message that if would-be terrorists turn away from death and destruction before any lives are put at risk, the courts will not reflect in a significant and real way any such genuine change of heart in the sentence which is handed down," he said. During a hearing in February, Badat admitted conspiring to blow up an aircraft between January 1999 and November 2003.

Anti-terrorist officers believe Badat became radicalised by extremists at a mosque in south London in the late 1990s, after he fell out with his father.

Al Qaida attempt on Iraqi PM fails

11-12 22/4
 Violence, Disagreement Between Factors Derail Formation of New Govt

Baghdad: The Al Qaida on Thursday claimed responsibility for a suicide car bombing that targeted interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's convoy but did not harm the Iraqi leader.

In another attack, a roadside bomb exploded on the highway leading to Baghdad's airport on Thursday, heavily damaging three SUVs carrying civilians. A policeman said two foreigners were killed and three wounded in the burning vehicles. But US embassy and military officials could not confirm the casualties.

Iraq has seen a week of stepped up violence, much of it in the capital, even as political leaders have struggled to agree on a new cabinet from the country's complex mix of Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds. The attack on Allawi's convoy came on a day of multiple bombings and shootings in the embattled capital and elsewhere which killed at least 13 people and wounded 21. Among the dead were an Australian security contractor and two other foreign nationals who died when unidentified assailants fired at their vehicle in Baghdad. The Al Qaida has claimed responsibility for most of the attacks, including the one on Allawi. "Allawi escaped, but if one arrow missed its target, there are many others in the quiver," one of the statements in the militant outfit's website said. The claims have not been verified.

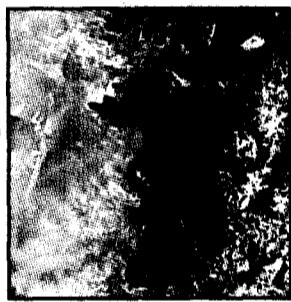


A car blown to smithereens after a bomb explosion

Helicopter downed in Iraq, 9 dead

Baghdad: An Mi-8 commercial helicopter was shot down in Iraq on Thursday and all nine people aboard are believed to have been killed, US military sources said. The Russian-built aircraft was flying just north of Baghdad when it was hit, possibly by a rocket-propelled grenade.

The military sources said that three crew and six passengers were on board. Their nationalities were not known, although it was believed that the crew may have been Bulgarian. The Bulgarian government said it had no information on any incident. Reuters



The wreckage of the chopper

The continuing violence and last-minute disagreements appear to have hit Iraq's hopes of unveiling a government on Thursday, nearly three months after the elections. President Jalal Talabani said he did not think a deal could be reached, reversing the hopes that he expressed on Wednesday. Disagreement remained evident among the Shia, Sunni and Kurd factions. "I think the government will not be announced today. We want to see the Sunni Arabs represented as well. Negotiations also continue over the allocation of some posts," the Kurdish leader said. Disputes surfaced at a meeting late on Wednesday with Allawi rejecting an offer to join the cabinet.

"The talks were going well, but the Shi'ites offered Allawi just two ministries, not the four that he wants, and he rejected the offer," a source said. There was also disagreement over what ministries Sunnis should get.

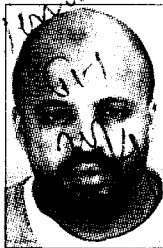
Meanwhile, the Iraqi defence ministry has identified the 19 bullet-riddled bodies found on Wednesday in a stadium as fishermen, not soldiers as initially rumoured. Investigations indicated that the men had come from Southern Diwaniya and Najaf provinces to fish in Tharthar lake when they were captured by insurgents and taken to the stadium at nearby Hadith and shot dead. The reason for the victims to be targeted

is not known

9/11 accused to plead guilty

Washington: Zacarias

Moussaoui,
the only
person in
the US
charged in
connection
with the
September
11 terrorist
attacks, re-
portedly



plans to **Z Moussaoui**
plead guilty and accept death
penalty.

A media report said on Tuesday that the French citizen, who tried to plead guilty in 2002 claiming to have an intimate knowledge of the plane hijackings but rescinded his plea later raising doubts about his mental competence, could enter a guilty plea as early as this week if US district judge Leonie M Brinkema finds him mentally competent to stand trial. In recent letters to the government and Brinkema, Moussaoui said he was willing to accept the possibility of a death sentence, which, The Washington Post said, could resolve a key point of contention—that prosecutors are unlikely to drop their insistence for capital punishment.

If Brinkema accepts the plea, she will probably set a death penalty trial, at which jurors will decide if Moussaoui should be executed. Moussaoui was indicted in December 2001, but his trial has been delayed three times. For most of the past two years, the case has been tied up in the appellate courts in a dispute over Moussaoui's access to key Al Qaida witnesses. If he accepts a guilty plea, sources said, Brinkema would probably set a date for the trial. PTI

20 APR 2005

UN votes to outlaw nuclear terrorism

COLUM LYNCH
UNITED NATIONS, APRIL 14

THE 191-member UN General Assembly on Thursday unanimously approved a treaty outlawing the use of nuclear weapons by terrorists and their supporters.

The Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism is the first anti-terrorism treaty to be adopted since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. It is the 13th anti-terrorism treaty and builds on recent efforts by the UN Security Council to compel states to strengthen their laws and policies to combat terrorist groups.

The treaty, which governments will begin signing at the General Assembly session in September, criminalizes the possession or use of radioactive material or a nuclear device "to cause death or serious bodily injury."

It also makes it a crime to use a nuclear device to damage property or the environment or to attack a nuclear



UN special envoy for tsunami recovery Bill Clinton with Secretary General Kofi Annan at UN headquarters on Thursday. AP/PTI

facility. It requires governments that ratify the treaty to amend national laws to prevent terrorists and their supporters from financing, planning or participating in nuclear terrorism.

India seeks early adoption of treaty

UNITED NATIONS: Terming terrorism the "most serious" threat to peace and security, India has asked the international community to join hands to root out the scourge and sought early adoption of a new Delhi-sponsored Comprehensive Convention Against Terrorism.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday after it adopted a Russian-sponsored global treaty aimed at preventing nuclear terrorism, Indian Ambassador to UN Nirupam Sen warned that terrorism undermines the very foundation of freedom and democracy.

Sen also referred to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's call to all member states to conclude negotiations on the convention before the start of 2006 session of the General Assembly. —PTI

places no new restrictions on the use of nuclear weapons by states, will become law after it is ratified by 22 states.

The vote ended seven years of negotiations that began when former Russian President Boris Yeltsin proposed a treaty to prevent rogue terrorists from getting their hands on nuclear material in Soviet Union.

An agreement on language was struck after members of the 57-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference were assured that the treaty would not be used to impose a generic definition of terrorism.

Defining terrorism has been an intensely controversial issue at the UN, where Islamic governments have argued that anti-Israel national liberation movements that have targeted civilians should not be considered terrorists. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has pressed the UN membership to adopt another convention by the end of next year that would provide a simple, universal definition of terrorism and outlaw all forms of terrorism against civilians. —LAT/PTI

15 APR 2006

INDIAN EXPRESS

Fidayeen strike on eve of bus run



QUEST FOR PEACE HITS A CAULDRON: The blazing Tourist Reception Centre in Srinagar during Wednesday's shootout between the CRPF and militants. — AFP

SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI, April 6. — On the eve of the inaugural run of the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad peace bus, two militants today carried out a *fidayeen* attack on the Tourist Reception Centre where several passengers had been accommodated. The TRC is barely 50 metres from the Sher-e-Kashmir stadium from where Dr Manmohan Singh and Mrs Sonia Gandhi will flag off the bus tomorrow. Both the militants were killed in an

encounter with the CRPF. Three civilians were injured.

Late this evening, the Prime Minister and his senior Cabinet colleagues reviewed the situation in the Valley. Describing the attack as "unfortunate", Dr Singh said the bus-named *Kaarwan-e-Aaman* (caravan of peace) — would get going tomorrow. "The peace process and the journey of peace will go on. These are desperate acts of desperate people," he said.

Four militant outfits, that warned passengers against travelling by the bus, have claimed responsibility. A caller

introducing himself as Sameer Abdullah, spokesman for Al-Nasireen, Al-Arifeen, Save Kashmir Movement and Farzandan-e-Millat outfits, telephoned news agencies here and owned up.

This is the second setback for the J&K government within a couple of days. Earlier, militants had leaked the confidential list of passengers booked on the inaugural run.

At 3.50 p.m., two militants, dressed as traffic policemen, entered the TRC from the transport yard nearby. A CRPF man shot one of the militants while his accomplice ran to the first floor

where he was killed in an encounter.

Passengers at the TRC were shifted to an undisclosed destination within 10 minutes of the attack.

Mr Saroop Singh, DIG, CRPF, said the militants had set fire to the complex during the shootout. Within minutes, a major part of the complex that houses the departments of tourism, protocol and many airline companies, was gutted. Employees were rescued. It took three hours to douse the blaze.

On her return from Dandi, Mrs Sonia Gandhi confirmed that she would visit Srinagar tomorrow.

"No religion allows violence," was Pakistan's reaction. "We condemn the attack," foreign minister Mr Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said, adds PTI from Islamabad. Mr Farooq Haider, a senior PoK official, said the bus would run as per schedule. "Violence will not delay the bus service. Pakistan condemns the attack in the strongest possible terms," foreign office spokesman Mr Jalil Abbas Jilani said. "The bus service is a humanitarian gesture to reunite the divided families. The travellers have committed no crime."

More reports on page 4

Ultras strike despite extra security

By M Saleem Pandit and Ranjan Roy/TNN

Srinagar: Despite forces imposing the most intense security network in a year in Srinagar and large parts of the Valley on Tuesday to ensure safe passage of people taking the bus to Muzaffarabad on Thursday, militants managed to strike at several places, injuring at least seven civilians.

The seven were injured when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded at Hanjiveera in Pattan, 24 km from Srinagar, along the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road in Baramulla district. Pattan is considered one of the most dangerous areas along the bus route. Three of those critically injured have been shifted to a Srinagar hospital.

In a pre-emptive mop up, the police and other security agencies scoured their lists of potential trouble-makers and pro-Pakistan elements and arrested over 300 people. Besides, dozens of checkpoints have been erected in Srinagar, from where PM Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi are scheduled to flag off the bus to Muzaffarabad on Thursday morning.



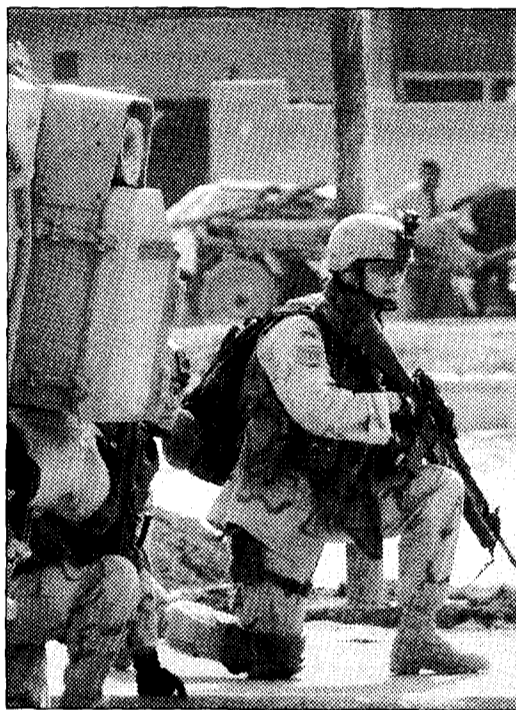
A civilian injured in a landmine explosion is treated at a Srinagar hospital on Tuesday

Meanwhile, during a routine combing operation along the 125-km route from Srinagar to Kaman Bridge, the last Indian point on the Line of Control, on Tuesday, a BSF patrol stumbled upon tins packed with 130 kg of explosives placed on the highway near Pattan. The explosives, enough to blow up several cars and buses, were safely defused later.

At Wadoora in Badgam district, away from the bus route but still considered a militant hub, soldiers, acting on a tip-off, raided a house and fought a pitched battle with two militants holed up inside. Both militants were killed while no military casualties were reported. Also, at Zainipora town of Pulwama district, two militants were killed in a similar operation. Authorities refused to divulge details and the names of the groups to which the militants in either battle be-

longed to. Although the police headquarters in Srinagar confirmed that preventive arrests were underway, it refused to give out any numbers. "No separatist leader has been arrested so far, but several people have been placed under surveillance," said H K Lohia, DIG police.

Iraq-US strike on terror camp kills 80



AP

A US commando takes cover during the operation

Associated Press
Baghdad, March 23

A RAID by US and Iraqi forces on a suspected rebel training camp left 80 militants dead, the single biggest one-day death toll for rebels in months and the latest in a series of blows to the country's insurgency, Iraqi officials said on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, politicians helping shape a post-election government expected within days, said negotiators are considering naming a Sunni Arab as defence minister in a move aimed at bringing Sunni Arabs into the political process - and perhaps deflate the insurgency they lead.

The US military announced late on Tuesday that its air and ground forces backed Iraqi commandos during a noontime raid on a suspected guerrilla training camp near Lake Tharthar in central Iraq. Seven commandos died, the US military said, but

it didn't give a death toll for rebels.

Iraqi officials said on Wednesday that 80 rebels died in the clash - the largest number of rebels killed in a single battle since the US Marine-led November attack on the former insurgent stronghold of Fallujah that left more than 1,000 dead. On Sunday, the US forces had killed 26 assailants after they were ambushed south of Baghdad.

There was further violence on Wednesday as a mortar shell landed on an elementary school in western Baghdad, killing at least one child and injuring three others, according to a police official who asked not to be named out of fear of retribution by attackers.

On the political front, Abbas Hassan Mousa al-Bayati, a top member of the United Iraqi Alliance, said negotiators from his Shia-dominated bloc and a Kurdish coalition could tap a Sunni Arab to head the ministry of defence, which oversees the Iraqi army battling the insurgency. "The defence ministry will go to a Sunni Arab because we do not want Arab Sunnis to feel that they are marginalised," al-Bayati asserted.

Sunni Arabs, dominant under ousted dictator Saddam Hussein, largely stayed away from the January 30 ballot amid calls for them to boycott and threats against voters by the Sunni-led rebellion. Political leaders have in the past announced plans on filling cabinet positions, only to reverse themselves later.

Al-Bayati said his group and the Kurdish coalition, which together won 215 seats in the new 275-seat National Assembly, were expected to name a President on Saturday, the next step toward forming a new government. Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani is expected to fill the post.

Fuad Masoum, a member of the Kurdish negotiating team, said no definitive decisions on the makeup of the 32-member cabinet had been made. He declined to confirm that a Sunni Arab will be named defence minister, but said that it was an option under consideration.

Handing the post to a Sunni Arab could help undermine support for the insurgency, while assuaging Sunni fears that the Shias will dominate all aspects of the country's upcoming government. The army chief of staff could be a Shia, al-Bayati said.

He added that his bloc was pressing for a Shia to head the interior ministry, which oversees the police - Iraq's other main security force - and that a Kurd could become foreign minister.

Delhi outrage over Kanishka verdict

SNS & Agencies

NEW DELHI, March 17. — India has expressed outrage over the acquittal of Ripudaman Singh Malik (58) and Ajaib Singh Bagri (55) in the Kanishka bombing case by a Canadian court. A government spokesman said today: "We share the sense of outrage among the relatives and friends of those who lost their lives in that attack... after almost two decades, the culprits have not been brought to account." He added: "We can only share the hopes of all those affected by this tragedy that one day, justice may yet be done."

"Terrorism is recognised today as an action for which there can be no justification under any circumstances. It cannot have a rationale or a context and the vast majority of nations and people reject it outrightly," he said.

The British Columbia Supreme Court delivered the judgment yesterday, acquitting the two due to lack of evidence in the case, which India has described as the "most heinous terrorist attack in civil aviation history".

The verdict ended a two-year trial in Canada's worst case of mass murder and the deadliest terrorist strikes before 9/11 which killed 331 persons. Mr

Justice Ian Josephson said the prosecution's key witnesses were not credible.

"Words are incapable of adequately conveying the senseless horror of these crimes," said Mr Justice Josephson, who heard the case without a jury at the defendants' request. However, he dismissed the credibility of prosecution witnesses, including a woman who said Malik told her of a plan to smuggle two bombs on flights from Vancouver that would be transferred to two Air India jets.

The defendants were released immediately. Malik smiled as he swept through a crowd, surrounded by police to a waiting car.

Kin shocked: page 3

Court acquits Kanishka accused duo

Agence France-Press
Vancouver, March 16

A CANADIAN judge on Wednesday acquitted two Sikh men accused of murdering 329 people in an Air India jet bombing off the coast of Ireland in 1985.

In a stunning verdict which reduced some relatives of victims in the court to tears, Justice Ian Bruce Josephson threw out eight counts of murder and conspiracy against Ajaib Singh Bagri and Ripudaman Singh Malik.

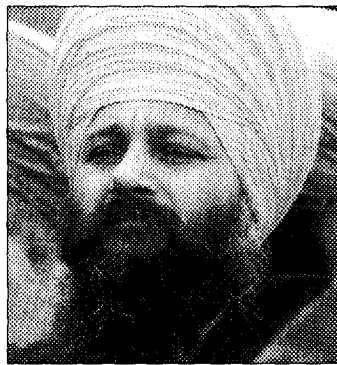
The judgements came after a 20-year investigation, and a 19-month trial into the world's worst airborne terror strike prior to the attacks of September 11, 2001.

"The Crown has not proven its case against him beyond a reasonable doubt," said Josephson, as he acquitted Malik, a prominent member of western Canada's Sikh community.

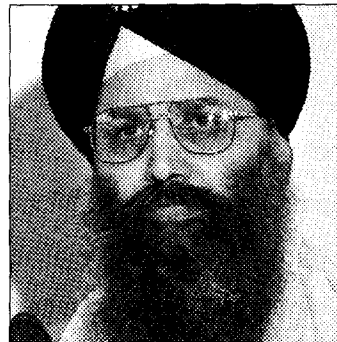
As he delivered his judgement against Bagri, Josephson said, "The evidence has fallen remarkably short ... I find the Crown has not proved his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt." Malik and Bagri, orthodox Sikhs who immigrated to Canada from Punjab, were accused of conspiring to plant suitcase bombs on two aircraft.

Prosecutors claimed the Sikh group built suitcase bombs on Vancouver Island, bought airplane tickets, then planted the explosives on two flights from Vancouver that connected with Air India planes.

One bomb exploded in the hold of Air India Flight 182 over the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Ireland on June 23, 1985. All 329 people aboard the plane died. Just 4 minutes earlier, the other bomb had exploded at Japan's Narita airport, killing two bagga-



Ajaib Singh Bagri (top) &
Ripudaman Singh Malik



ge handlers transferring suitcases to Air India Flight 201. Both Malik and Bagri were also acquitted of involvement in that blast.

A third man, Inderjit Singh Reyat was convicted in the Narita explosion and sentenced to 10 years, before he was charged with the bomb on Flight 182. In 2003, just before the trial was to begin, Reyat pleaded guilty to manslaughter, and is serving a five-year sentence.

Another immigrant to Canada, Tarwinder Singh Parma, was the alleged mastermind of the plot and died in a 1992 police shootout in India.

Spanish Muslims condemn terrorist acts

By Vajju Naravane

MADRID, MARCH 11. This morning, I was awakened by the sound of bells. Church bells that rang with a deep, sorrowing sound gripping the city of Madrid in a grieving embrace. There are 650 churches in this city and their bells tolled in unison at the appointed hour.

It was 7.37 a.m. The exact hour at which the first of 10 bombs exploded on Madrid's suburban trains, exactly a year ago. Nearly 200 people died in those terrorist blasts and 1,900 were injured.

Now, a year on, Spain was remembering its dead. Politicians and city authorities stood in quiet reflection as the church bells rang.

Throughout the day today there were remembrance meet-

ings, church ceremonies and flower-laden trips to the city's cemeteries. Dignitaries, including the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, and the Spanish King Juan Carlos, attended the opening of a park of remembrance in central Madrid and assisted in planting 192 cypress and olive trees in memory of the 191 blast victims and a policeman who died in a raid on a suspect's flat in early April. At 8 p.m. a funeral mass was held at Madrid's Almudena Cathedral.

Television channels broadcast special footage including a docu-fiction re-creating the blasts. Many of those who survived are still struggling with the physical and psychological consequences and are embittered by the politicking that has dominated the months-long investigation into the blasts. Pilar

Manjon, head of the victims' association said today that Spain "lacks the political will for the truth to emerge."

Spanish newspapers carried several pages of analysis, comment and reportage on the subject. "Spain will never forget the victims of March 11," was the underlying message. Today was also a day for reconciliation and brotherhood between the estranged Moroccan and Spanish communities. There has been notable tension and heightened suspicion towards the Moroccans, since most of those detained by the Spanish authorities were immigrants from Morocco. Spain's Islamic Commission, however, tried to downplay these tensions, thanking Spaniards for the "exemplary" way in which they have made a distinction be-

tween Islam and terrorism after the attacks in Madrid.

Fatwa against Osama

In a surprise move, the commission issued a *fatwa* against the Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. The five-page *fatwa* declared Osama "outside Islam" and added "Bin Laden, Al-Qaeda and all those who try to justify terrorism by basing it on the holy Koran are outside Islam."

The *fatwa* said "the terrorist acts" of Al-Qaeda and its leader "are totally forbidden and the object of strong condemnation by Islam."

The commission called on Spain's imams to firmly condemn terrorism in their mosques and to pray for all the victims of the attacks. "We feel deep and strong solidarity with the victims and their loved ones

who have shown an exemplary attitude by never pointing a finger at the country's Muslim population," the commission's secretary-general, Riay Tatary, said.

An international conference on "Democracy, Terrorism and Security" that ended here yesterday, concluded that spreading democracy and boosting international cooperation are priorities in fighting terrorism.

The U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who unveiled a global strategy for fighting terrorism, called on member states to support a proposed fund to promote democracy around the world. "We are going to need money, and that will have to come from Governments," he said, calling on member states "to give willingly so that we can tackle this scourge."

12 MAR 2005

THE HINDU

“Terrorism disavows fundamental rights”

By Vajju Naravane

MADRID, MARCH 8. At the approach of the first anniversary of the deadly train bombings that killed nearly 200 and injured almost 2000 persons on March 11, 2004, there is palpable tension in the Spanish capital with police patrolling the underground transport systems and surveillance teams manning major crossroads.

Over 70000 police, NATO planes and anti-aircraft batteries have been deployed over and around Madrid to provide security for an international conference on terrorism that opened this morning.

More than a dozen heads of state and Government are expected to participate including Juan Carlos of Spain, Mohammed VI of Morocco, the U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and the E.U. foreign policy supremo Javier Solana. The conference, organised by the Madrid Club, a non-profit organisation set up by 52 former heads of state and Government, is also being attended by 200 experts from over 20 countries.

According to the Spanish Interior Ministry, the police presence includes units specialised

in nuclear, biological and chemical attacks.

Inaugurating the conference, Spain's Prince Felipe said: "Terrorism is a threat to life. It disavows fundamental rights, denies liberty and attacks the legality of the state. It is thus the enemy of democracy. Its eradication is a priority," adding that Spain and the world would never forget "the profound grief of the hours" following the March 11 attacks.

Daily struggle

But away from the conference venue, survivors of the Madrid carnage continue to face a daily struggle. "A year spent mutilated — it's just endless," said Juanita, a young student who has undergone multiple operations. For her, life has become an unending nightmare of surgery, physical re-education, administrative battles — and a numbing feeling of isolation.

Clara Escribano was injured in the blasts at Santa Eugenia station. "I regained consciousness for a couple of moments in the destroyed railway carriage. I shall never forget that moment. Total silence, nothing but blood and corpses. There is a pre-

March 11, and then there is a post-March 11, and for me nothing can change that," said the 46-year old paediatric nurse who has been unable to return to work since.

Though the March 11 bombings jolted the European Union (E.U.) into action in the war against terrorism, efforts to set up greater pan-European cooperation have failed. A year after the appointment of the Netherlands' Gijs de Vries as the E.U.'s anti-terrorism coordinator, the fight remains firmly in the hands of national governments.

The E.U. countries have tried to harmonise regulations on how long records of electronic data transfer or tapped phone calls should be preserved. But the toughest challenge has the highly sensitive area of intelligence sharing. In general, intelligence services are reluctant to divulge information except within the framework of a bilateral agreement.

Internecine quarrels

But at national level, police and security agencies appear to be faring no better. Nearly a year after March 11, a committee of enquiry into the Madrid blasts is bogged down in inter-

necine quarrels that have drawn bitter contempt from survivors. The split inside the panel is between the opposition right-wing Popular Party (PP) in power at the time of the attacks, and just about all the other Spanish political parties. The PP's decision to blame the Basque separatist organisation ETA for the attacks cost it the election as most Spaniards felt they had been lied to.

In total, 74 suspects, most of them Moroccans residing in Spain, have been identified by Spanish authorities for their suspected roles in the attacks and 22 have been placed in preventive detention. Last year, 144 suspected Islamist militants were arrested in Spain. Several Pakistani nationals are among those arrested.

Spain's Interior Minister, Jose Antonio Alonso, said on Monday that Spain was "confronted with a significant level of risk of new attacks, more than in other countries.

The responsibility for the attacks clearly centres on a group linked to the global Al-Qaeda network," he said. "The attacks were carried out with money, means and equipment gathered in Spain."

Indonesia urges respect for Bashir court decision

The Jakarta Post/ANN

JAKARTA, March 4. — Indonesia urged foreign critics today to respect a court decision sentencing a radical Muslim cleric to just 30 months in jail for involvement in the 2002 Bali bombings and acquitting him of more serious terrorism charges.

The USA and its key ally Australia, who see Abu Bakar Bashir as the head of the Al-Qaida-linked regional militant network Jemaah Islamiyah, have criticised the verdict and sentence delivered yesterday as too lenient.

"Indonesia is a democracy where we have to respect the judicial process," ministry of foreign affairs spokesman Mr Marty Natalegawa said. "Our position has always been one of full respect of the judicial process. That also includes



Abu Bakar Bashir during his trial in Jakarta on Thursday. — AFP

the matter of sentences." Mr Natalegawa said neither country had contacted the Indonesian government to complain and that time needed to be given to the prosecution to decide if it would appeal against the court's decision.

"This is purely a legal process and we don't expect any communication that is intergovernmental in nature," he said.

The court found the 66-year-old cleric guilty of an "evil conspiracy" to commit the Bali nightclub bombings that killed 202 people, including 88 Australian tourists. But it ruled him not guilty of more serious charges of ordering the bombings, or involvement in the 2003 blast at the JW Marriott Hotel in Jakarta that killed 12 people.

Mr Natalegawa said Indonesia, unlike many countries, had processed its terrorism suspects through the courts. "I know of many far more high profile cases where the perpetrators are still at large, or if they have been caught remain incarcerated without any proper trial," he said.

Some lawyers and security experts have said the case against Bashir was hurt by weak evidence and reluctant witnesses. They say one hurdle faced by the prosecution was that some

evidence remained in the hands of the USA and its allies, who are holding potentially key witnesses, including senior Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah member Hambali, in seclusion.

Australia warning

New terrorist attacks are possible in a backlash by supporters of Bashir over his jailing, Australia's senior police officer said in Sydney today, adds a report. Australian Federal Police commissioner Mr Mick Keelty said intelligence agencies would be updating terror threat assessments taking into account a possible violent response from Bashir's supporters.

USA disappointed

The USA has expressed "disappointment" at the prison term awarded to Bashir, saying the "results are not commensurate with Bashir's culpability", PTI adds from Washington.

THE STATESMAN

05 MAR 2005

ইরাকে আত্মঘাতী গাড়িবোমায় হত শতাধিক

V



প্ফারশে আহত এক ইরাকিকে নিয়ে যাচ্ছেন সঙ্গীরা। বাগদাদের অদূরে হিল্লাতে। সোমবার। —রয়টাস

বাগদাদ, ২৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি: ইরাকে শিয়া-অধ্যুষিত হিল্লা এলাকায় এক আত্মঘাতী বিস্ফোরণে সত্ত ১১৫ জনের মৃত্যু হয়েছে। আহত হয়েছেন দেড়শের বেশি।

একটি স্বাস্থ্যকেন্দ্রের সামনে সাধারণ লোকের জমায়েতে বিস্ফোরকভর্তি গাড়ি নিয়ে ঢুকে পড়ে এক জঙ্গি। ৩০ জানুয়ারি সাধারণ নির্বাচনের পরে ইরাকে এটিই সব থেকে বড় জঙ্গি আক্রমণের ঘটনা। সাম্প্রতিক কালে ইরাকে কোনও একটি ঘটনায় এত জন মানুষ মারা যাননি। হতাহতের সংখ্যা আরও বাড়তে পারে। দীর্ঘ প্রতীক্ষার পরে সাধারণ নির্বাচন শেষে ইরাকে এখন শিয়া-প্রধান সরকার তৈরি হতে চলেছে।

সেই সময়ে বাগদাদের একশো কিমি দক্ষিণে শিয়া-অধ্যুষিত এলাকায় এই আক্রমণ কোনও সুন্নি জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠীর কাজ বলেই অনুমান করছেন ইরাকি অধিকর্তারা। যদিও কেনও জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠী এখনও এই হামলার ঘটনার দায়িত্ব স্বীকার করেনি।

হিল্লার যে স্বাস্থ্যকেন্দ্রের সামনে এই বিস্ফোরণ ঘটে, তার লাগোয়াই বাজার এলাকা। ফলে এলাকায় যথেষ্ট ভিড় ছিল। সরকারি চাকরির জন্য মেডিক্যাল সার্টিফিকেট জোগাড় করার জন্য বহু লোক জমে হয়েছিলেন স্বাস্থ্যকেন্দ্রের সামনে। সেখানেই গাড়ি চালিয়ে ঢুকে

পড়ে এক আত্মঘাতী জঙ্গি। তারপরেই বিস্ফোরণ। স্বাস্থ্য দফতরের এক অধিকর্তা মামুদ আবদুল রিধা জানান, পরিস্থিতি সোকাবিলার জন্য কারবালার সিওয়ানিহা ও নাজাফ থেকে ডাক্তারদের হিল্লায় ডেকে পাঠানো হয়েছে। স্থানীয় বাসিন্দাদের রক্ত দিতে অনুরোধ জানানো হয়েছে। হিল্লা হাসপাতালে এখন শুধু আহতদের ভিড়। ঘটনাস্থলে এখনও ছড়িয়ে আছে মৃতদেহ। উঠছে কালো ধোঁয়া।

সাধারণ নির্বাচন দেশে শান্তি ফেরাতে পারবে কিনা, তা নিয়ে দেশে বিদেশে অনেকেই প্রশ্ন তুলেছেন। ইরাক থেকে মার্কিন সেনা সরানোর দাবি যেমন উঠেছে, তেমন ইরাকি সেনা ও নিরাপত্তাকর্মী কতটা দায়িত্ব সামলাতে পারবে, তা নিয়েও যথেষ্ট সংশয় আছে।

দেশে এই নিরাপত্তার অভাবের জন্য আজ মার্কিন প্রশাসনকেই কার্যত দায়ী করেছেন অন্তর্বর্তী প্রধানমন্ত্রী ইয়াদ আলওয়য়হ।

তঁর কথায়, “সাদাম জমানার সেনা ও সরকারি আমলাদের হটানোর মার্কিন সিদ্ধান্ত ভুল ছিল। ফলে যুদ্ধোত্তর ইরাকের শাসনব্যবস্থায় অসুবিধা দেখা দিয়েছে।” ইরাকের নিরাপত্তাবাহিনী এখনও যথাযথ দায়িত্ব পালনে ব্যর্থ তা আলওয়য়হ স্বীকার করে নেন।

—রয়টাস

Militants storm J&K govt hub

25/2
HTF-1
Jammu



Jawans take position outside the divisional headquarters of the J&K govt in Srinagar on Thursday. AFP

Troops gun down two and free 200 hostages

HT Correspondent
Srinagar, February 24

GUNFIRE BROKE the frozen silence of snowbound Srinagar this afternoon after militants stormed the divisional headquarters of the state government keeping the security forces engaged in a four-hour shootout.

The siege ended with two militants and three security personnel, including a woman employee of the CRPF, dead.

Most of the 200-odd employees trapped inside the complex at Tankipora were rescued without harm. A spokesman for Al Badre Mujahideen, which claimed responsibility for the attack, told newspapers offices over the phone that the two slain militants, Irfan Bhai and Sikander Bhai, were Pakistani nationals.

The two suicide attackers appeared near the complex gate around 3 pm, forced their way in, and targeted the security personnel with bombs and automatic weapons, eyewitnesses said. The militants failed to "penetrate deep" but gained entry into one of the buildings

from where they stepped up the attack, they added.

Reinforcements from the BSF, CRPF and police rushed to the scene and one of the two militants was shot dead after an hour-long shootout. DIG H. K. Lohia, who had come to meet deputy commissioner Shailendra Kumar, led the operation. There was a lull in the gunfire at around 4 pm when the security forces evacuated those trapped inside.

The complex, which is adjacent to several government installations including the Legislative Assembly and the Old Secretariat, was cordoned off late in the evening.

Today's attack was the third instance in recent times of militants targeting government establishments. Last month, the income tax and regional passport offices were the targets of their attacks.

Grenade attack

At least 14 people, including two BSF personnel, were injured in a grenade attack by militants in Baramulla district. The grenade was lobbed by unidentified militants on a security patrol.

Suicide blasts at mosques kill 17 in Iraq



Mourners carry the coffin of a Shia militiaman. Reuters

**OMAR ANWAR AND
MARIAM KAROUNY**
BAGHDAD, FEBRUARY 18

SUICIDE bombers killed at least 17 people in attacks on two Shia mosques in Baghdad on Friday as thousands of Iraq's majority Muslim sect commemorated Ashura.

In the first attack, a man wearing an explosives-packed vest merged into a crowd near a mosque in the Doura district of southwestern Baghdad and blew himself up, survivors said. The blast killed 14 people and wounded at least 40.

Soon afterwards, an explosion shook a second Shia mosque in western Baghdad, the US. Military and police sources said.

Police initially blamed that blast on a mortar strike but later said two suicide bombers approached a crowd outside the mosque. They were spotted by police, who shot them, but one still blew himself up, killing three people and wounding five. Iraq's national security adviser, Mowaffaq al-Rubaie, told CNN he believed

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian militant who is al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq, was behind the attacks.

The attacks came as thousands of Shias marched through the city for Ashura in a show of strength a day after a Shia alliance was confirmed as the winner of last month's historic election, handing the community power for the first time. Dressed in black for mourning and holding aloft green banners bearing the name of Imam Hussein, the martyred grandson of the prophet Mohammad, thousands filled central Baghdad for the Ashura march.

Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), the main party in the Shia alliance that won the Jan. 30 election, addressed the crowd with a message of political conciliation.

"I call on all Iraqis to unite and I assure everyone the Iraq we want is a unified and secure Iraq where every citizen, without exception, enjoys justice and equality," Hakim said.

PA-16
4/2

Sept 11 report cites several warnings about hijackings

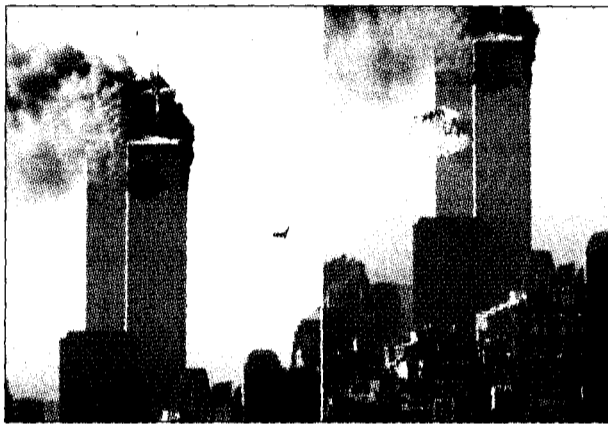
By Eric Lichtblau

Washington: In the months before the Sept. 11 attacks, federal aviation officials reviewed dozens of intelligence reports that warned about Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda, some of which specifically discussed airline hijackings and suicide operations, according to a previously undisclosed report from the 9/11 commission.

But aviation officials were "lulled into a false sense of security," and "intelligence that indicated a real and growing threat leading up to 9/11 did not stimulate significant increases in security procedures," the commission report concluded.

The report discloses that the Federal Aviation Administration, despite being focused on risks of hijackings overseas, warned airports in the spring of 2001 that if "the intent of the hijacker is not to exchange hostages for prisoners, but to commit suicide in a spectacular explosion, a domestic hijacking would probably be preferable."

The report takes the F.A.A. to task for failing to pursue domestic security measures that could conceivably have altered the events of Sept. 11,



The report said that aviation officials were lulled into a false sense of security

2001, like toughening airport screening procedures for weapons or expanding the use of on-flight air marshals. The report, completed last August, said officials appeared more concerned with reducing airline congestion, lessening delays, and easing airlines' financial woes than deterring a terrorist attack.

The Bush administration has blocked the public release of the full, classified version of the report for more than five months, officials said, much to the frustration of former commission members who say it provides a critical understanding of the failures

of the civil aviation system. The administration provided both the classified report and a declassified, 120-page version to the National Archives two weeks ago and, even with heavy redactions in some areas, the declassified version provides the firmest evidence to date about the warnings that aviation officials received concerning the threat of an attack on airliners and the failure to take steps to deter it.

Among other things, the report says that leaders of the F.A.A. received 52 intelligence reports from their security branch that mentioned Mr. bin Laden or Al

Qaeda from April to Sept. 10, 2001. That represented half of all the intelligence summaries in that time.

Five of the intelligence reports specifically mentioned Al Qaeda's training or capability to conduct hijackings, the report said. Two mentioned suicide operations, although not connected to aviation, the report said.

A spokeswoman for the F.A.A., the agency that bears the brunt of the commission's criticism, said Wednesday that the agency was well aware of the threat posed by terrorists before Sept. 11 and took substantive steps to counter it, including the expanded use of explosives detection units.

"We had a lot of information about threats," said the spokeswoman, Laura J. Brown. "But we didn't have specific information about means or methods that would have enabled us to tailor any countermeasures."

She added: "After 9/11, the F.A.A. and the entire aviation community took bold steps to improve aviation security, such as fortifying cockpit doors on 6,000 airplanes, and those steps took hundreds of millions of dollars to implement." NYT News Service

Blast rocks Madrid, 43 injured

The Times, London

MADRID, Feb. 9. — Basque terrorists detonated a car bomb outside Madrid's convention centre and prospective Olympic Games venue today, hours before a joint visit by the King of Spain and the President of Mexico.

At least 43 people, including five policemen who had been clearing the area, were injured in the explosion, although none seriously. King Juan Carlos and President Fox were due to open an art fair at the convention centre a few hours after the bomb exploded during the morning rush hour.

Members of the International Olympic Committee assessing Madrid's bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games had visited the venue last week.

The bomb attack coincided with a big police operation in northern Spain against ETA, the Basque separatist organisation, which had given warning of the explosion in a Basque-language newspaper. Fourteen suspects were arrested in the Basque country, Navarra, Valencia and Cadiz. Mr Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, the Spanish Prime Minister, condemned the attack and told ETA that "bombs lead only to prison". //

THE STATESMAN

10 FEB 2005

30 die in serial Iraq blasts

Associated Press
Baghdad, February 7

MILITANTS STRUCK at Iraqi police forces with a suicide bomb, a car bomb and mortars in the cities of Mosul and Baqouba on Monday, killing at least 30 people as they pressed their campaign to undermine the nation's fledgling security forces.

The deadliest attack came in Baqouba, where a car bomb exploded outside the gates of a provincial police headquarters, killing 15 people and wounding 17. Many of the victims were there to seek jobs as policemen.

In Mosul, a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the compound of Jumhuri Teaching Hospital, killing 12 policemen guarding the site and injuring four others. The bomb went off outside the hospital building, hospital director Tahseen Ali Mahmoud al-Obeidi said. Witnesses said the bomber called the police officers over to him and then blew up among the crowd.

"I heard an explosion. When I went to check, I saw bodies everywhere," Al-Obeidi said. The ground was soaked with blood.



Iraqi soldiers check a car for bombs in Baghdad on Monday.

Nurses collected body parts, putting them in bags.

In a posting on a website, the Al-Qaida in Iraq group, led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said "a lion from the Martyrs Brigade" wearing an explosives belt managed to get inside a police post at the Mosul

hospital. The claim could not be verified. There was no claim for the Baqouba attack.

Also on Monday, militants shelled a police station in Mosul with more than a dozen mortar rounds, killing three civilians.

The attacks were the latest sign that insurgents are stepping up attacks against Iraq's security forces, which the US hopes can assume a greater role in fighting the rebels once a newly elected government takes office.

The violence and kidnappings raise new concerns about security following a brief downturn in violence after the first nationwide polls since the fall of Saddam Hussein in April 2003.

UN officials suspended: Secretary-General Kofi Annan suspended the head of the UN oil-for-food program in Iraq and a senior official who dealt with contracts, following an independent investigation that accused them of misconduct. Benon Sevan, in charge of the \$64 billion humanitarian program, and Joseph Stephanides, who heads the UN Security Council Affairs Division, were told they had been suspended with pay.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

08 FEB 2005

Al-Qaida grows in Bangladesh

Agencies
New York, January 24

EYE OF TERROR

GROUPS, INCLUDING some with possible links with the al-Qaida, are gaining in strength in areas of Bangladesh bordering India, where the government has little control, a US daily claimed on Monday.

"Bangladesh is becoming increasingly important to groups like the al-Qaida because it has been off everyone's radar screen", an investigative article in the *New York Times* said, quoting an expert, Zachary Abuza.

"The al-Qaida is going to have to figure out where they can regroup, where they have the physical capability to assemble — and Bangladesh is one of these key places", the report quotes Abuza as saying.

Bangladesh has consistently denied the presence of militant camps on its territory. The *New York Times* report also stressed that Islamist militants have carried out most attacks against other members of religious minorities, including Hindus, Christians, Buddhists — and even moderate Muslims considered out of step with the doctrines espoused at *madarssas*.

The report says a man who waged *jihad* in Afghanistan and was now settled in the border areas has formed a group called Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (Awakened Muslim

■ A man who waged *jihad* in Afghanistan and has now settled somewhere on the Indo-Bangla border has formed a group that wants to Talibanise the country

■ Bangla Bhai, as he is called, is 'determined' and 'violent' the NYT report says

■ Bangla Bhai wants men to sport beards and women burkhas

■ His sworn enemy is a group of Leftist marauders

Masses of Bangladesh), and wants to bring a Taliban-type regime in the country. The man, 'Bangla Bhai', is "determined and violent" and seems to have enough — perhaps 10,000 — lightly armed adherents to make his rule stick.

He identified himself as Azizur Rahman and, more recently, as Siddqui Islam.

He is now going to bring Talibanisation to his part of the country, he says, and wants men to wear beards and women *burkhas* in a place which, the article notes, is religiously diverse.

His sworn enemy, the article says, is a "somewhat derelict — but still dangerous — group of Leftist marauders", who are popularly known as the Purbo Banglar Communist Party.

25 JAN 2005

THE TELEGRAPH

Iraq war breeding a new generation of terrorists

Guardian News Service
Washington, January 16

THE CHAOS of Iraq is giving rise to a new generation of "professional" terrorists who will eventually replace al-Qaida as a global threat, according to a CIA thinktank.

A report by the National Intelligence Council says the war in Iraq has provided a training and recruitment ground for Islamist militants, much as Afghanistan did for the founding

generation of the al-Qaida during the war against the 1980s' Soviet occupation.

As new terror organisations emerge on the world stage, al-Qaida will splinter into regional separatist groups, says the report, which forecasts global trends over the next 15 years. "Iraq and other possible conflicts in the future could provide recruitment, training grounds, technical skills and language proficiency for a new class of terrorists who are 'professionalised' and for

deadly expertise.

Specifically, the report warns that the US faces an increasing risk of an attack involving biological agents, such as anthrax, and that an emerging and more sophisticated generation of terrorists could also use chemical weapons.

The bleak forecast undermines one of the central justifications of the Bush administration for invading Iraq: that it was necessary to curb terrorism; that the country was a central

front in the "war on terror"; and that deposed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had links with al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden.

Instead, the report describes how hundreds of foreign terrorists entered Iraq after the US invasion, and how the insurgency against the American forces was viewed by radical Muslims as a war against a foreign occupier, akin to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Terrorists also took ad-

vantage of the post-war chaos, porous borders and a country awash with weapons.

But, unlike the rise of the al-Qaida in Afghanistan, the emerging terrorists do not require a geographical base and are expected to rely increasingly on the Internet. "While taking advantage of sanctuaries around the world to train, terrorists won't need a stationary headquarters to plan and carry out operations", the report says. "Training ma-

terials, targeting guidance, weapons knowhow and fund-raising will increasingly become virtual".

The terrorists now recruited and trained in Iraq will, eventually, become the successor generation to the al-Qaida, it predicts. "Al-Qaida membership — which was distinguished by having trained in Afghanistan — will gradually dissipate, to be replaced in part by the dispersion of the experienced survivors of the conflict in Iraq".

Birth of another al-Qaida

- New generation of 'professional' terrorists will eventually replace al-Qaida as a global threat, feels CIA
- War in Iraq has provided a training and recruitment ground for Islamist militants like the Soviet war veterans of the conflict in Iraq
- CIA feels al-Qaida will soon splinter into regional separatist groups
- Veterans of this conflict will disperse around the world, exporting their deadly expertise

whom political violence becomes an end in itself", the report says. It warns that Iraq could disperse around the world, exporting their

Militants storm passport office in Srinagar

Person
HD-1
16/1

SRINAGAR, JAN. 15. Piercing tight security arrangements ahead of the Republic Day, militants today stormed a regional passport office inside an indoor stadium here, triggering a gunbattle with security forces which left three jawans injured and two missing.

Two heavily-armed militants of the Al-Mansoorian outfit, hurling a grenade and firing indiscriminately, barged into the stadium around 4.15 p.m. CRPF personnel on guard returned the fire and the entire area was cordoned off, official sources said.

The indoor stadium is adjacent to the Bakshi Stadium, the main venue of the Republic Day function.

Three security personnel, including a CRPF sub-inspector, received bullet injuries. Two CRPF jawans were found missing in the evening roll call.

The guns fell silent as dusk descended and security forces adopted a "wait-and-watch"

tactic to prevent the militants from escaping under the cover of darkness, the sources said.

The militants gained entry into the passport office through the compound of the vacant youth hostel that was under renovation.

A senior CRPF officer supervising the operation said an all-out offensive would be launched tomorrow.

Militants have stepped up attacks on security installations, Central government offices and political workers as the administration is gearing for the twin challenge of holding the Republic Day function and the civic bodies' elections in the State.

Last week, two militants of the Al-Mansoorian outfit stormed the Income Tax department building at Barbarshah, killing five security personnel before both of them were shot dead. In another incident, an Army Major, two jawans and two militants were killed in a

23-hour-long encounter at Balapora in Chadoora area of Budgam district on Tuesday.

In an attempt to disrupt the coming civic elections, militants of the Hizbul Mujahideen today made a bid on the life of a National Conference candidate, Ghulam Mohammad Hakeem, at a public rally. One person was killed and 14 were injured.

Mr. Hakeem, a resident of Kantibagh, was campaigning in the Lal Bazar locality soon after filing his nomination papers when the militants lobbed a grenade towards him, sources said.

Mr. Hakeem escaped unhurt but 15 persons, mostly his supporters, were injured in the explosion. One of them later died in hospital.

This is the first incident when militants, opposed to the polls, have targeted a candidate since the civic elections, scheduled to be held on February 1, were announced. — PTI

THE HINDU

16 JAN 2005

J&K militants storm I-T office

Four gunned down in fierce encounter

Agencies
Srinagar, January 7

TWO MILITANTS today stormed the Income-Tax office building in the heart of the city, triggering a fierce gunbattle with the security personnel that left two securitymen and both the extremists dead, while five others, including three senior officers, were injured.

The three-storey building housing the IT Department in the Barbarshah locality was set on fire soon after the terrorists stormed it around 3.45 pm hurling grenades and firing indiscriminately.

However, people — mostly employees of the I-T Department trapped inside the building — were rescued, CRPF spokesman Neeraj Kumar said. Kumar said the killing of the fidayeen was confirmed by the security personnel who entered the building to carry out searches.

He said the search in the building was suspended for the night and would resume tomorrow morning since there could be more arms and explosives lying in the building.

The bodies of the militants lying on the first floor of the building have not been removed by the search party because of apprehensions that the militants might have explosive tied to their bodies, Kumar said. The body of a local policeman, Ghulam Mohiuddin, who was associated with the security wing of the department, was found inside a bunker in the building, official sources said. Mohiuddin was posted at the entrance of the building. His associate is also missing.

In the gunbattle, which lasted nearly two hours, CRPF Commandant Rati Ram of the 37th Battalion, guarding the office, BSF Commandant M.S. Rathore, Deputy Commandant S. Rawat, constable Anil Godhra and an I-T employee were injured, the sources said.

Amid heavy gunfire and leaping flames, the BSP and police rescued over 30 employees of the IT office, including three women and several CRPF personnel trapped inside the building.

The injured officers were admitted to hospital where the condition of Rawat, who functions as staff officer of the DIG of the BSF, was stated to be serious, the sources said.



REUTERS

Income-Tax officials escape from their burning office building in Srinagar on Friday.

Close brush with death for staff

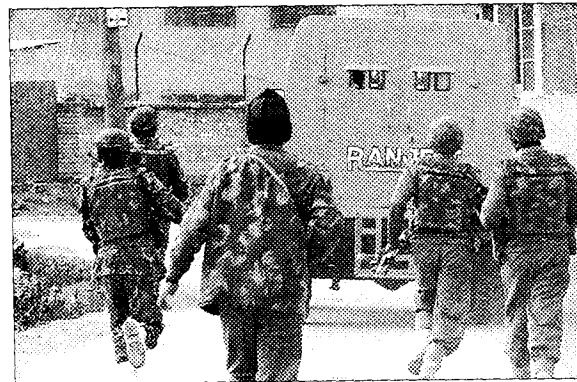
Majid Jahangir
Srinagar, January 7

FOR THE 40-odd employees of the Income-Tax department, rescued from the two-storey buildings in the heart of the city, it was a close brush with death.

As the employees were rescued by the security forces and journalists, they all were in tears and some female employees even fainted soon after.

"It was a close shave and, if the rescue operation had got slightly delayed, all of us would have perished in the crossfire", cried a female employee of the department.

Gulzareen, the first I-T officer to be rescued from a building that was under the blaze at that time, said around 15 employees of



AFP

CRPF men rush towards the I-T building in Srinagar on Friday.

the department were holed up in her room.

"We were shouting and, finally, some journalists and security personnel took notice of us. "It was difficult for us to jump from the first floor since all the

windows were meshed and despite our efforts the mesh could not be torn in the first 15 minutes.

"Then, luckily, we managed to tear it and got down through a ladder", said Gulzareen.

"All of us managed to get down", she added. All the employees, despite getting out of the building, were seen anxiously waiting for other colleagues, still stranded in the other rooms.

Additional commissioner of income-tax Farhat Qureshi, was hugged by the staff as he was rescued. "The militants were holed up in the ground floor, the second storey had caught fire and we were stranded in the first floor.

"It was a tight situation where anything could have happened, but thank God, we're alive", he said.

Some employees got minor bruises while they were being rescued. Around 50 patients were stranded inside a private clinic of a leading gynaecologist.

8 JAN 2005

8 JAN 2005