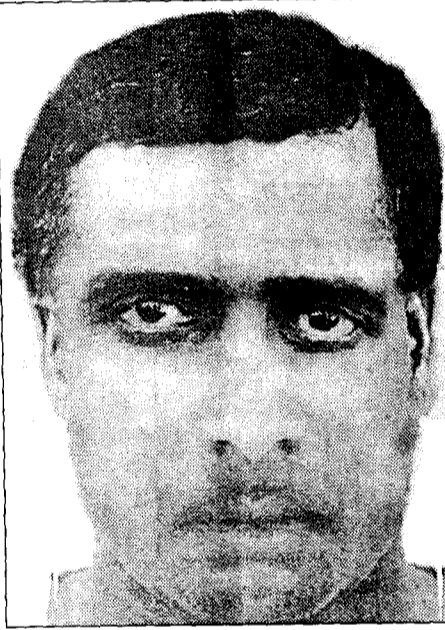


বাস্ফালোরে মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর বাড়ি

হোটেল ওড়াবার হুমকি

শহরে নাকি ২ মানববোমা

বাস্ফালোর, ৩০ ডিসেম্বর (পি টি আই)
— কর্ণটকের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী ধরম সিংয়ের বাড়ি এবং এক বিলাসবহুল পাঁচতারা হোটেল এবার উড়িয়ে দেওয়ার হুমকি দিল সন্ত্রাসীরা। ফলে, কঠোর নিরাপত্তার ঘেরাটোপে ঢেকে দেওয়া হয়েছে বাস্ফালোরকে। পুলিশ ও নিরাপত্তারক্ষীদের সঙ্গে সারা শহর জুড়ে টহল দিচ্ছেন সাদা পোশাকের গোয়েন্দারা। নববর্ষের শুরুতে অর্থাৎ আগামীকাল মধ্যরাতে এই জঙ্গি হামলা নেমে আসবে বলে জনৈক মইনুদ্দিন এক চিঠি দিয়েছে। মুখ্যমন্ত্রী ও নগরপালের উদ্দেশে লেখা চিঠিতে মইনুদ্দিন জানিয়েছে, 'আল জেহাদি' জঙ্গি এবং দুই মানববোমা ইতিমধ্যেই শহরে ঢুকেছে। দারুণ সুপারিকল্পিত হামলার ছক কথা হয়েছে। এতটাই সুপারিকল্পিত যে রীতিমতো নজিরবিহীন। প্রশাসন ও পুলিশকে এই হামলা প্রতিরোধের আবেদন জানিয়েছে সে। নিজের পরিচয় বা জঙ্গি হানার খবরের উৎস মইনুদ্দিন আদৌ জানায়নি। তার খবর, পাঁচতারা



সন্দেহভাজন এক হানাদার। ছবি: পি টি আই

হোটলে আঘাত হেনে তারপর মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর সরকারি বাসভবন 'অনুগ্রহ' উড়িয়ে দেওয়া হবে। হুমকির সত্যাসত্য বোঝা না গেলেও প্রশাসন কোনও ঝুঁকি নিতে চাইছে না। এই চিঠির প্রতিলিপি ফ্যাক্স মারফত পাঠানো হয়েছে স্থানীয় একটি সংবাদপত্রের অফিসেও। পুলিশের যুগ্ম নগরপাল (অপরাধ) এম সি নারায়ণ গৌড়া চিঠির কথা স্বীকার করেছেন। বলেছেন, 'মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর বাসভবনের মতো এলাকাগুলো খুবই সুরক্ষিত।' গত পরশু রাতে বাস্ফালোরের আই আই এস-এ সন্ত্রাসবাদী হানার পর 'আই টি' নগরীর সবকটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ প্রতিষ্ঠান ও এলাকায় কঠোর নজরদারি জারি হয়েছে। হাইটেক নগরী বাস্ফালোরকে 'নিরাপদ' রাখতে পুলিশ উঠেপড়ে লেগেছে। ৭ ব্যাটেলিয়ন নিরাপত্তারক্ষী মোতায়েন করা হয়েছে। সংরক্ষিত সশস্ত্র পুলিশকেও আনা হয়েছে। আই আই এস-এ হামলার দু'দিনের মধ্যেই জঙ্গি হামলার আগাম বার্তায় গোটা রাজ্য এখন সরগরম।
খুনিকে দেখেছি: 'খুনিকে দেখেছি। আমি ওকে চিনতে পারব।' ৩৫ বছর বয়সী বিজয় পাটিল হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসাধীন। তিনি রয়েছেন এম এস রামাইয়া হাসপাতালের আই সি ইউ-তে।

ক্যাডিলা ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালসের কর্মী বিজয় জানিয়েছেন, গত পরশু রাতে আই আই এস আলোচনাচক্রে গুলি চালিয়েছিল পরিপাটি পোশাক পরা একজন। গায়ে ছিল হালকা নীল রঙা শার্ট এবং সাদা ট্রাউজার্স। বিজয় বলেছেন, 'ওর মুখটা পরিষ্কার মনে আছে। অন্তত কুড়িবার ও গুলি চালিয়েছিল। ভেবেছিলাম একে ৪৭ রাইফেলে ও গুলি ছুঁড়ছে। আমি চেষ্টা করে লোকজনকে প্রেক্ষাগৃহের ভেতরে চলে যেতে বলছিলাম। কারণ, গুলির আওয়াজে অনেকেই বাইরে চলে আসছিলেন। পরে আর চেষ্টাতে পারিনি। আমারও গুলি লেগেছিল। ফলে আর কথা বলতে পারিনি।' গতকাল মুখ্যমন্ত্রী ধরম সিং তাঁকে দেখতে এসেছিলেন। বিজয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রীকে সব জানিয়েছেন। পুলিশ বা হাসপাতাল কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজয়ের

বক্তব্য এখনও সমর্থন করেনি। তবে হাসপাতালের এক চিকিৎসক জানিয়েছেন, 'রোগীকে দেখে কখনই মনে হয়নি যে, উনি প্রলাপ বকছেন। ওঁর রক্তচাপ, প্রস্রাবের গতি-সহ শরীরী সব লক্ষণই স্বাভাবিক।' উল্লেখ্য, জঙ্গি হানায় বিজয়ের তলপেটে গুলি লেগেছিল। দ্রুত হাসপাতালে এনে তাঁর অস্ত্রোপচার করা হয়। আরেকটি গুলি লেগেছিল পেছনে। উরু পর্যন্ত চলে এসেছিল সেটি। চিকিৎসকরা এখনও গুলিটি বার করেননি। তাঁদের মতে, এতে কোনও ক্ষতি হবে না। প্রত্যক্ষদর্শী বিজয় ও অন্যান্য আহতের বর্ণনা থেকে সর্বাধুনিক কম্পিউটার প্রযুক্তিতে আততায়ীর স্কেচ তৈরি করেছে বাস্ফালোর পুলিশ। ১০ পুলিশ কর্তাকে নিয়ে গঠিত হয়েছে তদন্ত বাহিনী। নেতৃত্বে রয়েছেন এক ইনস্পেক্টর জেনারেল। পুলিশ কমিশনার অজয়কুমার সিং সাংবাদিকদের জানিয়েছেন, বেশ কিছু গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্য হাতে এসেছে। জঙ্গিদের পরিচয় জানা না গেলেও সন্দেহের তীব্র লক্ষণের দিকেই ঘনীভূত হচ্ছে। তদন্তকারী দল বিভিন্ন রাজ্যে রওনা হয়েছে। এই সব জায়গায় আরও 'ক্লু' মিলবে বলে তাদের বিশ্বাস।

ANOTHER TARGET

Shock is an inestimably valuable weapon for murderers. A country grown tragically used to terrorism can be made to sit up in new terror when scientists are attacked, injured and killed within their haven when they are peacefully dispersing after a session during an international seminar. A fast, targeted operation with grenades and guns that causes terror and death is an act of terrorism, whether any direct link with known terrorist groups is found or not. It must be asked, in the want of specific answers, what exactly was achieved by the violence in the Indian Institute of Science campus in Bangalore. The delegates at the conference on operations research applications in infrastructure development comprised scientists from India and abroad, and the senior professor who died had received many awards for his work throughout his life. It is, perhaps, the apparent breakdown of normal logic that is ultimately the most terrifying. It is an indication that the unreason, which masquerades as reason in killers' minds, is almost impenetrable, and therefore, unpredictable.

Yet it must also be asked if the attack on the IISc was entirely unpredictable. Not a week has passed since the arrest of four men, three in Bengal, which had led to the revelation of a plan to attack vital sectors, such as information technology companies and economic installations, in Hyderabad and Bangalore. But arrests from March onwards had repeatedly brought intelligence agencies across plans to target IT and knowledge industry hubs. Improved counter-terrorist strategies may have made attacks in conventional places less smooth. Things would have turned out differently if there had been a new awareness of possibilities among intelligence agencies. Although the IISc is an institution of learning, it is difficult to believe that nothing at all could have been done for security during an international seminar at a core institution in a city known to be a target. That would have protected the scientists from all attacks, terrorist or not. The timing of the attack was excellent; attention was focussed on security arrangements for Abu Salem, who had arrived in town that day. The professed targets now have a double value: there must be, for organized destroyers, a special satisfaction in hurting centres of knowledge and excellence. Intelligence agencies have a most difficult job in a country as vast and varied as India. But they cannot afford to be disconcerted. The price is too high.

30 DEC 2005

THE TELEGRAPH

Pan-Islamic group behind B'lore strike

AK-56 Rifle Used in Attack, 3 Grenades Found On Campus

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: The terror attack at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) campus, the first serious act of terrorism in India's silicon valley, has shaken the world. Even as security agencies are zeroing in on the groups behind the attack and their motive, it is emerging clearly that a pan-Islamic organisation is involved in the attack. The attack is being paralleled with the attack on Parliament in Delhi a couple of years ago after the police found a bag containing date fruits left behind after the indiscriminate firing, similar to the one found in the Parliament attack.

It is now confirmed by police that the more powerful AK-56 rifle was used to open fire by the terrorist who used two magazines from the gun for the operation and that it was not an AK-47 rifle. AK-56 rifles are not available in India and is normally purchased by terrorist groups from countries like Russia and Czechoslovakia, while the one used in the IISc attack is said to be of Chinese origin. Jehadi groups operating in neighbouring Islamic countries are known to possess the AK-56 rifles.

Bangalore city commissioner of police, Ajai Kumar Singh, who visited the IISc campus on Thursday morning told reporters that the police were not ruling out the involvement of Lashkar-e-Toiba and another supporting group. He, however, said that the police have no information about the use of a car while the terrorist es-

caped after firing. Meanwhile, Chennai police suspect that the target of attack could have been former ISRO chairman and MP Dr K Kasturirangan, but Bangalore police had no information on that.

Investigating officials said that two empty magazines have been found so

ISRO SOUNDS RED ALERT

Bangalore: Indian Space Research Organisation has sounded a red alert across its institutions in different parts of the country following the suspected terror attack at the IISc campus in Bangalore, its chairman GMadhavan Nair said. He termed the attack as "shocking and highly depressing." "Targeting an educational and scientific institution, of all the places, is shocking," he added.

far in the combing operations and along with it were two live cartridges. AK-56 rifles fire 30 rounds with each magazine. Thus, it is indicated that 58 rounds were fired, police added.

Police have found three grenades so far at the campus. The grenades found at the scene of attack is also of international class and is said to be very powerful. If exploded it had the capacity to create a crater 10 feet deep. "Luckily they did not go off, otherwise, the damage and casualty would have been very heavy."

Meanwhile, the Bangalore police have formed several teams to investi-



Sourav Puri (Left) is consoled by travelling companions as he follows the body of his father M C Puri to the airport in Bangalore on Thursday, prior to boarding a flight for New Delhi

gate the case. A team of forensic experts, a team to check out the lodges in the city where the terrorist groups could be hiding and hopefully some clues may emerge, and another team questioning the guards at the IISc campus. The guards could help the team in providing physical description of the man who opened fire and from there a portrait of the suspect could be drawn, officials said.

Karnataka CM N Dharam Singh

► More reports on Page 11

Target of Terror

30/11
11-18
Attack on science conference
in Bangalore

ALTHOUGH no one has claimed responsibility yet, certain elements in the dastardly shooting of an IIT professor at an international conference in Bangalore make it probable that he fell to a terror attack: the weapons used (AK-47, hand grenades), the indiscriminate nature of the firing in which six others were injured, the victim himself (an elderly math professor who lives in Delhi, not Bangalore). Security agencies have picked up indications that terrorist groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Toiba now want to open a new frontier: they would like to attack India's IT companies and related infrastructure, such as Software Park in Bangalore and Hi Tech city in Hyderabad. Taken together, this suggests that the country is waking up to a new reality — its success in IT and concomitant economic boom has excited malice in certain quarters, who would like to attack symbols of that success. Within the frame of this inchoate rage against modernity, an international conference of scientists is also a target.

The blowing up of Mumbai's stock exchange came soon after violent Hindu-Muslim riots in that city, while the Akshardham temple attack followed the Gujarat pogroms. Both can plausibly be connected to local issues. Not so the pre-Diwali blasts in Delhi markets, or the current attack on the IISc campus. If they are related to groups originally operating in Kashmir, they may reflect the fact that the insurgency is losing traction in its home state and looking for targets elsewhere. Even in that case, however, it would be misleading to look at them as mere extensions of the separatist campaign in Kashmir. One could argue, equally plausibly, that Kashmir has become a microcosm of the revolt against modernity that is also evident in someone wishing to target an international conference of scientists. Kashmir presents two separate sets of issues. It has specific political grievances that are now beginning to be addressed, which has cut the ground from underneath the insurgency. While the government should do whatever it can to mitigate oppressive circumstances in Kashmir, it also needs to be clear that the jihadi campaign there is not for the expansion of liberal democracy. India's security paradigm will have to be revised to deal with this new threat. Not just politicians and bureaucrats but professional and scientific workers are also now a target; and not just Delhi and Mumbai but also Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune, Kolkata and other emergent high-tech hubs will need to factor in terror as part of their security arrangements.

New targets of terror

Terrorists aim to hit a nation where it hurts the most. In India's case, its high-tech institutions and skilled manpower could be the new targets. The attack on the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, in which one scientist, a retired IIT-Delhi professor was brutally killed and five others were injured, signals what could be a new phase. By choosing a premier research institute in a south Indian city, the perpetrators of the outrage wanted to be seen as lengthening their arm and widening their choice of targets. This is the first time Bangalore, an important base for several Information Technology companies that have become the new face of India, has been marked out for an actual terrorist hit. The police investigation into the incident is at a preliminary stage, but the needle of suspicion points to Lashkar-e-Taiba. To ask why such an outfit would indulge in firing at random or 'hit and run,' rather than *fidayeen* attacks, is to fail to understand the mind of Lashkar-type organisations. Terrorism may do precision-targeting or it may not. Shock-and-awe serves to demonstrate the softness of civil society, the vulnerability of a whole system. IISc was a soft target, if ever there was one. Praveen Swami's exclusive report published on page one sets out a disturbing context in which two dozen intelligence warnings over the past four years should have better prepared the Bangalore authorities for Wednesday's heart-rending tragedy. Evidence emerged in recent months that Bangalore remained a key target for the Lashkar. Specifically, the last warning, issued some days ago and based on an intercept of communication between two Lashkar operatives in New Delhi, spoke of possible strikes against high-profile IT facilities and individuals.

But can anything be done to prevent trained gunmen fielded by a resilient fanatical outfit from spraying bullets or lobbing hand grenades on unsuspecting scientists coming out of an international conference? Provided intelligence inputs can be acted on quickly, in a coordinated way, and the system can be made to assign a high enough political priority to vigilance and pre-emptive action against terrorism, the answer could be 'yes.' That terrorists placed Bangalore in the crosshairs surfaced as early as 2001. Information gained from a Lashkar operative sentenced to death for his role in the December 2000 attack on the Red Fort unravelled plans to attack the farmhouse of Wipro chairman Azim Premji. Terrorist groups were known to be planning to extort money from the hugely successful IT firms in Bangalore and other southern cities. The Lashkar apparently came to the conclusion that an attack on Bangalore — India's No. 1 'new economy' metro — could not fail to catch the attention of the international community aside from having a devastating economic impact domestically. Professor M.C. Puri, an unassuming retired teacher, didn't need to be in Bangalore. His love of knowledge and attachment to his students brought him into terrorism's firing range. The best tribute to his memory will be swift apprehension of the killers and intelligent steps to minimise, if not totally rule out, the chances of such tragedies happening in future.

PROF GUNNED DOWN ON IISc CAMPUS

Terror strikes Bangalore

Statesman News Service

BANGALORE, Dec. 28 — Suspected terrorists today barged into the campus of the Indian Institute of Sciences this evening and fired indiscriminately at a group of delegates who had just left a seminar. The attackers, who are learnt to have come in a white Ambassador around 7.30 p.m., escaped under the cover of darkness.

Emeritus Professor MN Puri from IIT, Delhi, died of bullet injuries. Four other professors — Dr Pankaj Gupta, Dr Sangeeta, Dr Vijay Chandru and Dr Vijay Patelappa — were seriously injured. The injured have been admitted to a city hospital. Puri's family came to know about the incident through a student, who had accompanied the professor to the seminar.

After the attack, a tight security blanket was thrown over the city with the 100-year-old IISc cordoned off. An AK-47 rifle, three magazines of an automatic weapon and a hand grenade were seized from the site of violence, police said. A source said the possibility of a terrorist attack could not be ruled out given the nature



An investigator inspects a car damaged after gunmen fired on the IISc campus on Wednesday. — AFP

of the automatic weapon used and the discovery of a grenade. Bangalore and other IT hubs are on the hit list of terror groups, including the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiyyaba.

When asked if this was a terrorist strike, Bangalore Police Commissioner Mr Ajay Kumar Singh said: "We cannot say anything at this stage. We have no information about how they (the gunmen) gained entry and who they were."

The Karnataka chief minister, Mr N Dharam Singh, called a high-level meeting of police and other officials here tomorrow to review security measures in Bangalore. The chief minister spoke to Union home minister Mr Shivraj Patil and

apprised him of the incident, an official source said. Mr Singh, the source added, had directed the Bangalore Police to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident.

In New Delhi Union home secretary Mr Vinod Kumar Duggal said: "As of now it's not a terrorist attack." The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, expressed shock at the firing. The attack at the IISc, Bangalore today came two days after Delhi Police said the Bangladesh-based terror group, Harkat-ul-Jehad, was planning to target software parks in Hyderabad and Bangalore. A senior police officer said tonight that the IISc had not been a "specific target" of terrorists.

29 DEC 2005

THE STATESMAN

Top Al-Badr man shot dead in Srinagar

He was responsible for brutal executions
of civilians in the Harwan mountains

Praveen Swami

NEW DELHI: A six-hour fire-fight in the Bemina neighbourhood of Srinagar ended on Sunday evening with the killing of Mo-hammad Wasim, central Kashmir commander of the Pakistan-based terrorist group, Al-Badr. Wanted for a series of murders, including the brutal execution of four civilians this May, Wasim was among the longest-serving Pakistani nationals in terrorist groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

Wasim's killing is a significant blow to the Al-Badr, which after the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and the Lashkar-e-Taiba, is the third most powerful group in the State.

Many aliases

Operating under the aliases 'Sain', 'Shaheen Bhai' and 'Jatoi,' Wasim is believed to have joined the jihad as an Al-Badr foot soldier over six years ago, when he was in his late teens. His long experience made him an 'asset' for the organisation.

Sources told *The Hindu* that Wasim had been operating under cover in Srinagar for some months and had obtained forged identification papers. Using his newly acquired cover, of a Srinagar businessman named Fayyaz Ahmad Rather, Wasim was attempting to set up infrastructure for Al-Badr's operations outside Jammu and Kashmir, especially in New Delhi. While the enterprise does not appear to have reached an advanced stage, the fact that it was initiated suggests that Al-Badr, like other major terrorist groups, is seeking to expand its

• One of the longest-serving Pakistanis in terrorist groups

• He was attempting to expand the group's operations

reach and capabilities.

Prior to this task, Wasim had focussed his energies on intimidating rural communities in the Harwan mountain range, which lies east of Srinagar and is a key infiltration and escape route for jihadist groups active in central Kashmir. Although the Al-Badr executed several low-grade attacks on security force convoys moving in and out of Srinagar, its focus was on keeping the Harwan ranges secure for terrorist organisations by targeting figures in the Gujjar pastoral community, who were hostile to Islamists.

On May 17, for example, Wasim's group murdered four civilians in the Dard Khour forests, some 35 km from Srinagar. Ghulam Qadir Gujjar, a local National Conference activist, was assassinated along with associates Mohammad Rafiq, Mukhtar Ahmad and Mohammad Aslam. The brutality of the killings — the victims had their throats slit after a prolonged knife-point torture — terrorised residents of Harwan's isolated hamlets, most of which are at considerable distances from the nearest police or military facilities.

Photograph on Page 12

26 DEC 2005 THE HINDU

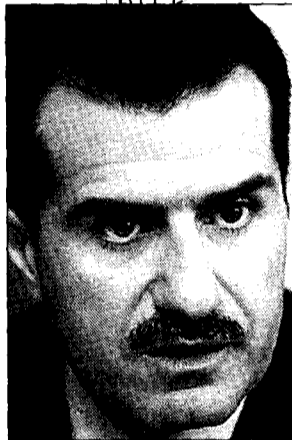
Anti-Syria baron killed

Beirut, Dec. 12 (Reuters): A car bomb killed Lebanese newspaper magnate and anti-Syrian lawmaker Gebran Tueni in Beirut today, a day after he returned from Paris where he had based himself in recent months out of fear of assassination.

Several Lebanese politicians immediately blamed Syria, which denied any role and said the killing was timed to smear it.

Police said Tueni, publisher of *An-Nahar* daily, was among four people killed in the explosion that destroyed his armoured sports utility vehicle as it was driving in the Mekalis area of mainly Christian east Beirut. Some 32 people were wounded.

The bodies of Tueni, 48, his driver and a bodyguard were found in his car, charred beyond recognition. Assault ri-



Gebran Tueni

fles and military bags lay beside them inside the vehicle.

A previously unknown group calling itself "Strugglers for the Unity and Freedom of the Levant" claimed responsibility for the killing

in a statement, saying the same fate awaited other opponents of "Arabism" in Lebanon.

There was no way to verify the authenticity of the claim. Some observers suggested the wording could be designed to cast suspicion on Damascus.

Security sources said a parked car packed with up to 100 kg of dynamite was detonated by remote control as Tueni's car passed by. Tueni's car was hurled from the road and landed in a different street dozens of metres away.

"I heard a deafening explosion and when I looked up I saw a car flying in the air," one passerby said.

Tueni was killed just hours before the UN Security Council was due to receive a report by chief UN investigator Detlev Mehlis, who has been trying to identify those behind the February 14 assassination

of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri.

An interim report by Mehlis said the evidence pointed towards the involvement of Syrian officials and their Lebanese allies in Hariri's killing. Syria denies this.

"This gives a new reason for our insistence on knowing the truth about who assassinated... Hariri and all martyrs... and to bring the criminals to an international tribunal," Hariri's son Saad, an MP, said.

Greek Orthodox churches in Beirut rang their bells and supporters gathered outside *An-Nahar* offices, near the site of mass protests that followed Hariri's murder.

Hariri's death transformed Lebanon's political landscape, sparking a global outcry and Lebanese protests that forced Syria to pull its troops out of Lebanon after 29 years.

13 DEC 2005

THE TELEGRAPH

Person
Dr. S **Soft Targets** ✓
KU
Taliban killing calls for
fresh approach to terror

TWO-YEAR-OLD Akshay's vocabulary now includes the word Taliban; his father Maniappan, a driver with the Border Roads Organisation, is the latest victim of the terror group operating in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The macabre and abominable killing raises fundamental questions about tackling terror in a world which is under threat from ideologies of hatred and violence. Much has been said about the diabolic politics of the Taliban. Yet, this rag-tag army of Islamists, energised by misplaced conceptions of faith and morality, continues to be a threat to Afghanistan's democratically elected government and agencies involved in rebuilding its economy. Pakistan, an ally of the US in the war on terror, views the Taliban as a useful tool to exercise power in Kabul. Maniappan was a soft target in this immoral but inescapable game of international diplomacy. The BRO is building a road in north-west Afghanistan that will open a new trade route and severely curtail the leverage Pakistan has over business in the region owing to its control over Kabul's access to ports. India will have to devise new strategies to ensure that its involvement in Afghanistan is not held hostage to the designs of Islamabad or the Taliban.

New Delhi should realise that excessive dependence on the Kabul bureaucracy to deliver in situations like the kidnapping and murder of Maniappan is misplaced. Informal channels of negotiation have to be opened even with kidnapers to ensure that Indian citizens do not become soft targets. New Delhi should refrain from using its friendly relations with the Karzai regime to score diplomatic brownie points with Islamabad. It suits our economic interests to gain the trust of Pakistan regarding our ties with Afghanistan. This will also help us to use Islamabad's good offices to rein in the Taliban and other such outfits, which will continue to exploit the absence of the state in large parts of Afghanistan. Simultaneously, New Delhi should take the initiative to bring all foreign agencies involved in aid and reconstruction in Afghanistan on a single platform, so that crimes against them are fought together. Such internationalism will help to build pressure not only on terror outfits, but even governments that covertly back them.

54 die in Iraq mosque suicide strike

Baghdad, Nov. 18 (Reuters): Two suicide bombers killed at least 54 people when they blew themselves up inside two crowded Shia mosques in the northeastern Iraqi town of Khanaqin today, police said.

A member of the local council said the death toll could exceed 100 after bombers attacked the mosques during Friday prayers, destroying the buildings. Another blast was reported near a bank in the town, police said.

Ibrahim Ahmed Bajalan, a member of the Diyala provincial council, said the destruction was so bad that many bodies were trapped in the rubble and couldn't be easily extracted. "I think there are more than 100 people dead," he said. Police and Kurdish political officials put the death toll at 54, with 62 wounded, but said the toll could rise.

The attacks in Khanaqin, a mixed Shia and Kurdish town northeast of Baghdad near the border with Iran, seemed certain to fuel sectarian tensions ahead of a December 15 election that Washington hopes will pave the way for peace and democracy two and a half years after the US-led invasion.

The Shia- and Kurdish-led government and its US backers are fighting a mainly

Sunni insurgency that has frequently targeted civilians in crowded places.

Police said the bombers entered the small mosques in Khanaqin with explosive belts strapped to their waists and detonated themselves when the buildings were at their busiest.

Zarqawi defence

Al Qaida in Iraq's leader Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi said in an Internet audiotape today that the group did not intend to target Muslim wedding parties in deadly bomb attacks in Jordan last week.

In the tape, Zarqawi defended the suicide blasts on three hotels saying al Qaida had inside information that they were home to US and Israeli intelligence agencies.



A woman cries as she receives treatment after the blasts in Baghdad. (Reuters)

UN chief for abuse probe

Geneva, Nov. 18 (Reuters): UN human rights chief Louise Arbour today called for an international probe into Iraqi jails after accusations of serious abuse of detainees at a secret interior ministry detention centre.

The Iraqi government has already promised to investigate the discovery in a ministry bunker this week of 173 malnourished and, in some cases, badly beaten men and teenagers, some of whom showed signs of having been tortured.

But a government probe might not be enough given the high international concern, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said. A probe should cover all Iraqi detention centres because of the rising number of people being picked up in mass security and military operations, Arbour added.

BLAST | Suicide bomber, who was blown to pieces, is a Pakistani national: Top cop Let hand in car J-K bank blast

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 17
ENS & PTI

THE suicide bomber who blew up an explosive-laden car outside the corporate headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir Bank here was a Pakistani national affiliated with the Lashker-e-Toiba, police said today.

"The ongoing investigations into the car bomb blast that killed four people and injured scores of others including a former minister, Usman Majeed, pointed to the involvement of the Lashkar-e-Toiba in the heinous act," Srinagar and Badgam DIG H.K. Lohia said.

He said the investigation team has found that the suicide bomber, who was blown to pieces in the blast, was a Pakistani national. Lohia added that the investigations are going on in the right direction and those behind the bombing would be brought to book soon.

"So far, we have made no arrests... But the investigation is going on in the right direction and we are hopeful that we will crack down on the LeT module responsible for

the recent spurt in violent acts soon," the DIG said.

Asked about reports in a section of press that a red alert had been sounded in the Valley following the blast, he said: "We are already on high alert and it is a matter of chance that they (militants) succeed sometimes in their nefarious designs".

"We continue to change our strategy to foil the militants'

Blast averted as patrol spots IED at Handwara

SRINAGAR: Police averted an explosion on Thursday when they spotted an IED on the busy Sopore-Kupwara road, 73 km from Srinagar. The IED, planted by militants near Chogal village near Handwara, was found by policemen during patrolling. He said police immediately summoned the bomb disposal squad which defused the IED.

—PTI

plans. But sometimes, they succeed," he said.

Asked about precautionary measures taken by the authorities to avert such attacks at public places, the DIG said they were working on a two-pronged strategy but would not elaborate.

At Kaman on Thursday



Two dozen Indians, including six women, walked home via the Kaman frontier post on Thursday, marking the first crossover by people along the designated points on the LoC in Kashmir.

The people, who were stranded in PoK after the October 8 quake, had to trek from Chakoti to Kaman Post, as a 4-km stretch on the Pakistani side remains blocked with quake debris and due to the collapse of a pier of Aman Setu connecting the two sides.

Those who returned were passengers of the

'Carvan-e-Aman' bus between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, who had gone to PoK to meet their relatives two days ahead of the quake. They were accompanied by relief incharge of PoK Shafiq Ahmad Kiyani and crossed over at around 13.15 hours. "We could contact only 24 people as their phone numbers were available with the authorities," Kiyani said adding the 17 passengers had not contacted PoK government yet. Efforts to trace them and facilitate their return were on.

—PTI

4 killed, 45 hurt in Srinagar car bomb blast



HD 1 17/11
Pension

Buildings rattled within a radius of two km under the impact

Shujaat Bukhari

SRINAGAR: For the third consecutive day militants struck in Kashmir on Wednesday, setting off a car bomb here which killed at least four persons and injured 45 others, including a former Minister. The condition of at least 14 of them is stated to be critical.

The civil lines area shook with the explosion outside the Jammu and Kashmir Bank head office at about 10.15 a.m. The police said the explosives-laden car was parked outside the gate, which is close to one of the busiest crossings in the city. H.K. Lohia, Deputy Inspector-General, Kashmir range, told *The Hindu* that it was probably detonated with a remote-controlled device. As the official car of the former Minister of State and MLA, Usman Majid's was directly hit, "it is possible they [militants] might have seen this VIP vehicle and hit the target. But I do not think it was aimed at him," Mr. Lohia said. Mr. Majid is a former counter insurgent and close associate of counter-insurgent king Kukka Parray, who was gunned down in 2003.

He had a narrow escape but received bruises in the face and his security guards were injured. His car was completely dam-

aged. "He is safe and out of danger," Mushtaq Ahmed, his personal assistant told *The Hindu*. He said Mr. Majid was a target of militants.

Witnesses said at least two persons including the bank guard died instantly and scores were left in a pool of blood. "It was a big explosion and it looked like doomsday dawning on us," said Shaista, a bank official.

"I saw people lying on the road and crying for help, but there was chaos as news spread that a *fidayeen* (suicide squad member) had entered the bank office which was not true," said Meraajuddin, a bus conductor. Buildings rattled within a two-km radius and Moulana Azad Road was littered with damaged vehicles, mangled steel with blood stains and footwear.

Al Arifeen, a little known militant outfit owned responsibility for the attack. Its spokesman Majid Iqbal told a local news agency KNS that the outfit planned to carry out an explosion somewhere else but when the police stopped the target the militants had no other option.

The Hizbul Mujahideen condemned the blast and said "we are not for such activities."

Editorial on Page 10

TERROR UNABATED: A man injured in the car bomb attack in Srinagar on Wednesday being moved from the site. Four persons were killed in the blast. — PHOTO: NISSAR AHMAD

Confessional statements build up case

MUSTAFA Plumber and MANISH Pachouly
Mumbai, November 14

AS OF now, confessional statements of some of the accused in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts form the evidence against underworld don Abu Salem, said a lawyer connected with the case. The case, the lawyer said, could get stronger only after the investigating agency collected more evidence against Salem during his custodial interrogation, since Salem had been absconding all this time and had been listed as "accused absconder" in the case.

At present, the prosecution had the statements of co-accused Sanjay Dutt, Sameer Hingora, Baba Chavhan, Hanif Kadawala, on records, saying they had allegedly visited Dutt's residence in Bandra with the consignment of arms and ammunition. Under the now repealed section 15 of Tada, a confessional statement by an accused is to be taken as evidence.

In the statements of the accused — which the police have

GANGSTER SAGA

recorded — the co-accused have mentioned that Salem was the man who had visited Dutt and also presented him with a gun. The police have also recorded the statements of police constables who were deployed outside late Sunil Dutt's residence where Sanjay would stay who have corroborated this.

One of the co-accused, Kadawala was later killed in an inter-gang rivalry in 2000 and thus, his statement may not hold much ground during the trial, the lawyer felt.

Salem was booked under Section 3 of Tada (Terrorist Activities) and 120 (b) of IPC for conspiracy. But, the lawyer said, the prosecution does not have any material evidence against Salem neither had the prosecution conducted an 'Identification Parade,' since Salem was listed as "absconder accused".



Dossa, Salem may be tried jointly

THE CBI is likely to try Mumbai blast accused Mustafa Dossa and Abu Salem together, agency sources said on Monday. The trial of the rest of the accused, which includes Sanjay Dutt, was already in an advanced stage and judgment was likely to be delivered in a month's time, the sources said adding hence it will not be possible to try the two along with them.

PTI

Chhota Rajan is not a patriot: Salem to cops

ARCHIS Mohan
New Delhi, November 14

A LOT of what Abu Salem has told his interrogators has been news to them. Talking about his and Chhota Rajan's split from the D Company, he told them that nationalism had nothing to do with Rajan's decision to leave. The real reason: Dawood Ibrahim had overlooked his claim of being successor and chosen younger brother Anees Ibrahim instead.

It was also the reason why Salem branched out to form an independent gang. This was the time when Indian intelligence agencies were hot on their heels and Dawood had become extremely distrustful of everybody.

On Monday, Salem continued to answer questions on the planning and the execution in the 1993 serial blasts in Mumbai -- and his role in them. His interrogators believe that



D-Company

Nationalism has nothing to do with Rajan's decision to leave

The real reason Dawood chose Anees Ibrahim as his successor

Salem probably played more than a minor role in the blasts, for it was he who at the time managed the D Company's armoury, and was the supplier of the AK-56 that landed Sanjay Dutt in trouble. Salem was also grilled about D Company's activities. "Our information suggests that while he had indeed fallen out with the gang, he had managed an uneasy peace and had remained in touch with them," said an official.

Pak has broken the back of terrorists: Gen

Islamabad: Pakistan President Musharraf has said Islamic terrorists in Pakistan are on the run and will never be able to take over the country.

In an interview to a TV channel, Musharraf said the success of Pakistan's anti-terrorist campaign had eliminated terrorist threat to the country and extremists would never be able to take over a "moderate" Pakistan. "One cannot guarantee 100% the safety of US hotels in Pakistan. But I say for sure that in the last year and a half there hasn't been a terrorist attack in Pakistan because of the success of our anti-terrorist campaign. We have broken most of the gangs and terrorist organisations. They are on the run in the cities, they are almost neutralised," he claimed.

Speaking of the recent attack on Amman, he said, such an incident would not happen in Pakistan. "Radicals, or the religious parties, have gone down in their support substantial-

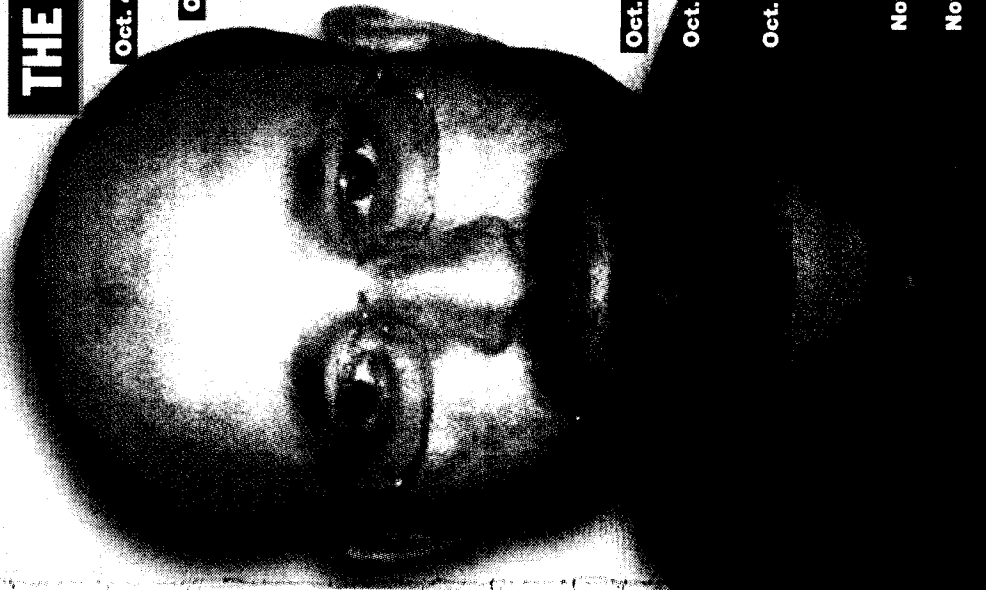
ly. There is no doubt in my mind whatsoever that this country is a moderate country and moderate forces have reasserted themselves and religious forces have gone down,"



he said, adding that extremists were a "small force" and the country was "united to fight against them".

Claiming that Pakistan was winning its battle against extremists, especially in its Afghan border, he said, "We are operating against them in the mountains and are succeeding there too. I think since the assassination attempt on me, we certainly are winning. We have them on the run and we have broken their organisational ability within Pakistan." Agencies

Blast plotter in police pocket



THE POLICE STORY

- Oct. 4** Tariq arrives in Delhi to hatch plot to bomb Delhi markets
- Oct. 6** Tariq leaves for Srinagar and coordinates operation from there
- Oct. 6 to 28**

- Oct. 29** Three serial blasts in Delhi
- Oct. 30** Instructs Islamic Inquilab-e-Mahaz to take responsibility
- Oct. 20 to Nov 9** Intelligence agencies intercept cell phone conversations between Tariq and Le T commanders
- Nov 10** Tariq arrested
- Nov 11** Tariq brought to Delhi

OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Nov. 13: Delhi police today claimed to have busted the conspiracy behind the pre-Diwali blasts here with the arrest of Tariq Ahmad Dar, a gold metallist in chemistry and father of a one-year-old daughter.

Police commissioner K.K. Paul said at a news conference that Dar, who works as assistant sales manager for the pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson in Srinagar, was a Lashkar-e-Toiba militant.

Dar was arrested on November 10 in Kashmir, according to information provided by the police.

Paul said 31-year-old Dar had hatched the plot with two other Lashkar colleagues, Abu al Qama and Abu Huzefa.

Days before the blasts, Rs 4.86 lakh was deposited into Tariq's HDFC Bank account in Srinagar from Saudi Arabia. Paul said the money was meant to finance the October 29 blasts, in which over 60 people were killed.

The police said intercepts of mobile phone conversations with Lashkar commanders had indicated his involvement in the blasts. "We got important clues from the spot that indicated that the accused

was in regular touch with the militants," Paul said. Dar was being taken to the sites of the explosions and places he had mentioned to verify his account.

His family, which had lodged a missing person report at Pampore police station in Kashmir, denied the charges. "He was returning to Srinagar after a business trip to Anantnag town when he was arrested by the police," said his brother.

Paul said: "Tariq was not in Delhi on October 29 on the day of the blasts, but was coordinating the operation from Srinagar. He is a Lashkar financier, conspirator and spokesman."

He added: "He was also instrumental in bringing the group together." The conspiracy was hatched in the first week of October when Dar arrived in Delhi, spending two days. "We have sufficient evidence to prove the conspiracy," Paul said. About 300 police personnel have been working for the past two weeks to unravel the conspiracy.

"Investigations have revealed that at least four persons were involved in the three blasts in Delhi. These include Qama and Huzefa. Their identities have been confirmed. At least two of the

group belong to Jammu and Kashmir while the other two are foreign nationals," Paul said.

"The identity of the bombers is more or less confirmed and we are searching for them."

At the time of arrest, Dar was out on bail after spending 32 days in jail after being picked up in April for illegal possession of arms and ammunition and foreign currency. He had 73,500 rupees on him when he was arrested on Thursday.

Paul said investigations had revealed that the phone call to a Kashmir news agency claiming that Lashkar was not behind the blasts was made on the instructions of Dar who wanted to mislead the investigating agencies.

He was brought to Delhi on Friday and was remanded in police custody for 14 days.

Dar apparently came in touch with militancy when he was writing for a magazine in Kashmir, making the acquaintance of a reporter who later joined the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and kept up contact.

Last week, a breakthrough was claimed after the arrest of another person in Kashmir, who, branded a terrorist at first, had turned out to be a thief.

■ See Page 6

Salem 'confesses' role in '93 blasts

TNN AND AGENCIES

Mumbai/New Delhi: Underworld don Abu Salem has "admitted his role" in carrying out the 1993 serial bomb blasts in Mumbai, a senior CBI official said in Mumbai on Sunday even as the gangster's lawyer in Delhi rubbished all such alleged confessions by Salem.

"Salem has accepted that his role was that of supplier of arms and ammunition," the official said. Salem was 'fairly cooperative', DIG (STF) CBI O P Chatwal said but refused to divulge anything further. "Our focus (of questioning) is on the 1993 blasts," he said.

Chatwal also refused to say whether Salem had revealed his links with any politician or Bollywood personalities.

A media report has claimed that Salem had named some prominent personalities during the interrogation, but Chatwal said he would not comment on that. On the whereabouts of Dawood Ibrahim, Chatwal said no question was put to Salem in that regard. "Anyway everybody knows where Dawood is, where is the need to ask Salem?" Chatwal added.

Apart from the eight cases, for which the government has obtained the Portuguese government's consent for extraditing the gangster, there is another passport forgery matter for which Salem's extradition was sought, Chatwal said.

Salem had obtained the forged passport in the name of Danish Beg, while his girlfriend Monica Bedi had used the name Fujia Usman for her fake passport, Chatwal informed.

Meanwhile Salem's lawyer told a news channel in Delhi: "We have already filed an application that Abu Salem does not want to make any confession... So there is no question it."



UP IN ARMS: Bajrang Dal activists demanding death sentence for Abu Salem in Bhopal

What can they try Salem for?

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: He is behind bars, and the Mumbai police is confident about keeping him there for a long time. The CBI has chosen to play it safe by focusing on a set of cases, including the serial blasts and the murders of Pradip Jain and Ajit Dewani, where they think they have a good chance of nailing him. The Mumbai police, however, have no such reservations. Throwing the net wide, they are digging up dirt on 30 incidents involving Abu Salem, ranging from kidnapping and extortion to assault and murder.

A buoyant senior Mumbai police official said, "We are certain of getting his conviction in all the cases pending against him for trial in Mumbai." To show that they mean business, the police has begun drawing up a list of witnesses to be called in to testify (see page 2). Clearly, the Mumbai police has started the groundwork to seek Salem's custody. The CBI, though,

8 Cases cited to extradite don

- 1993 serial blasts case, with CBI
- Passport offence in Lucknow, with CBI
- Passport offence in Hyderabad, CBI
- Conspiracy to murder Ajit Dewani, secretary to actors Manisha Koirala and Aftab Shivdasani, in Mumbai, 2001
- Conspiracy to murder Pradeep Jain, a Mumbai businessman in March 1995
- Conspiring with Romesh Sharma to eliminate Babloo Srivastav. FIR registered in Delhi after police picks up conversations between Salem, Sharma
- Case of extortion against Salem in 2002 for demanding Rs 5 crore in extortion money from a businessman
- Dispute between export firm of Gautam Adani and partner Vinay Singh in which Adani claimed Singh owed him Rs 2 crore. Adani allegedly roped in Salem to get his money back. When Romesh Sharma was raided in 1999, cops recovered two cheques of Rs 50 lakh each issued by Singh to Adani

may not share the cops' enthusiasm.

As per the extradition terms, Salem may not even be brought to trial for the sensational Gulshan Kumar murder. Ironically, it was the killing of the music baron that confirmed his reputation as a deadly extortionist who would stop at nothing. But as it stands, it was not among the cases put up in the extradition proposal to the Union home ministry.

CBI sources revealed that Salem was handed over on November 10 on the basis of eight cases presented before the Lisbon court, three of which are the CBI's. The serial bomb blast case is one of these. The other two cases filed by the CBI are passport offences, one in Hyderabad and the other in Lucknow. Plus, there are three extortion cases registered with the Delhi police and the Ajit Dewani and Pradeep Jain murders in Mumbai.

► Don's return puts Priya in a spot, P 3

14 NOV 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Iraqi team behind Amman blasts, says Al-Qaeda

Terrorism
12/11
119-16

120 persons, mainly Iraqis and Jordanians, arrested in manhunt

Atul Aneja

DUBAI: Four Iraqis including a woman carried out the deadly bombings of three luxury hotels in Amman, the Al-Qaeda in Iraq has said.

In a statement posted over the Internet, it claimed that "The group charged with planning, preparing and implementing was made up of three men: commanders Abu Khabib, Abu Muaz and Abu Omaira. Their fourth was the venerable sister Om Omaira." The Al-Qaeda in Iraq is led by Jordanian born militant Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi.

Jordanian investigators say they have found the remains of three bombers and were piecing the bodies together to carry out identification of the assailants and for collecting DNA samples. Police have so far arrested at least 120 persons, mainly Iraqis and Jordanians, as part of a nationwide manhunt.

Shocked by the scale of the attacks, Jordanians held mourning prayers on Friday for the victims of the attacks.

Earlier candlelit vigils were held at the three hotels — the Grand Hyatt, Radisson and Days Inn, where the bombers had struck on Wednesday night.

Jordanian authorities were still in the process of identifying the dead.

Oil experts

Iraq's Oil Ministry has said three of its experts had died in the explosions and a fourth had been injured.

In figures released on Friday, officials said the dead included 38 Jordanians, many of Palestinian descent, four Iraqis, an Israeli-Arab, four Palestinians, three Chinese, a Qatari and one Lebanese.

On Thursday night, the U.S. embassy in Amman said that two



YEARNING FOR PEACE: Thousands of demonstrators take part in an anti-terrorism rally, after prayers, in the wake of Wednesday blasts in Amman on Friday. — PHOTO: AP

Americans had been killed and four wounded in the attacks.

It was not clear whether that figure included the filmmaker Mustapha Akkad and his daughter

Rima. Al-Jazeera television has reported that a convoy carrying the bodies of four officials from the Palestinian Authority killed in the explosions has ar-

rived in Ramallah.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who had postponed his visit following the blasts, has arrived in the Jordanian capital.

THE FRONT

12 NOV 2005

Wedding joy turns into tragedy

'Body parts were scattered all over the ballroom, but the cake was still in one piece'

AGENCE France-Presse
Amman, November 10

MINUTES BEFORE a suicide bomber blew himself up in the grand ballroom of the luxury Radisson SAS in Amman, a joyous wedding reception was in full swing.

The bride and groom were making their grand entrance surrounded by women ululating the traditional shrill calls of celebrations while the elegant guests swayed to the sounds of tambourines.

The unsuspecting group failed to notice one man who managed to elude the parked police car outside the hotel, making his way into the ballroom wearing an explosives belt under his clothes.

Within seconds the festive wedding turned into a massacre. "I lost my father and my father-in-law on my wedding night," the groom Ashraf Mohammad said. "The world has to know that this has nothing to do with Islam", he said.

"I was in the lobby when it happened. There was panic all around me, people were running, screaming," a young man said. "I ran into the ballroom and there amidst the debris the wedding cake stood miraculously in one piece. I was stunned," he added.

Jordanian MP Awdeh Qawass who toured the Radisson after the attack described the scene as "horrible". "Body parts were scattered all over the ballroom," he said.

Police, ambulances and civil defence teams rushed to the Radisson just as a second blast rocked the nearby luxury Grand Hyatt hotel. A short while later a third blast shook the three-star Days Inn hotel, located near the Israeli embassy, in the Rabiye neighbourhood of west Amman.

Foreigners dead

- At least one American was killed and two were wounded
- Daughter of Syrian film director, Moustafa Akkad, was killed
- An Indonesian musician was killed and two others wounded
- Three Chinese nationals were killed



DOOMED BLISS Ashraf Mohamed al-Akhras and bride Nadia al-Alami arrive minutes before the blast at the hotel for their reception. The bride and the groom both lost their father.

Suicide-bombers kill at least 33 in Baghdad

ASSOCIATED Press
Baghdad, November 10

TWO SUICIDE bombers detonated themselves near a restaurant frequented by Baghdad police, killing at least 33 people and seriously injuring 19, police said.

The bombers struck at about 9.45 am, when officers usually stop by the restaurant for breakfast. Police Maj. Abdel-Hussein Minsef said three police officers and six civilians were killed in the blast and 24 others injured, among them 20 civilians.

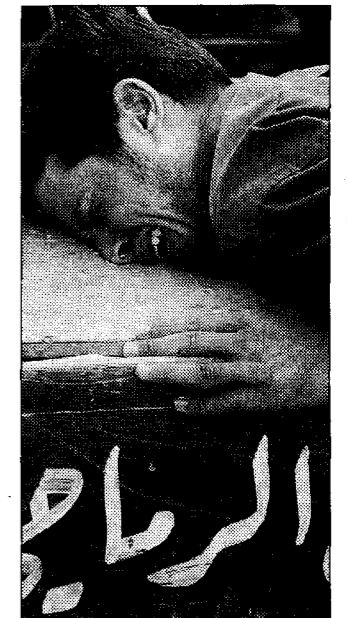
The blasts came just before British Foreign Secretary Straw was expected in the country for a meeting with Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, the prime minister's office said.

Samiya Mohammed, a housewife who lives nearby, said she rushed outside when she heard the explosion.

"I went out to see the restaurant heavily damaged. There was bodies, mostly civilians, and blood everywhere inside the place. This is a criminal act that only targeted and hurt innocent people having their breakfast," she said.

There were no Americans in the area, she said. "I do not understand why most of the time it is the Iraqis who are killed," she added.

A car bomber in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, detonated his vehi-



REUTERS

A man outside a hospital in Iraq mourns for a family member who was killed in the blast.

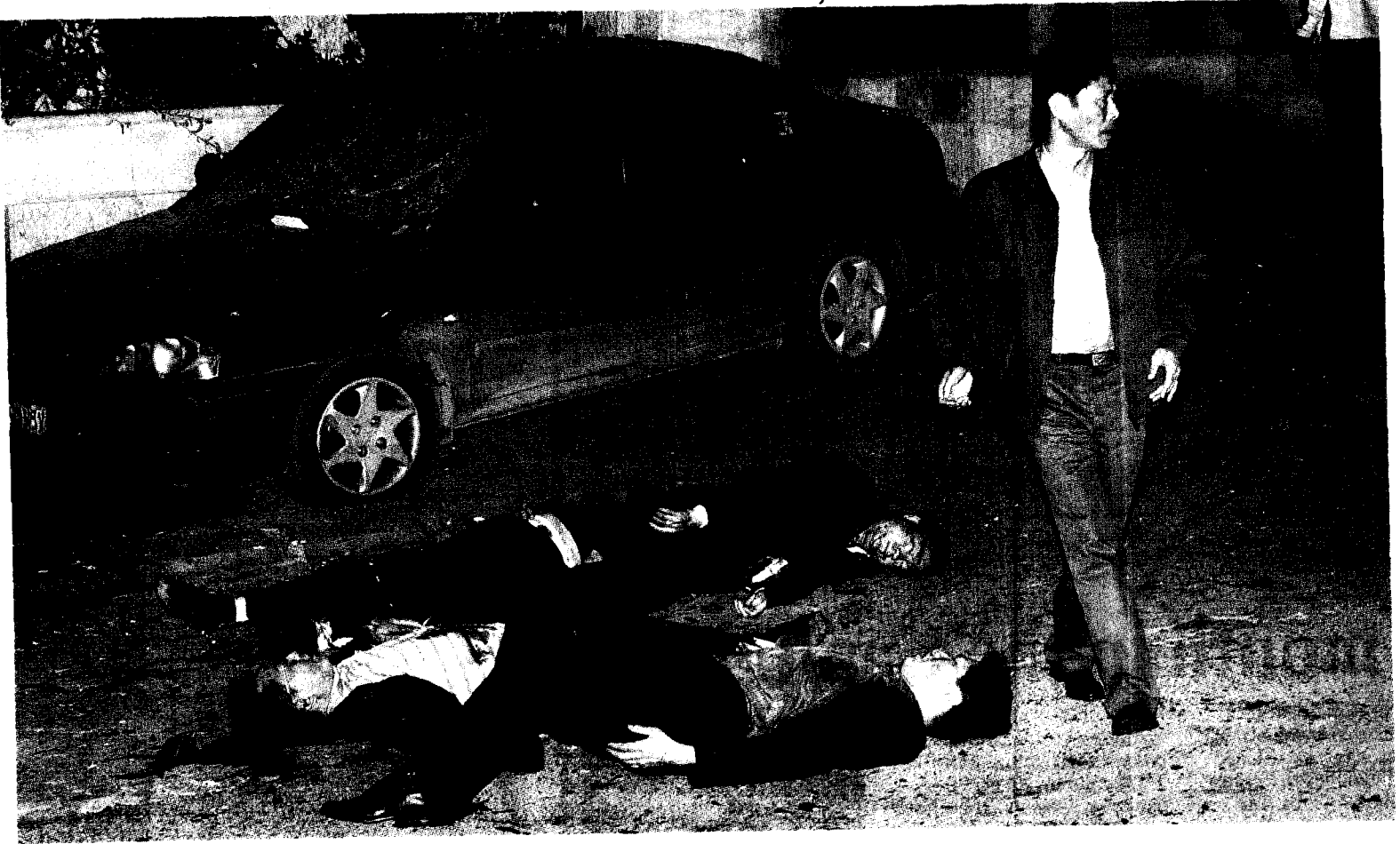
cle in the middle of a group of men outside an Iraqi army recruiting center, killing five, police Capt. Adnan Ali said.

US troops in western Iraq killed two al-Qaida in Iraq leaders during an operation against a town on the Syrian border, a military statement said Thursday.

US and Iraqi forces have been carrying out a large operation in the town of Husaybah, on the Syrian border about 200 miles west of Baghdad.

Terror strikes Jordan

Terrorism



DEATH AND DESTRUCTION: Bodies lie strewn outside the Days Inn hotel in Amman, capital of Jordan, after a terror attack early on Thursday. Fifty-seven people, including foreigners, have been killed in the attacks on three hotels in the city. — PHOTO: REUTERS (REPORT ON PAGE 18)

Narayanan cremated with full state honours

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The former President, K.R. Narayanan, was cremated here on Thursday evening with full state honours in the presence of his family and a galaxy of leaders, including his successor A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Vice-President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

As the sun set, the mortal remains of Mr. Narayanan were consigned to the flames amid the chanting of an all-religion prayer and a 21-gun salute. The

last rites were performed by his nephew P.V. Ramachandran in the presence of Mr. Narayanan's daughters, Chitra and Amrita, at Ekta Sthal. This is adjacent to Shantivan, the memorial of his mentor Jawaharlal Nehru on the banks of the Yamuna.

Draped in the national tricolour, the body was brought to Ekta Sthal on a flower-bedecked gun carriage from Kapurthala House, where it had been kept since morning to facilitate the public to pay homage.

The body was brought out of the building as the clock struck

3.30 p.m. in the presence of Mr. Narayanan's family, Governors S.M. Krishna (Maharashtra) and Gopalkrishna Gandhi (West Bengal), the three Service chiefs and many people who had come to offer their last respects. As the body was placed on the gun carriage and taken out, people lining the route to the cremation ground caught a final glimpse of the leader.

In Kapurthala House, as the body lay in state, the quiet dignity associated with Mr. Narayanan was the order of the day as common people joined the

country's top leadership and the diplomatic community to pay homage and offer condolences to his family. His wife Usha Narayanan — herself in failing health — visited Kapurthala House briefly. Her daughters remained there throughout.

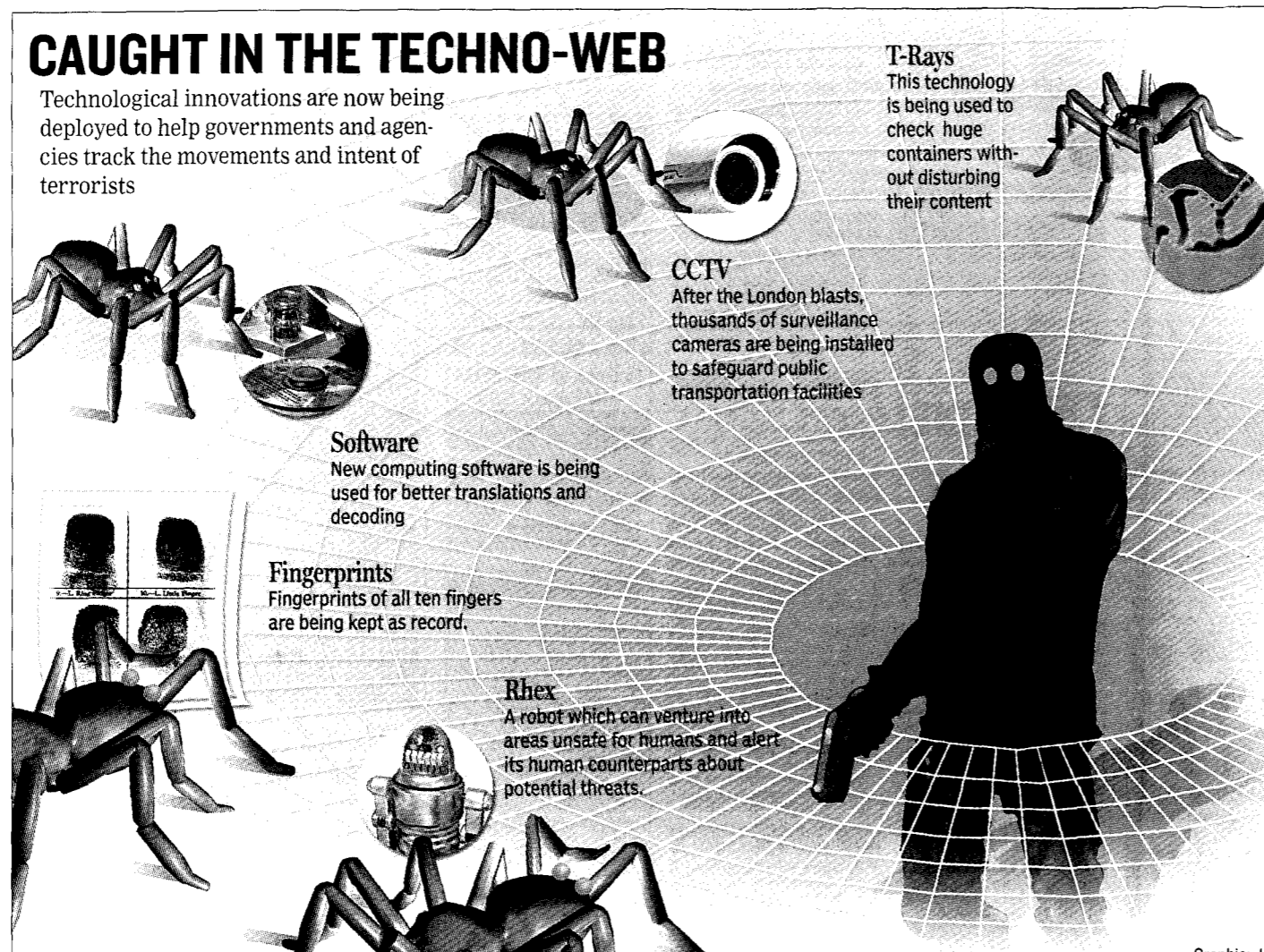
Soon after the body was brought to Kapurthala House from the Army Research and Referral Hospital, where Mr. Narayanan died on Wednesday, the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister paid homage. The other dignitaries included Lok Sabha Speaker

Somnath Chatterjee, the former Prime Ministers, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, I.K. Gujral and V.P. Singh, and Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and Revenue Minister K.M. Mani remained throughout and joined the funeral procession. The Kottayam district panchayat president, Thomas Kunnappally, and the Uzhavoor gram panchayat vice-president, Abraham Mathew, from Mr. Narayanan's village, placed wreaths sent by Mr. Narayanan's siblings.

11 NOV 2005

Combating terrorism with technology



CAUGHT IN THE TECHNO-WEB

Technological innovations are now being deployed to help governments and agencies track the movements and intent of terrorists

T-Rays
This technology is being used to check huge containers without disturbing their content

CCTV
After the London blasts, thousands of surveillance cameras are being installed to safeguard public transportation facilities

Software
New computing software is being used for better translations and decoding

Fingerprints
Fingerprints of all ten fingers are being kept as record.

Rhex
A robot which can venture into areas unsafe for humans and alert its human counterparts about potential threats.

SHREEVATSA Nevatia
New Delhi

SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, U.S. researchers have been working around the clock to identify vulnerabilities in the U.S. military and intelligence systems and develop defences against them. With increased government funding, technological advances unimaginable only a few years ago are now a reality for those on the front lines. Listed herein are some of the technological breakthroughs that have been made:

Fingerprint identification

Available at all 136 Border Patrol stations around the United States, IAFIS and IDENT are two biometric ID systems that offer complete, complementary coverage to identify, accurately and irrefutably, anyone apprehended by a Border Patrol agent. They record identities based upon unique physical characteristics like photographs and fingerprints. But where IDENT (short for Automated Biometric Identification system) only scans a subject's two index fingerprints, IAFIS (an abbreviation of Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System) scans and records all ten, thereby proving to be a more reliable identifier.

www.cbp.gov

IEES/C3 makes transportation safer

New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority has recently beefed up its security system by adding 1,000 surveillance cameras and 3,000 sensors. This new security system is called IEES/C3 (Integrated Electronic Security System, Command, Communication and Control) and is expected to provide enhanced monitoring, surveillance, access control, intrusion detection and response capabilities. C3 centres are to be part of an integrated incident response and recovery management system, across the MTA's network.

Rhex, the robotic superhero

Researchers at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the Pentagon's "technological engine", have been studying insects and Rhex, the DARPA robot with legs, is one result of this groundbreaking research. This prototype has the ability to run over rough terrain, and even swim. Researchers' next goal is to furnish Rhex with gecko-like feet, enabling it to climb walls and ceilings. Eventually, Rhex will have a camera and biochemical sensors to detect substances in the atmosphere. By developing a robot like Rhex, that can venture into areas unsafe for humans and alert its human counterparts to the presence of dangerous biological agents, researchers hope to circumvent both military and civilian casualties.

www.iwar.org.uk

Biomimetic and other technologies

Experts at the Ohio research and development lab, Battelle Memorial Institute, identified biomimetics as one of the top 10 innovations to be used in the war on terrorism by 2014. Biomimetics describes a class of biological and chemical sensors that mimic nature in their ability to detect weapons of mass destruction. Companies may develop sensors that incorporate the bomb-sniffing abilities of dogs. Other innovations identified include:

Proactive intelligence technology - By using computer-based data fusion, modelling and simulation technologies, agencies will be able to better anticipate terror attacks and head them off. Advanced language translation software will also help track terrorist communication.

Non-invasive imaging - So-called terahertz radiation, or T-rays, will allow anti-terror agencies to examine the contents of shipping containers without opening them or disturbing their contents.

Space, air, land and sea monitoring - Geospatial intelligence technology will improve to include the earth's seas, which will help improve security by monitoring vessels.

The mind of a terrorist

In the fight against terror, we need increased psychological profiling



ARYA PRAHARAJ
ATTACKING THE COMMON MAN:
Social chaos engineered by outcasts

ADITYA Sinha
New Delhi

MOST TERRORISTS, through their acts, seek to "wage war against the State". But the persons who planned and executed the 29/10 blasts were not looking to target the armed forces or our political class; they were distinctly looking to hit the average Indian.

"The bombers were probably loners and non-confrontational types who thought they'd be wiping the smile off the face of the average Indian shopper," says psychologist Rajat Mitra, who has interviewed and profiled bombers in Tihar jail. "Who they select is very important to figure out what kind of resentments they harbour."

Though psychological profiling is de rigueur for criminal investigators in America, in India there are no resources put into this effort, and health professionals like Mitra come upon this work just by chance. Mitra and his NGO Swanchetan, for instance, were profiling sex offenders for the police when they came across Kashmiri bombers in Tihar jail.

What he told police officials during a recent lecture is that bombers could be characterised as "cowardly". This sur-

prised many of the officers who instinctively thought of the bombers as brave. "But this is the only crime where the perpetrator does not confront his victim," Mitra pointed out. "The victims are random."

The bombing is probably the most exciting event in a terrorist's otherwise humdrum lives, and many hang around at the scene of the crime to take in the scenes of chaos and terror. "That's why in the West, police take pictures of crowds at the scene and look for clues in the faces," says Mitra.

He felt that most bombers would not be physically prominent, as their task entailed their blending into a crowd. "But they would be people of above average intelligence, to plan out and execute such an act," he says.

The other surprising thing is that though bombers don't tell their families what they're up to, when they've done the bombing, they are usually heroes to their families, mohallas, and organisations. "This is an incentive for them," says Mitra. "No one they know condemns their actions."

Mitra adds, however, that police investigations would benefit if more resources and health professionals were devoted to terrorist profiling in India. "We are way, way behind," he laments.

Tackling forensic problems

Ashok Das
Hyderabad

WITHIN HOURS of the London Underground explosions on the 7th of July this year, the Metropolitan Police had begun the painstaking process of gathering forensic evidence at the scenes in a bid to determine who was behind the blasts. The evidence found helped not only in identifying the victims through their DNA code, but also to determine the kind of materials used by the bombers to carry out this vicious attack. A week after the 29/10 attacks, the Delhi police have not been able to make any major breakthroughs. Their lack of forensic expertise is perhaps the cause for their snail-like progress.

A top scientist, who works at the Andhra Pradesh forensic lab (and does not want to be named because of govt. regulations), lists some of the causes that all our police forces and offers some solutions to the forensic problem:

■ Every policeman, during the initial training period is imparted training in forensic skills. But that knowledge is not updated subsequently. As a result the police are not tuned to the emerging threat perceptions and new ways of investigating such situations. Hence top priority should be given to training.



AP
Thai police forensic officers examine the site where a bomb exploded at the compound of the Manager Publishing group on Thursday night in Bangkok, Thailand.

■ It cannot be expected that each and every policeman or woman would be an expert in forensic techniques. For this one needs the right attitude and the skills need fine tuning over long periods of trial and error. Therefore there is need for constituting special teams for forensic investigations.

■ Few states have full fledged bomb disposal squads. Even if such squads are there its doubtful if they have the equipment. We need more resources,

more vehicles, the latest in computer technology and sophisticated eavesdropping devices.

■ Contractors executing irrigation projects, companies that specialise in the drilling of wells and coalmines across the nation use explosives to break rocks, etc. It is seen that explosives are diverted from these sources by extremists and terrorists. A close monitoring of the users can reduce the possibilities of future terror attacks.

The Lashkar-e-Taiba, in theory and practice

Praveen Swami

LYING IN his hospital bed in Srinagar's Government Medical College, recovering from bullet injuries which ripped apart his upper body, Manzoor Ahmad Chilloo evokes pity. Fear, to those who know his story, would seem a more appropriate sentiment. Last year, the student of medicine had been a central figure in a Lashkar-e-Taiba operation to attack the Mumbai Stock Exchange using a car-bomb. Had the operation succeeded, the death toll might well have made the carnage caused by last week's bombings in Delhi appear trivial.

Much commentary on the bombings has characterised them as a renewal of the Lashkar-e-Taiba's pan-India war — a break with an overall de-escalation seen during the recent deepening of the India-Pakistan *détente* process. Such a representation is misplaced. Despite the growing vigour of the India-Pakistan dialogue, the Islamist *jihad* has continued apace. Few in India, however, understand the full scale and intensity of the Lashkar's operations — or the hatred that drives them.

Chilloo's story gives some insight into the workings of the Lashkar's pan-India operations. A long-time Lashkar operative, Chilloo was detained by the Jammu and Kashmir Police in 2002 on suspicion of ferrying funds to the terror group but was released without charge. He subsequently moved to Pune to pursue studies in medicine. Much of his time, however, was spent on building up a pool of contacts for the Lashkar, drawing on young Pune residents who had been active in the proscribed Students Islamic Movement of India.

In early 2004, Chilloo was contacted by the Srinagar-area Lashkar commander Shahid Ahmad, a Pakistani national who operated using the code-name 'Zulu'. First sent to Jammu and Kashmir to coordinate a joint assassination squad set up by the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and Lashkar, Ahmad's operation successes led to his being made responsible for operations outside of the State. He turned now to Chilloo, who already had a cell in place.

28/11
Last week's bombings in New Delhi necessitate a clear understanding of what the terrorist group wants — and what it will do to achieve its ends.

A carefully-crafted Intelligence Bureau operation — which also led to the controversial elimination of a woman Lashkar operative, Ishrat Jehan Raza, in an encounter in Ahmedabad — eventually led to the detection and exposure of the 'Zulu' cell. Chilloo himself, however, remained at large until he was injured in the course of the attempted assassination of a Srinagar-based politician earlier this year. If the chance firefight had not led to his capture, Chilloo might well have been involved in the networks that carried out the Delhi bombings.

Similar networks have been active over the last two decades. All of them trace their ancestry to three key operatives — Abdul Karim 'Tunda', Jalees Ansari, and Azam Ghauri. All Indian nationals, the three were recruited by the Lashkar after the demolition of the Babri Masjid. Many others soon joined them, often individuals with SIMI connections. Among them was Amir Hashim, a New Delhi resident who carried out a series of bombings in Delhi, Rohtak, and Jalandhar in 1996 and 1997. Growing numbers of Pakistani nationals, such as Mohammad Salim Junaid, Amir Khan, and Abdul Sattar, also participated directly in the Lashkar's pan-India operations from 1998.

In 2003, both the Lashkar and the Jaish-e-Mohammad attempted to set up cells to draw on the anger of Gujarat Muslims after the state-organised communal pogrom that tore apart their lives the previous year. Neither organisation had great success — most Indian Muslims seem to believe democratic institutions can address their grievances — but if the Lashkar did execute the Delhi serial bombings, it more likely than not drew on the services of local supporters recruited from regional Islamist groups.

What does the Lashkar want?

Tempting as it might be to see the Lashkar's

operations as driven by revenge — against communal violence or the conviction of operatives involved in earlier terrorist strikes — its objectives are more elemental.

Just last month, the Lashkar served public notice of its intentions. In its September 23 issue, the Lashkar-affiliated magazine *Ghazwa* editorially called for a renewal of Pakistani state support for the *jihad* in Jammu and Kashmir. India, it claimed, was working to divide Pakistani society by "cunningly using the slogan of friendship," while at once supporting forces hostile to it in Baluchistan and Afghanistan. *Ghazwa* demanded that President Musharraf admit that the *détente* process had given Pakistan nothing and work instead "to fortify the *jihad*."

Of arguments that continued support for *jihad* imposed unacceptable costs upon Pakistan, *Ghazwa* was dismissive. "Now is the right time for Pakistan to support the *jihad* in Kashmir," it said, "because America has entangled herself in the wars of Iraq and Afghanistan and in addition is suffering from severe afflictions like Katrina and Rita." "Pakistan should remember," the magazine asserted, "that even a so-called superpower like the United States has been badly worn at the hands of the *mujahideen*. Remember what happened to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and then think about India: how can it resist the *jihad*?"

Understanding the Lashkar position requires an engagement with its core position: that the *jihad* in Jammu and Kashmir is not a battle over territory, but a part of an irreducible conflict between Islam and unbelief. Committed to the eventual creation of a caliphate that would rule over all the world's Muslims, the Lashkar asserts that a *jihad*-without-end must continue "until Islam, as a way of life, dominates the whole world and until Allah's law is enforced everywhere in the world." As the noted scholar of

Islam Yoginder Sikand perceptively pointed out, the Lashkar's vision of Islam is one that leads it to represent the *Quran* itself as a manifesto for *jihad*.

Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir is, in this construction, necessarily evil and oppressive, because "the Hindus have no compassion in their religion." "In fact," Hafiz Mohammed Saeed who heads Markaz Dawa wal'Irshad, a seminary which runs a massive network of charitable and educational institutions in Pakistan, had declared some years ago, "the Hindu is a mean enemy and the proper way to deal with him is the one adopted by our forefathers, who crushed them by force." India is, in turn, part of just a global system of oppression that must be overthrown by force. As the Lashkar spokesperson Nazir Ahmad bluntly stated: "through the *jihad* that the *mujahideen* have launched in Kashmir, Islam will become dominant all over the world."

Not surprisingly, some Lashkar-affiliated leaders have operated in Iraq and the United Kingdom; cells have also been detected in the United States. Despite considerable global pressure on Pakistan to dismantle the Lashkar, its infrastructure is largely intact. After British investigators found that terrorists involved in the recent bombings of the London Underground had visited Lashkar facilities, little doubt was left that its activities posed a global threat. Yet the Lashkar's fundraising activities, as well as the recruitment of personnel and the military training of cadre, continue apace under the Markaz Dawa banner. All of this begs the obvious question: why?

Facing the future

Analysts offer several possible answers to the question. One explanation might be that the tail wags the dog: that Pakistan's President simply does not have enough support within his military to act against those it gave birth to during the Afghan *jihad* and is tied to by links of ideology and faith. Another plausible theory, advocated amongst others by the scholar and academic Husain Haqqani, is that continued *jihadist* activity suits General Musharraf, allowing him to represent himself to the world as the last line of defence against an Islamist coup.

Either way, the Delhi bombings have once again made clear a stark fact: as long as terrorist groups possess the capabilities to carry out violent acts, they will sooner or later use what is available. Given past experience, it is unlikely that the tragedy in Delhi will force General Musharraf to change course. In key senses, *Ghazwa* is right: the U.S. is too preoccupied with events in Iraq and Afghanistan, and too dependent on Pakistani support for its counter-terrorism campaign, to make Jammu and Kashmir-related developments a central policy concern.

Without dispute, the Lashkar is well-positioned to capitalise on the situation. Set up with the support of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence and Osama bin-Laden aide Abdullah Azam, the Lashkar has emerged as an organisation of global reach, largely untouched by the U.S.' war against terrorism. Part of a sprawling political empire, the Lashkar is the armed wing of the Markaz Dawa. Although the Markaz denies it has any connection with the Lashkar, the claim has been debunked by a large mass of media investigation and scholarly work.

It is not, of course, as if the Lashkar is the sole suspect in the Delhi serial bombings: others have demonstrated both the intent and capability needed to strike across India in the past. Bilal Beig's Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front, which bombed Delhi's Lajpat Nagar market in 1996, has been showing signs of revival in recent months. Both the Jaish-e-Mohammad and the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen have carried out operations outside of Jammu and Kashmir in the past. Yet given the strength of its infrastructure and its deep links with Pakistan's military establishment, it is without doubt the principal terrorist threat to India today. Abdul Karim Tunda, the Lashkar founding father in India, has been spotted more than once at the Jamaat ud-Dawa campus at Muridke, near Lahore. If Pakistan is serious about ending the Lashkar's war against India, it could start by handing him over for trial.

THE HINDU

03 NOV 2005

Lashkar, the emerging face of global terror

By Aarti Tikoo Singh/TNN

Jammu: Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is the primary suspect in the devastating serial bomb blasts in New Delhi, has close links with the global terrorist outfit Al-Qaeda, besides Palestinian terrorist outfit Hamas.

Though banned, it has not only managed to execute its violent activities but also succeeded in working in tandem with Al-Qaeda and Hamas, according to highly-placed sources in the Intelligence Bureau.

base in Jammu and Kashmir in early 1990s and has succeeded in establishing its modules in all Indian states which have substantial population of Muslims.

These modules comprise well educated computer literate and sharp Sunni Muslim boys between 20 to 30 years, as per reliable sources in Intelligence Bureau (IB). Only Sunnis are recruited because the group propagates Sunni Wahabism, the pan-Islamic doctrine. The Indian Muslim members of Lashkar are never promoted

activities in India.

According to sources, the commander who looks after operations outside J&K is code named Muzaamil Bhai. He sits in Pakistan. It was Muzaamil Bhai who had appointed Abu Andan alias Bilal Bhai of Pakistan to carry out operations in Delhi and others parts of India. Bilal Bhai was however killed by Delhi Police at Nizamuddin in 2002. He was succeeded by Shahid Bhai, who took over as the operational chief for terrorist activities outside J&K. Zahid Chowdhary took



Curious onlookers at the blast site in Sarojini Nagar which was cordoned off by security personnel on Sunday

"We have strong inputs that the cadres, ammunition and funds are shared by Al-Qaeda with LeT," a top intelligence officer told TOI.

According to a senior state police officer, Lashkar is a sister or an ally of Al-Qaeda because ideologically and nature wise they are alike. Both seek rule of Nizam-e-Mustafa in the world. Lashkar, according to the intelligence sources was born out of the forces that fought in Afghanistan against Russians in 1980s. The success in Afghanistan had also given confidence to Pakistan that had the expertise to create terrorists and it was in 1983 alone that Markaz-e-Dawaul-Irshad set up its terrorist wing Lashkar-e-Taiba to establish pan-Islamic rule in the world. "Since then Lashkar has closely worked and sought assistance from Al-Qaeda," an intelligence officer said.

Lashkar-e-Taiba set up its

as top commanders in the organisation. The first and the second rung leadership level is always held by Pakistan nationals.

Lashkar is headed by Hafiz Mohammad Sayeed based at Lahore, Pakistan. After having been banned, the LeT has been reorganised into two supposedly exclusive bodies one devoted to preaching of Islam under Hafiz Muhammad Saeed and the other to carry on its violent campaign under the leadership of Kashmiri scholar Maulana Abdul Wahid Kashmiri. It has also taken up its new name as Al-Mansurian in Jammu and Kashmir. It has further divided the leadership into two wings for carrying out violent activities with an agenda to enforce Nizam-e-Mustafa, the Muslim rule in India. One head looks after operations in Jammu and Kashmir and the other commander deals with terrorist

over when Shahid was killed by J&K Police in July 2004.

Lashkar commanders set up modules. Several SIMI scholars were recruited by the terrorist outfit and a powerful base was set up in Pune. A big module was however dismantled when J&K Police caught 22 Lashkar members in Kashmir. Out of these 22 men, several were scholars, some sportsmen, well educated and from well to do families of Kashmir.

The group is divided into water-tight compartments with one module exclusively for blasts and explosions, another for killing informers and political activists and third one for suicidal killings, generally known as fidayeen. The only fidayeen who was caught alive is Abu Kital (Pakistani), presently in Kot Bhalwal Jammu.

At the moment there are at least 500 Lashkar terrorists operating in J&K.

One body, one pyre, two families

OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Oct. 31: A day after a bitter battle over a tiny body, two families have agreed to cremate it together.

Charred beyond recognition in the blast that devastated Sarojini Nagar market on Saturday, the body will also be put under the DNA scanner to identify it.

Apurba Sarma, the lone person to escape unscathed among a group of nine from Assam, was convinced the body was of his sister's daughter Maitreyee.

But a rude shock came his way when Balbir Singh, an IAF official from Jhajjar in Haryana, claimed it was the body of his niece — brother Dilbagh Singh's daughter. Balbir had also laid claim to another body — that of three-year-old Utkarsh Gupta.

Delhi police today decided to allow a joint cremation after blood samples are drawn from the two bodies for the DNA tests, which will be done 72 hours after the deaths.

Deputy commissioner Ravinder Yadav informed the claimants about the decision at his office when they met him this evening.

As Apurba waits to light his niece's pyre, his six-year-old daughter Mriganki and sister Pranati — Maitreyee's mother — are battling for their lives. Maitreyee's father Kumud Bhattacharyya, a bank officer based in Goalpara, in Assam, perished in the blast.

The Delhi government has announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the families of the victims, Rs 1 lakh for deceased minors, Rs 50,000 for the seriously injured and Rs 5,000 for those with minor injuries.

AFTER THE TRAGEDY, THE TRAUMA



A woman cries as she waits for the body of a relative outside a hospital morgue in New Delhi on Monday. (Reuters)

The government also decided to reward the driver and conductor of a bus who displayed exemplary alertness by throwing out a bomb in Govindpuri on Saturday, adds PTI.

Driver Kuldeep will be regularised while conductor Budh Prakash has earned an out-of-turn promotion.

The Delhi cabinet, at a meeting chaired by chief min-

ister Sheila Dikshit, also decided to give them Rs 2 lakh each. Police said at least eight to 10 people would have died had the bomb exploded inside the bus.

No news of Calcutta boy

A STAFF REPORTER

Calcutta, Oct. 31: With no news about 13-year-old Sayan Mukherjee, who was caught in the Sarojini Nagar bomb blast on Saturday, his grandparents in Kalighat were fast losing hope of seeing him again.

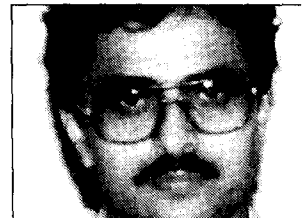
"Our relatives have looked for him in every hospital in Delhi, but have drawn a blank. Although time is running out, we are still hopeful," was all a close relative could say on Monday.

Sayan, along with father Satyabrata, a banker, and mother Supriya, was shopping in Sarojini Nagar's Babu Market when the bomb went off.

The mutilated bodies of Supriya and Satyabrata were later traced by their relatives in a mortuary but Sayan is nowhere to be found. "They loved to visit Delhi and this year was no different. I have no words to express my grief," a close relative said.

"According to information available with us, the bodies of Supriya and Satyabrata will be cremated in Delhi," said N.R. Babu, deputy commissioner of police (south).

Today, the Mukherjees spent most of the time behind closed doors and occasionally checked with the police station for any news of



(Top) Little Sayan, who is missing; parents Satyabrata and Supriya, who have died

Sayan's possible survival. The Class VII student of a city-based English medium school and the darling of Kali Lane, where the Mukherjees live, was to return on Monday with lots of crackers.

"We don't have any information on the boy's fate. No one from Delhi police has got in touch," a Kalighat police station officer said.

THE HINDU

CJI rues lack of political will to wipe out terror

SNS and PTI

NEW DELHI, Oct. 31. — The outgoing Chief Justice of India, Mr. RC Lahoti, today regretted the "lack" of political will to end terrorism and supported retaining the death penalty to punish perpetrators of crimes like the bomb blasts that rocked the Capital on Saturday. "Which other penalty is required other than this (death penalty) for this dastardly act? What

other punishment is called for? Ask the man who has masterminded this blast," Mr. Justice Lahoti, who retired as CJI today, said while speaking to the media.

Significantly, his successor, Mr. Justice YK Sabharwal, had said that he was personally against capital punishment. Also, President APJ Abdul Kalam has called for a debate on the death penalty provision.

"Speaking for myself, I think that death penalty must continue to exist," Mr. Justice Lahoti said and added that "we cannot go

by what is happening in the Western countries". Mr. Justice Lahoti said it was due to the lack of political will to check terrorism that the country has been witnessing more and more acts of terror. "In our country, everyday dastardly acts of terrorism take place. Has anyone gone into the question? There should be a desire to take action, to act, (and) study it scientifically to take remedial steps," he said.

Mr. Justice Lahoti gave the example of Punjab where terrorism was eliminated.

"The Punjab example can be applied to the whole country," he said and added: "Have some symptomatic treatment, immediately control the situation, but then go into the root of the causes, identify the causes and take measures which are directed towards remedying the problem," he said. Brushing aside the allegation that Pota was misused by the judiciary, he said it was misused by those implementing the law. "Pota has been misused by the executive (and) I don't mean government," he said.

0 1 NOV 2000

TERROR TIMELINE

The chronology of events in the Red Fort attack case



Mohammad Arif
DEATH
SENTENCE

● **Dec. 22, 2000:** Six Lashkar-e-Toiba militants sneak into Red Fort and open fire, killing two jawans and a civilian.

● **Dec. 26:** Prime suspect Mohammad Arif alias Ashfaq and his wife Rehmana Yousuf Farooqui arrested after Delhi encounter.

● Accused Abu Shyamal and Abu Sufian killed in encounters in Delhi and Srinagar.

● **Feb. 20, 2001:** Delhi police file chargesheet against Ashfaq and 21 others.

● **Sept. 11:** Special court begins trial against 11.

● **May 10, 2002:** Accused Abu Bilal, a district commander of Lashkar, killed in the capital.



Rehmana Yousuf
Farooqui
SEVEN
YEAR-TERM

● **Dec. 4:** Charges framed against the 11. Ashfaq and two others charged with waging war against the state.

● **Sept. 26, 2003:** Delhi High Court orders day-to-day trial.

● **Oct. 14, 2005:** Special court reserves verdict.

● **Oct. 24:** Court convicts Ashfaq and six others of waging war against the nation, murder and criminal conspiracy. Four acquitted.

● **Oct. 29:** Minutes after serial blasts rock Delhi, court defers pronouncement of sentence

● **Oct. 31:** Special court awards death penalty to Ashfaq, life imprisonment to Nazir and Farooq and seven-year rigorous imprisonment to the remaining four.



Nazir Ahmed Qasid
LIFE TERM



Farooq Ahmed Qasid
LIFE TERM

01 NOV 2005

Delhi points finger at Pak-based groups

PM goads Pervez to action

OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Oct. 31: India today held Pakistan-based terrorist groups responsible for Saturday's serial blasts in Delhi, but gave General Pervez Musharraf the benefit of the doubt.

"India expects Pakistan to act against terrorism directed at India," Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told Musharraf when the Pakistan President called him this evening to convey his condolences for those who lost their lives in the bomb attacks.

Singh demanded immediate action from Musharraf against those who were responsible for the terrorist act.

Earlier in the day, Musharraf had offered to help in the investigation. "We would like to join the investigation with India... Pakistan would act on the results of the probe."

"Pakistan fully condoles with the government of India as well as with the families of the victims of the dastardly terrorist attack," he said.

The Prime Minister's remarks to Musharraf indicated that India was looking for action against terrorists.

"We continue to be disturbed and dismayed at indications of the external linkages of terrorist groups with the October 29 bombing," Singh told Musharraf during the 10-minute conversation.

It means India believes the group that carried out the attacks in Delhi, killing 59 people, had connections beyond the border.

Islamabad asked Delhi to provide evidence of involvement of a Pakistan-based group.

The Prime Minister said

"violence against civilians can never be justified" and terrorists would never be able to weaken India's resolve or its commitment to the country's unity and territorial integrity.

The Indian response suggests two messages — one, the obvious warning that acts of terrorism like the blasts could hinder the normalisation process and two, Delhi is not willing yet to hold Musharraf responsible for these attacks.

Rather, it is ready to give the Pakistan President room to show his resolve to end terrorist activities directed against India.



Singh to Musharraf:
Action, not words

The blasts have occurred as the two countries take bold steps to open up the Line of Control to allow Kashmiris from the two sides to work together to rebuild lives after the earthquake.

Reports from Pakistan said Musharraf expressed happiness over the agreement reached to open five relief centres along the LoC for quake victims.

"I am all for going beyond it. If any Kashmiri wants to come this side or go to the other side, they are welcome to take part in the reconstruction process," he said.

Musharraf suggested demilitarisation of Kashmir.

■ See Page 6

'Terror deserves death'

No other punishment for perpetrators of violence: Lahoti

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, October 31

ADDING ONE more dimension to the ongoing debate on capital punishment, outgoing chief justice of India R.C. Lahoti said on Monday that the mastermind of the recent blasts in the capital deserved no less than the death penalty.

Coming out in support of retaining the death penalty in the statute books on his last day in office, Lahoti wondered, "What other punishment is required for this dastardly act? What other punishment is called for?"

Lahoti took this opportunity to remind those supporting abolition of the death penalty to think of the rights of the victims, too. We only think of the rights of the accused and forget the rights of the victims, he said.

Deriding the argument that the death penalty did not have a place in civilised society since life once taken cannot be given back, he said, "Ask the man who masterminded the blast... Can he give back the life of those killed in the blasts?" He, however, added that more humane options of execution should be explored.

Lahoti also denied that, under a system that recognises the death penalty, the dice was heavily loaded against the poor. "We only see the facts of the case and the modus operandi", he said.

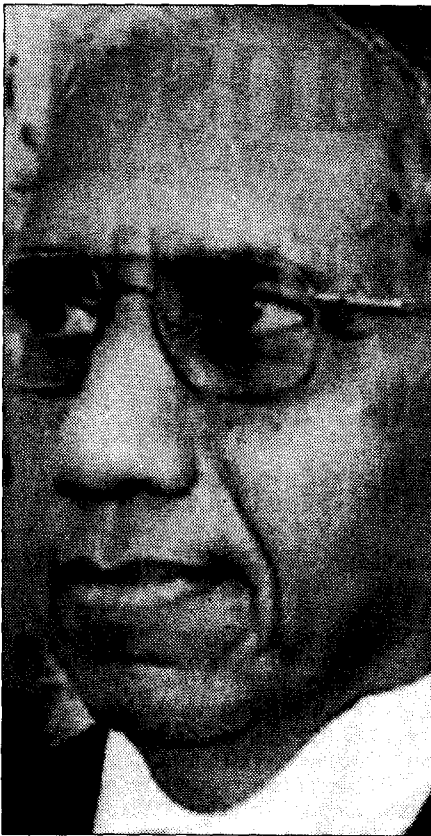
Interestingly, chief justice-designate Y.K. Sabharwal, who will take over the august office from Lahoti on Diwali (he will be sworn in by the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan at 10 am), has stated that he is "personally" against the death penalty.

"However, it's up to Parliament to take a final decision on this", he had said soon after he was named the next chief justice. Law minister H.R. Bhardwaj has also advocated the death penalty for such cases as the Parliament attack episode. "Anyway, even now, the death penalty is awarded by the courts only in the rarest of rare cases", Bhardwaj said.

President Kalam had sparked a debate on the issue after he returned all clemency petitions pending with him, instead calling upon the government to seriously consider adopting a reformatory system of justice, which believes in reforming criminals, rather than have a system that believes in retributive justice.

Regretting the "lack" of political will to wipe out terrorism in the country, Lahoti

MAKING A CASE FOR THE VICTIMS



appeared to suggest enactment of a new law to tackle the menace. "What law should be enacted is again a matter of very scientific study. Whenever new problems arise, we find out new solutions.

"Terrorism is the gift of the previous century and that, too, on such a large scale. When we're facing new challenges, we have to find out new solutions", he told reporters in a chat on his last day in office.

Lahoti said it was due to a lack of political will to check the evil that the country has been witnessing increasing dastardly acts of terror. "There's no political will to fight terrorism", he said while referring to the post-9/11 situation in the US, where no further incidents of terrorism had taken place. Likewise, he said,

there had been no further incidents after the London bombings.

"In our country, dastardly acts of terrorism take place every day. Has anyone gone into the question? The reason is there should be a desire to take action, to act, study it scientifically to take remedial steps. Unfortunately, in our country, no such action has been taken to study the problem scientifically", he said. "Once we identify the causes, we can take remedial measures", he added.

Speaking to reporters, Lahoti gave the example of Punjab, from where terrorism has been wiped out. "The Punjab example can be applied to the whole country", he said. "Have some symptomatic treatment, immediately control the situation, but then go into the root of the causes, identify the causes and take measures directed towards remedying the problem", he said.

Brushing aside the allegation that Pota had been misused by the judiciary, he said it was misused by those implementing the law. "Pota has been misused by the executive. By executive, I don't mean the government, but the actual persons who implement the law", he said. He said terrorism required special type of investigations, more scientific methodology, but it had not been done so far in the country.

"The same police officer or inspector, ordinary police personnel have been dealing with terrorism cases. But I don't think he been given any specialised training to deal with terrorism cases," the CJI said.

Justice Lahoti also suggested that the terrorists should be kept in confinement and in a separate jail to keep them away from other undertrials. "We are creating more terrorists by keeping them with other inmates in jail," he felt.

The CJI also favoured departing from age-old British model of policing in the country and supported the view of dividing it into various wings. There should be separate wings for law and order, security, investigation and prosecution, he said.

Justice Lahoti took strong objection to recent outbursts of some politicians against the Supreme Court judgments saying they should not make insinuations against the institution.

Maintaining that the judges are not "sensitive" of being criticised, he said some of the statements made in the recent times by the persons in authority made him "uncomfortable".

Serial blasts kill more than 50 in Delhi

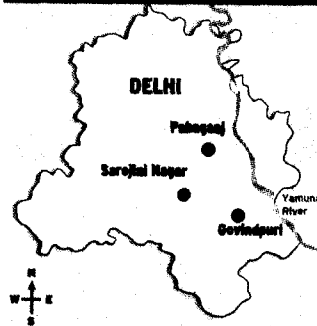
Two bombs go off at market places packed with Diwali shoppers; red alert sounded in Capital

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Over 50 people were killed and several injured in three near simultaneous powerful explosions here on Saturday evening. While two bombs went off at busy market places the third blast was in a Delhi Transport Corporation bus. Following the explosions, suspected to have been caused by Improvised Explosive Devices, a red alert was sounded in the capital. No terrorist outfit has so far claimed responsibility.

The first blast took place around 5-25 p.m. in Central Del-

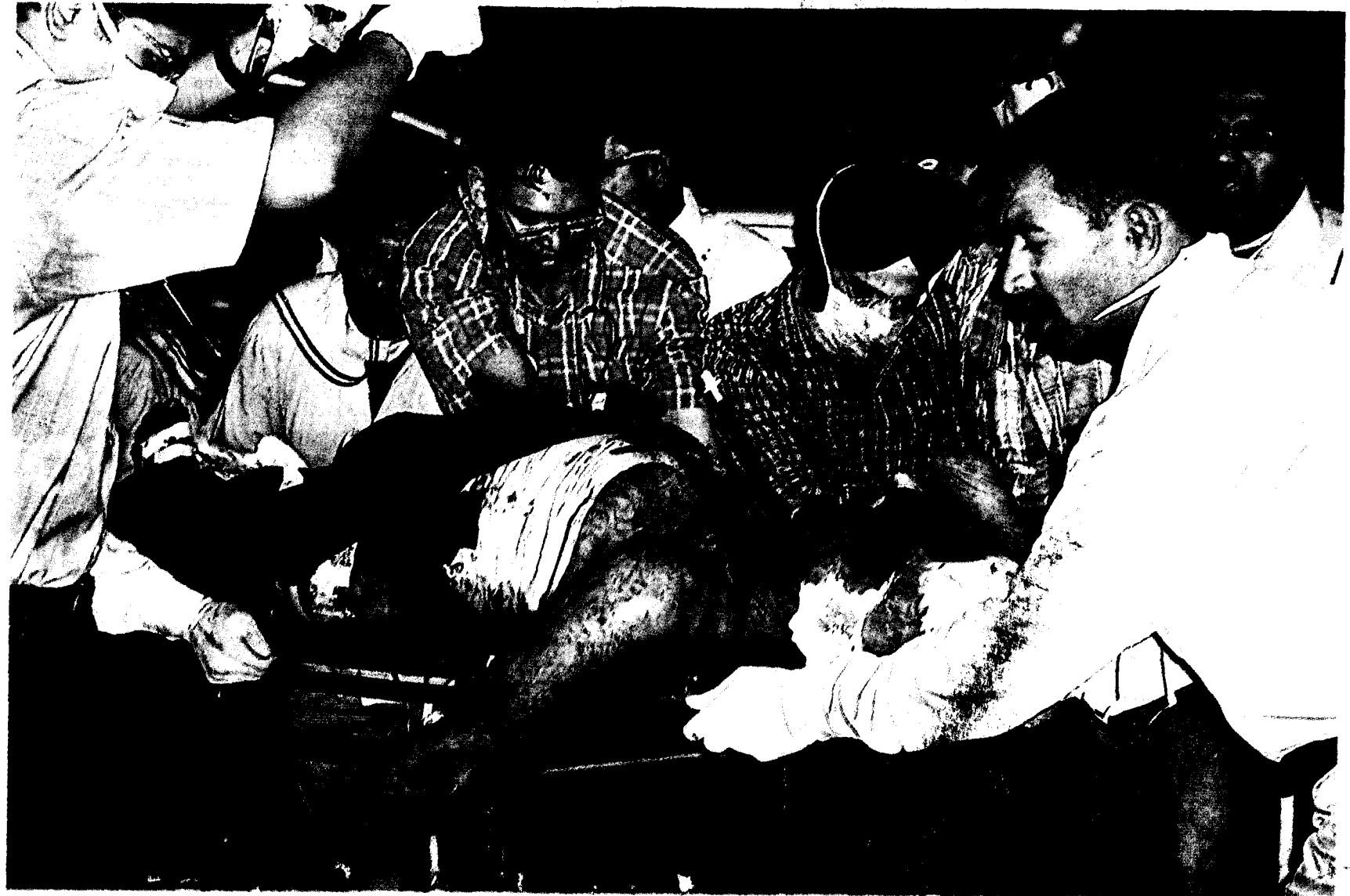
DELHI SERIAL BLASTS



hi at Chheh Tuti Chowk in Paharganj, packed with Diwali shoppers. The bomb is suspected to have been planted in a motorcycle or a rickshaw parked outside a jewellery shop. Panic spread as smoke swirled from the blast site and people started fleeing the place.

Eyewitnesses said the impact of the blast was taken by the jewellery outlet and adjoining shops. There were pools of blood on the road at the blast site with body parts strewn around. Bags, shoes and chappals lay scattered. Local traders with the help of the police rushed the injured to hospital. According to police sources, at least 12 people were killed and over 65 injured in the Paharganj blast. Four bodies, including that of a child, had been burnt beyond recognition.

Within a few minutes of the



WHEN TERROR STRUCK: A blast victim being rushed to hospital in New Delhi on Saturday. — PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

first blast, a second one rocked the busy Sarojini Nagar market in South Delhi. This was followed by another explosion inside a Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus near Kalkaji Depot at Govindpuri in South Delhi.

Another explosive device was defused outside the State Bank of Bikaner branch in Chandni Chowk.

According to police sources, the bomb at Sarojini Nagar is

suspected to have been planted inside a Maruti van parked near the shops. Within seconds of the blast around 5-45 p.m., half a dozen cloth shops caught fire. Subsequently, a gas cylinder also exploded inside a juice shop. People ran for cover fearing more explosions. Such was the impact of the blast that some shops just crumbled. Police did not rule out the possibility of some people being buried under

the debris. Preliminary reports indicated that over 39 people were killed and scores injured. Fire tenders and police teams rushed to the spot.

At Govindpuri, the explosion took place in a DTC bus (DL-1PB-2719), injuring six persons including the driver and the conductor. Eyewitnesses said passengers inside the bus sounded an alert after they spotted an unclaimed bag lying under one of

the seats. As the driver brought the bus to a halt at the roundabout near Anandmai Marg near the Kalkaji bus depot, someone reportedly picked up the bag, triggering off the explosion. All the injured were rushed to the AIIMS.

Soon after the blasts, the Union Ministry convened an emergency meeting to review security in the capital in the run-up to Diwali. Union Home Minister

Shivraj Patil visited the injured in hospital and enquired about their condition.

Police Chief K.K. Paul ruled out the possibility of RDX having been used in the blasts. Unconfirmed reports said two persons from Kashmir had been detained.

More reports on Pages 3 and 10

30 OCT 2005

'There was a deafening sound'

Chaos at blast sites:bodies of four charred beyond recognition

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: It should have been just another day of shopping for ten-year-old Jeevan. But barely three hours after he was caught in the Paharganj blast, fear was still writ large on the face of this young Gole Market resident.

Having gone with his elder brother Jai Prakash to do Diwali shopping at Nehru Bazar in Paharganj, Jeevan had just stepped down from a rickshaw when the blast went off. Standing outside the emergency ward of Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital shortly afterward, he was just one of the many who had a torrid tale to narrate on Saturday evening.

"We were just a stone's throw away from where the blast occurred. It was around 5-30 p.m. and we had just got down from a rickshaw at the roundabout in Nehru Bazar. Suddenly there was a deafening sound and there was a dirt cloud all around. We

could not see anything, but started running in the opposite direction out of panic. There was a lot of chaos with children crying and people pushing each other to get ahead," recalled Jai Prakash who had come to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital for first aid.

Over 30 blast victims had been admitted to the hospital by 8 p.m. Four of them, including two women, were declared brought dead. Doctors said their bodies were charred beyond recognition. According to S.K.Sharma, in charge of Emergency at RML Hospital, most of those admitted had suffered burns, splinter wounds or injuries caused due to stampede.

Four of those admitted were said to be in a critical condition, including Rabindra Nath, an Assistant Commandant with the Orissa police who suffered around 80 per cent burns, 60-year-old Raghunath Sikka and

• Two women among those dead

• Four still in critical condition

• Most of those admitted to hospital had severe burns

• All nurses, para-medical teams put into service

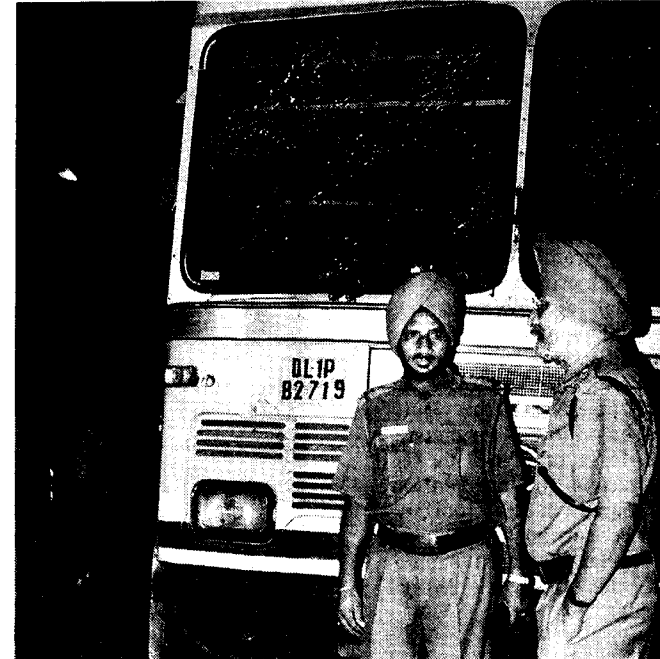
44-year-old Anil Gupta.

"All our nurses and para-medical teams have been put into service. The life support systems are in place, and the disaster ward has been opened to take care of the rush. As of now things are being done in an organised way and there is no delay in giving first aid," said Dr. Sharma.

Apart from relatives of those admitted here, the hospital also witnessed a rush of those who had been unable to trace their near and dear ones. "My parents had gone for shopping to Paharganj. We have not heard from them yet and so we decided to

come and check at the hospital. But there is no news of them here," said a concerned Rachna Jain, a resident of Gole Market who had come to the hospital with her aunt.

It was a similar tale for three Israeli tourists who had come looking for their friends. "We are staying at Paharganj and two of our friends went out. Since we were unable to contact them after the blasts, we thought of coming and checking if anyone had been admitted to the hospital. But we have been unable to get any information as of now," said one of them.



BLACK SATURDAY: The shattered windscreen of the DTC bus where the bomb was detected by the conductor and the driver at Govindpuri in South Delhi on Saturday.

PHOTO: V. SUDERSHAN.

Many victims lay writhing in pain

"Body parts were scattered all over"

Devesh K. Pandey

NEW DELHI: "Body parts were scattered all over. Two minors were lying in a pool of blood with their faces completely disfigured while several others lay writhing in pain screaming for help," said an eyewitness, indicating the magnitude of the human tragedy caused by the powerful explosion at Chheh Tuti Chowk in the Paharganj area of Central Delhi on Black Saturday.

It all happened around 5-30 p.m. when the area was packed with Diwali shoppers. Like many other local residents, Ajit Singh was sitting in his house when he heard the blast. His three-storey building shook under the impact of the explosion. "I rushed out and saw people running towards the fruit market. I followed suit," said Singh, shocked by what he had seen. "Two small children were lying

unconscious. A portion of the head of one of them lay ripped apart. A woman, probably their mother, also lay nearby. I along with local shopkeepers and three policemen lifted the injured and packed them off in private vehicles to nearby hospitals," he said, adding that six people were killed on the spot, one of whom was a "golgappa-wala".

The intensity of the blast could be gauged from the fact that M.L. Jewellers' shop, in front of which the bomb exploded, was completely destroyed and those sitting inside, including the shopowner, sustained serious injuries.

Adjacent to the shop, a medical store was also badly damaged. Hoardings of many shops in the area were torn apart and windowpanes of shops and residential buildings were shattered within a 50-metre diameter.

Red Fort Attack Ruling

Pak ultra, six others convicted

25/10
General

New Delhi: Nearly five years after terrorists stormed the historic Red Fort here killing two jawans and a civilian, a Delhi court on Monday convicted Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorist Mohammad Arif alias Ashfaq and six others while acquitting four accused.

Ashfaq and his key Indian conspirators Nazir Ahmed Qasid and his son Farooq Ahmad Qasid have been found guilty of waging war against the state which can attract a death sentence. The quantum of punishment will be pronounced on October 29.



A Rajputana Rifles guard stands outside Red Fort

5 get lifer for riots

A fast-track court in Godhra on Monday sentenced five persons to life imprisonment for the murder of a youth from the minority community during the post-Godhra communal riots in Gujarat in 2002. Fast track court judge R D Thaker delivered the order in the case pertaining to the killing of one Sameer Delolia by a rioting mob which had attacked him and a woman at Halol town on March 1, 2002.

terrorist.

However, the court acquitted her of the charges of waging war against the country and the conspiracy to attack 17th century Mughal monument. The court also convicted Babar Mohsin Baghwala, Saddaqt Ali and Matloob Alam for their complicity in the attack.

Those acquitted for want of evidence are Rajeev Kumar Malhotra, Devender Singh, Moolchand Sharma and Shahanshah Alam. Sadaqt had provided shelter to Ashfaq at Gafoor Nagar in South Delhi's Okhla where they jointly ran an internet cafe for a month before the attack. They were also in touch with the other accused in Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan. It was at Baghwala's house in Srinagar that the Ashfaq, Nazir Qasid and Farooq Qasid plotted the attack.

Matloob Alam, a ration shop owner was pronounced guilty for helping Ashfaq in procuring a fake ration card using forged documents, which he used for establishing his Indian citizenship. Agencies

Delivering the verdict in a packed courtroom, additional sessions judge O P Saini also held Ashfaq guilty of murder, criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery and illegal possession of arms and ammunition.

The Pakistani national was also convicted for illegally entering and staying in India under the Foreigners Act. Nazir and Farooq have also been convicted for criminal conspiracy.

The lone woman accused in the attack on December 22, 2000, and Ashfaq's Indian wife Rahamana Yousuf Farooqui was found guilty under section 216 IPC (harbouring an offender) and 218 IPC (trying to save a person from punishment) for providing shelter to the LeT

TWO-MEMBER TERRORIST TEAM FIRST TARGETS CPM LEADER, REPELLED

Militant guns down J&K education minister

Statesman News Service

SRINAGAR, Oct. 18. — At a time when the state, Army and para-military forces are engaged in taking earthquake relief supplies to the people, terrorists today breached the tight security around Tulsi Bagh in the heart of Srinagar city and killed the minister of state for education, Dr Ghulam Nabi Lone, in his residence. A guest of the minister and a CRPF trouper in Srinagar too lost their lives in the attack mounted around 9 a.m today. A militant and a security guard were killed as well and three others were injured in the crossfire.

This is the third time in the past 15 years of insurgency that terrorists have killed a minister in Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference minister Mustaq Lone and Ghulam Hassan Bhat having been murdered in 2002 and 2000, respectively.

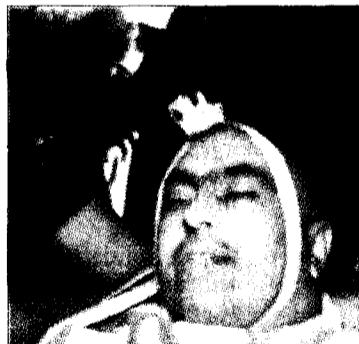
Today's attack came despite the Pakistan-based United Jihad Council, an amalgam of 14 militant groups, having announced suspension of its activities in the quake-ravaged areas of the valley.

Lone, a 62-year-old doctor, joined chief minister Mufti Muhammad Syed's PDP in 2002, before winning an election at Sangrama in Baramulla, close to his home town, Sopore.

Two militants on a suicide mission took part in the attack. After sneaking into the high-security Tulsi Bagh where MPs and political leaders live, one of the militants headed for Lone's residence and sought an audience with the minister. When CRPF guards stopped him for frisking, he whipped out an AK-47 rifle and shot one of them. The militant then made a quick dash to the minister's drawing



Relatives mourn the death of J&K education minister Ghulam Nabi Lone at his residence in Sopore, near Srinagar. (Below) The body of the slain minister at his Sopore house. On Tuesday. — AFP



room where Lone was with visitors and started firing. Lone and his guest, Ghulam Mohiuddin Shah, were seriously injured. While the minister died on his

way to the hospital, Shah passed away later. The militant got away.

The rebellious duo first tried its luck at the residence of CPI-M legislator Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami. When the MLA's security personnel challenged them, the resultant gunbattle killed a militant and a security man. The other militant made his way to Lone's house next door. Md Tarigami, who escaped unhurt, put the blame on inadequate security measures. "I'm unhurt but unfortunately we lost a brave

constable and a minister residing in the same locality," the legislator said. The Centre wrote to the J&K government in June this year to beef-up the security for Md Tarigami, a source said.

The chief minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, described the killing of Lone as a "very unfortunate" incident and a "personal loss". The killing is all the more reprehensible because the militants have struck at a time when the entire state, especially the valley, is mourning the heavy loss of life and property in

the devastating earthquake, he said. The killers, he said, had also violated the sanctity of the holy month of Ramzan. The state declared a holiday for the day after Lone's death. The former J&K chief minister, Mr Farooq Abdullah, described the attack as unfortunate.

Two militant groups — al Mansoorian and the Islamic Front — separately claimed responsibility for the attack that came a day after CPI-M leader Ghulam Nabi Ganai had been shot dead by militants in Matan.

Al-Qaida terror plots revealed

MI5 was warned about attack on Heathrow

VIJAY Dutt
London, October 9

THE LONG-STANDING mystery as to why British Prime Minister Tony Blair had ordered Scimitar armoured vehicles and 450 heavily armed troops to Heathrow in 2003 while fighter jets were put on standby, has finally been resolved. The move had brought derision and condemnation, with many accusing the Prime Minister of creating panic to justify his decision to go to war in Iraq.

It has now been revealed that the seemingly over-the-top security measures were taken in response to a specific threat uncovered by British intelligence agencies.

The al-Qaida operations chief, Khalid Sheikh Mohammad, — who was one of the masterminds of the 9/11 New York attacks — had planned an operation to hijack a passenger jet from Eastern Europe and fly it into a packed terminal at Heathrow. Therefore the fighter jets — with orders to shoot down any hijacked liners approaching the airport — and the armed anti-terrorist units positioned along the path of planes arriving from Eastern Europe. In fact, the treat was perceived to be so serious that the government had even toyed with the idea of closing down the entire airport.

When the then home secretary David Blunkett was grilled on the “panic-inducing” security measures at Heathrow, he had said that he could not divulge the cause because of “security reasons”.

In February 2003, MI5 had received detailed intelligence about al-Qaida's planned two-prong attack on Britain to punish it for sending troops to Iraq. The second part of the plan — inspired by Osama bin Laden himself — involved a mortar attack on a departing airplane.

The details of the plan were recently divulged by the White House when it released a list of 10 al-Qaida plots that were foiled by the US and its allies, including the UK. The White House gave details of the foiled attacks after US President George W. Bush mentioned them in a speech on Wednesday. Reporters had asked him for the details but he refused to entertain them. Later, the White House called four top reporters and released the list to them.

Details reveal that an al-Qaida cell was spotted carrying out reconnaissance at an airport in East Europe.



Police officers, accompanied by a sniffer dog, patrol Grand Central Station in New York early on Sunday morning.

NY subway bombing was set for Sunday

New York, October 9

DETAILS EMERGED about an alleged plot to attack the city's subways with bombs hidden in bags and possibly baby strollers as local and federal officials jostled over the credibility of the threat.

A department of homeland security memo obtained by AP said the attack was reportedly scheduled to take place on or around Sunday, with terrorists using timed or remote-controlled explosives hidden in briefcases, suitcases or in or under strollers. The memo said that the department had received information indicating the attack might be carried out by “a team of terrorist operatives, some of whom may travel or who may be in the New York City area.”

The memo, issued on Wednesday to state and local officials, said that homeland security and FBI agents doubted the credibility of the information, but

it provided four pages of advice about averting a possible attack.

In Iraq, authorities detained a third suspect in the plot and investigated whether a fourth had travelled to New York as part of the scheme, according to a law enforcement official familiar with the case.

The official said the man's trip to New York was described by an informant who had spent time in Afghanistan and proved reliable in past investigations. But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation, added that authorities had not confirmed whether the fourth man even exists.

Those arrested had received explosives training in Afghanistan, the law enforcement official said on Friday. They had planned to travel through Syria to New York, and then meet with operatives to carry out the bombings.

A federal official said one of the suspects arrested in Iraq apparently told interrogators that more than a dozen people were involved in the plot, and that they were of various nationalities, including Afghans, Syrians and Iraqis.

In Baghdad, spokespeople for the US military and the US Embassy declined to comment on the arrests. Department of homeland security spokesman Brian Doyle also said the government has no information that the fourth person possibly connected to the plot “is either here or even exists.”

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said the military obtained intelligence information “during the normal course of our operations.” The intelligence led to a military raid in Iraq this week that was conducted by Iraqi security forces, backed by US troops, Whitman said, but added that there was no direct link between the raid

and the New York subway threat.

Homeland security officials in Washington downplayed the threat and said it was of “doubtful credibility.” But mayor Michael Bloomberg and police commissioner Ray Kelly vigorously defended their decision to discuss the threat publicly on Thursday.

“If I'm going to make a mistake you can rest assured it is on the side of being cautious,” Bloomberg said at a news conference.

In New York, thousands of extra police officers flooded the city's subway system, pulling commuters out of rush-hour crowds and rifling through their bags or briefcases.

An estimated 4.5 million passengers ride the New York subway on an average weekday. The system has more than 468 subway stations. In July, the city began random subway searches in the wake of the train bombings in London.

The New York Times

চালকের দিকেই ঘুরে যেতে পারে সব আঙুল

অনিন্দ্য জানা • ভেলুগোড়া

৩০ অক্টোবর: চকিষ ঘণ্টা কেটে গিয়েছে।

অন্ধপ্রদেশের ভেলুগোড়া আর রামান্নাপেট এখনও কিন্তু থামছে ২০০ ফুট উধাও কালভার্টের ধারে। আজ সকাল থেকে উদ্ধার হয়েছে আরও দশটি মৃতদেহ। জলের মধ্যে দুমড়ে-মুচড়ে পড়ে-থাকা রেলকামরায় নয়, বরং প্রায় এক কিলোমিটার উজানে। বিশাখাপত্তনম থেকে উড়ে-আসা নৌসেনার ডুবুরিরা নন, সেগুলি টেনে এনেছেন সাধারণ মানুষ।

রাজধানী নয়াদিল্লির বৃকে উপর্যুপরি তিনটি বিস্ফোরণ এবং প্রাণহানি, গুরুত্বের বিচারে নালগোড়া জেলার এই অজ গাঁয়ে ঘটে-যাওয়া ট্রেন দুর্ঘটনাকে পিছিয়ে দিয়েছে বটে, কিন্তু তথ্য বলছে, অন্ধপ্রদেশের ইতিহাসে এত বড় রেল-দুর্ঘটনা এর আগে ঘটেনি। আজ বিকাল পর্যন্ত সরকারি হিসাবেই মৃতের সংখ্যা ১১০ ছুঁয়েছে। বেসরকারি মতে যা দেড়শো ছাড়িয়েছে। আশঙ্কা, এখনও বহু দেহ জলের তোড়ে এ-দিক ও-দিক ছিটকে গিয়ে অটকে রয়েছে। রেলকর্তারা অবশ্য টেনেটেনে একশোর বেশি মৃতের সংখ্যা বলতেই রাজি ছিলেন না। তবে চোখের সামনে একের পর এক দেহ উদ্ধার হতে দেখে কথা বাঁধাননি।

আজ সকাল থেকে নৌসেনার ১৫ জন ডুবুরি রবারের 'জেমিনি' ভেলা ভাসিয়ে নেমে পড়েছিলেন ধ্বংসাবশেষ খুঁজতে। তাঁদের পাশাপাশি ফৌজি বোটে ছিলেন 'লাইফ ভেস্ট' পরা জওয়ানরা। কালো রঙের রবারের 'ডাইভিং স্যুট', পিঠে অক্সিজেন সিলিন্ডার, পায়ে সাঁতার কাটার হাঁসের পায়ের মতো 'ফিন' এবং মুখে মুখোশ পরে দেড়ঘণ্টা ডুবসাঁতার কেটেও তাঁরা বিশেষ কিছু পাননি। বস্তুত, বেলা সাড়ে ১০টা নাগাদ সেনা-জওয়ানরা 'অপারেশন' শেষই করে দিতে চাইছিলেন। রেলের পদস্থ কর্তারা পদস্থ ফৌজি কর্তাদের সঙ্গে কথাবার্তা বলে সেটা চালু রাখেন। দুর্ঘটনার ২৪ ঘণ্টা পেরিয়ে যাওয়ার পরে এখন শুরু হয়েছে তার কারণ বিশ্লেষণ। সকালেই ঘটনাস্থলে সর্পার্ধ এসেছিলেন রাজ্যের প্রাক্তন মুখ্যমন্ত্রী চন্দ্রাবাবু নায়ডু। ঝুলতে-থাকা রেললাইন



পাশাপাশি, তবে প্রাণ নেই। চিহ্ন বইছে ভেলুগোড়া। রবিবার জল সরার পরে। — অশোক মজুমদার

থেকে কম্যান্ডো প্রহরায় নিরাপদ দূরত্বে দাঁড়িয়ে মুখে নানারকম বিষয়সূচক শব্দ সহযোগে তিনি যুগপৎ দোষী সাব্যস্ত করলেন রাজ্য কংগ্রেসের সরকার এবং কেন্দ্রে কংগ্রেসের রেলমন্ত্রককে। বললেন, "অপদার্থ রাজ্য সরকার রেললাইনের কয়েক কিলোমিটার দূরের জলাধারের ঠিকমতো রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ করতে ব্যর্থ। যেমন রেলমন্ত্রী কালভার্টের রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ করতে ব্যর্থ!" স্বাভাবিক। বিরোধী রাজনীতি করলে এমন বলতেই হয়। কিন্তু বাস্তব অন্য কথা বলছে।

বাস্তব বলছে, গোটা অঞ্জে এ ধরনের ১৮ হাজার জলাধার আছে। যাদের অর্ধেকের ঠিক রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ হয় না। বাস্তব বলছে, ১৯৮৯ সালে পশ্চিম ভারতের মানমার্ভেও এক বার এমন ঘটনা ঘটেছিল। কিন্তু জলের তোড়ে কেউ কংগ্রেসের রেলমন্ত্রককে বললেন, "অপদার্থ রাজ্য সরকার রেললাইনের কয়েক কিলোমিটার দূরের জলাধারের ঠিকমতো রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ করতে ব্যর্থ। যেমন রেলমন্ত্রী কালভার্টের রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ করতে ব্যর্থ!" স্বাভাবিক। বিরোধী রাজনীতি করলে এমন বলতেই হয়। কিন্তু বাস্তব অন্য কথা বলছে।

অভিযোগ ঠিক সেই জায়গাতেই। জলাধারের তীর ভেঙে এ রকম কাণ্ড যে ঘটতে পারে, তার কোনও আঁচই না কি রেলকে দেয়নি রাজ্য সেচ দফতর। জবাব দিতে ছাড়েনি সেচ দফতরও। তারা বলেছে, দু'মাস আগেই জলাধারটি পরীক্ষা করা হয়েছিল। কিন্তু তখন এ রকম কোনও সম্ভাবনা ভাবাই যায়নি। অত্যধিক বর্ষণেই পরিস্থিতি খারাপের দিকে গিয়েছে বলে তাঁদের দাবি। আর সে জন্য সরকার সতর্কতা জারি করেছে। এ সব সন্দেহে রিপালি-এর পর ছয়ের পাতায়

• খান হারিয়ে কান...পৃঃ ৬

হামলার কৌশলই ধন্দে ফেলছে গোয়েন্দাদের

অগ্নি রায় • নয়াদিল্লি

৩০ অক্টোবর: কিছু সূত্র এবং কয়েকটি প্রশ্ন। বিস্ফোরণের তদন্তে এগুলিই এখন সম্বল গোয়েন্দাদের। ঘটনার পরের চকিষ ঘণ্টায় সন্দেহের লক্ষ্য পাক মদতে পুষ্ট জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠীর দিকেই ক্রমে তীক্ষ্ণ হচ্ছে। প্রশ্ন উঠেছে, ডুকম্পের ক্ষতি চাপা দিয়ে নিজেদের ক্ষমতা দেখাতেই কি নাশকতা ঘটাল জঙ্গিরা? আরও ক্ষতি ঠেকাতেই কি কৌশল বদলে আত্মঘাতী হামলার বদলে ব্যবহার করা হয়েছে 'বৈদ্যুতিন সময় নিয়ন্ত্রক'? কোন বিশেষ জঙ্গি সংগঠন এই নাশকতার পিছনে, তা অবশ্য এখনই স্পষ্ট করতে চাইছে না ভারত সরকার। এমনকী কাশ্মীরের ইসলামি জঙ্গি সংগঠন 'ইসলামিক ইনকিলাবি মাহাজ'-এর দাবির পরেও নয়। লক্ষ্মর-ই-তইবা ঘনিষ্ঠ এই সংগঠন সংবাদসংস্থায় ফোন করে কালকের ধারাবাহিক বিস্ফোরণের দায়িত্ব স্বীকার করেছে। তা সত্ত্বেও আজ কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী শিবরাজ পাটিল থেকে তদন্তের দায়িত্বে থাকা দিল্লি পুলিশের যুগ্ম কমিশনার কার্নাল সিংহ, কেউই প্রকাশ্যে কোনও সংগঠনের নাম উচ্চারণ করতে চাননি। সম্ভ্রায় কেন্দ্রীয় মন্ত্রিসভার নিরাপত্তা বাহিনীর একটি আপৎকালীন বৈঠকের পরে পাটিল বলেছেন, "আমাদের কাছে প্রচুর তথ্য এসেছে। তবে এখনই তা ফাঁস করে দেওয়াটা বিজ্ঞানসম্মত বা যথার্থ হবে না। শুধু বলতে পারি, সমীক্ষা অনুযায়ী তদন্ত সঠিক দিশাতেই এগোচ্ছে।"

'ইসলামিক ইনকিলাবি মাহাজ'-এর দাবি নিয়েও সতর্ক ভাবে এগোচ্ছে দিল্লি। কার্নাল সিংহ সাংবাদিক সম্মেলনে এই দাবির কথা জানিয়ে বলেছেন, এর সত্যতা কতটা, যাচাই করে দেখা হচ্ছে। তবে, তদন্তের ভিত্তিতে পুলিশের অনুমান, তিনটি বিস্ফোরণের পিছনে রয়েছে একটি সংগঠনেরই হাত।

কালকের নাশকতা কিন্তু বেশ কিছু প্রশ্ন সামনে নিয়ে এসেছে। প্রথমত, সাধারণ ভাবে লক্ষ্মর বা পাক মদতে পুষ্ট জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠী এত দিন আত্মঘাতী বা ফিদায়ী বাহিনীর মাধ্যমেই এই ধরনের নাশকতা চালিয়ে এসেছে। স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রক সূত্রের খবর, কাল বিস্ফোরণ ঘটতে ব্যবহার করা হয়েছে 'বৈদ্যুতিন সময় নিয়ন্ত্রক'। সেনা সূত্রের খবর, সম্প্রতি নিয়ন্ত্রণের খার দু'পারের কয়েকটি জঙ্গি সংগঠনের মধ্যে টেলিফোনে আলোচনায় আড়ি পেতে কিছু তথ্য পাওয়া গিয়েছিল। তাতে ডুকম্পের ক্ষয়ক্ষতির পর অভিযানের ধরন বদলানোর কথা বলা হয়। ফিদায়ী আক্রমণের পরিবর্তে নিজেদের জীবন বাঁচিয়ে উচ্চপ্রযুক্তির সাহায্যে নাশকতার মডেল নিয়েও কথাবার্তা হয়েছিল। কালকের হামলার সঙ্গে তা কতটা সঙ্গতিপূর্ণ, সেটাই খতিয়ে দেখা হচ্ছে। বিস্ফোরণস্থলে অবশ্য কোনও ডায়েরি, মোবাইল বা ওই জাতীয় কিছু পাওয়া যায়নি। লক্ষ্মরের হামলার সঙ্গে যা কোনও ভাবেই মানানসই নয়।

দ্বিতীয়ত, এই নাশকতার সঙ্গে লাল কেল্লায় হামলার রায় বেরনোর কোনও সম্পর্ক রয়েছে কি না? স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রকের মতে, এই ধরনের সংগঠিত নাশকতা ঘটতে অন্তত পনেরো দিনের প্রস্তুতি প্রয়োজন। তা ছাড়া, এখনও শান্তি ঘোষণা হয়নি। আগামিকাল হওয়ার কথা। পুলিশ কর্তার কথায় "আমাদের মনে হয় না এই দু'টি ঘটনার মধ্যে কোনও সম্পর্ক রয়েছে।"

তৃতীয়ত আরও একটি প্রশ্ন উঠে আসছে, এই নাশকতার পিছনে কি পাক অধিকৃত কাশ্মীরের একাধিক জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠীর হাত রয়েছে? যারা আন্তর্জাতিক বিশ্বকে এই সন্দেহেই পাঠাতে চাইছে যে, ভূমিকম্পে তাদের শক্তি শেষ হয়ে যায়নি। একই সঙ্গে ভারত-পাক শান্তি প্রক্রিয়াকে ব্যাহত করার যাব পথান

উদ্দেশ্য। গোয়েন্দা রিপোর্ট বলছে, পারভেজ মুশারফ প্রশাসনের সরাসরি কোনও হাত না থাকলেও বিস্ফোরণের পিছনে আইএসআই-এর প্রত্যক্ষ ভূমিকা রয়েছে কি না, সেটাই খতিয়ে দেখা হচ্ছে। আইএসআই-এর ভারত বিরোধী কার্যকলাপের অনেকটাই এখন পারভেজ প্রশাসনের নিয়ন্ত্রণের বাইরে।

আজ সকালে রাজধানীর বিভিন্ন সংবাদ সংস্থাকে 'ইসলামিক ইনকিলাবি মাহাজ'-এর জনৈক নেতা আহমেদ ইয়ার গাজনভি টেলিফোন করে বলে, "এই তিনটি বিস্ফোরণের পিছনে আমাদের কর্মীরা রয়েছে। জম্মু-কাশ্মীরে ভারতীয় নিরাপত্তা বাহিনীর কার্যকলাপের বিরুদ্ধে এটা প্রতিবাদ।" বেনামে লক্ষ্মর বা জইস-ই-মহম্মদ এই বিস্ফোরণ ঘটাল কি না, তাও খতিয়ে দেখা হচ্ছে। কার্নাল সিংহ বলেছেন, "সংগঠনটি ১৯৯৬ সালে তৈরি। খুব একটা সক্রিয় নয়। তবে লক্ষ্মরের সঙ্গে সম্পর্কযুক্ত। আমরা সমস্ত রকমের তথ্য সংগ্রহ করছি।" পুলিশ সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে, যে ২০-২২ জনকে আটক করা হয়েছে, তাদের অন্তত চার জনের কাছ থেকে 'গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্য' পাওয়া যাচ্ছে। এনএসজি-র কমান্ডো



সরোজিনী নগরে বিস্ফোরণস্থল ঘিরে উদ্বেগ। রবিবার।—পি টি আই

সরোজমিনে পরিস্থিতি খতিয়ে দেখছে। দিল্লির সীমান্তের উপরে নজরদারি বাড়ানো হয়েছে। কেন্দ্রীয় ফরেনসিক ল্যাবরেটরির পক্ষ থেকে প্রতিনিধিদল এসে বিস্ফোরণস্থল থেকে নমুনা সংগ্রহ করে নিয়ে গিয়েছে।

তথ্য সংগ্রহ এবং তদন্তের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে সর্বোচ্চ স্তরের নিরাপত্তা রাজধানীতে জারি করার প্রয়াস জোরদার করা হচ্ছে। সাধারণ মানুষের কাছে একগুচ্ছ আবেদন রেখেছে পুলিশ। যার মধ্যে রয়েছে, বাড়িতে নতুন ভাড়াটে এলে তার সমস্ত তথ্য খতিয়ে দেখা, পরিচয়পত্র না দেখে মোবাইলের সিম কার্ড না দেওয়া, সাহাবার কাফেতে কোনও ব্যক্তি নিয়মিত একই সময়ে এলে তার সম্পর্কে অনুসন্ধান করা, প্রয়োজনে পুলিশকে জানানো। তদন্তে কাজে আসতে পারে, এমন কোনও তথ্য দিলে এক লাখ টাকা পুরস্কারও ঘোষণা হয়েছে।

অন্য দিকে, সফদরজং হাসপাতালে দেহ শনাক্ত করতে ডিএনএ পরীক্ষা পর্যন্ত করার সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছেন কর্তৃপক্ষ। পুলিশ ও সরকারের যাবতীয় তৎপরতাকে 'চোর পালানোর পর বুদ্ধি বাড়ার' সঙ্গে তুলনা করে তীব্র সমালোচনা করেছে বিজেপি। লালকৃষ্ণ আডবাণী কাল বলেছিলেন, এনডিএ জমানায় দীপাবলীর আগে বিশেষ সুরক্ষা ব্যবস্থা নিত কেন্দ্র। এবারে তাতে বিচ্যুতি এল কেন? আজ অরুণ জেটলি মনমোহন সরকারের পাক নীতিকেই কার্যত দুর্বেছেন। তাঁর বক্তব্য, সীমান্ত শিথিল করা বা গুরুত্বহীন করে দেওয়ার মতো সিদ্ধান্তেই অনুপ্রবেশ বাড়ছে। নাশকতার সম্ভাবনাও বাড়ছে। তাঁর মতে, পেটটা তুলে দেওয়ার ফলও ভুগতে হচ্ছে দেশকে।

বিধবস্তদের জন্য আজ জিততে চান দ্রাবিড়েরা

সবসাতা সরকার • জয়পুর

৩০ অক্টোবর: দেওয়ালির প্রাক্কালে রাজধানীতে বোমা বিস্ফোরণ ভারত অধিনায়ক রাহুল দ্রাবিড়কে এতটাই আলোড়িত করেছে যে তিনি কালকের ম্যাচকে অন্য রকম চ্যালেঞ্জ হিসেবে নিচ্ছেন। নতুন অধিনায়কের কাছে কালকের ম্যাচ ভাল পারফরম্যান্স মানে উগ্রপন্থার বিরুদ্ধে প্রতিবাদ, একই সঙ্গে বোমা বিধ্বস্ত মানুষের দিকে এগিয়ে দেওয়ার সাহায্যের হাত।

কাল বিস্ফোরণের সময় দিল্লিতেই ছিল টিম। রাতে স্পনসরদের দেওয়া পাটিতে রাহুলকে আসতে হলেও অল্প কিছুক্ষণ থেকেই নিজের ঘরে চলে যান। আর আজ প্র্যাকটিস শেষে যখনই উঠল টিমের বাড়তি নিরাপত্তার প্রহর, রাতিমতো বিধ্বস্ত দেখাল রাহুলকে। বললেন, "আমাদের নিরাপত্তা নিয়ে আমরা এই মুহূর্তে চিন্তিত নই। ওটা প্রশাসনের ব্যাপার। তার আগে আমি কালকের নিহতদের পরিবারকে টিমের পক্ষ থেকে সমবেদনা জানাতে চাই। অত্যন্ত মর্মান্তিক ঘটনা কাল দিল্লিতে ঘটেছে।" তার পর একটু খেমে যোগ করলেন, "আমরা ক্রিকেটার। খেলা ছাড়া আমাদের মাধ্যম আর কী-ই বা হতে পারে? এ দেশে লক্ষ লক্ষ মানুষ আমাদের ভালবাসেন, দেখতে আসেন। আমরা শুধু পারফরম্যান্স দিয়ে তাদের মুখে হাসি ফোটাতে পারি। বোমা বিধ্বস্ত মানুষদের সাহায্য জানানোর ভাষা আমার নেই, কিন্তু বলতে পারি, কাল ভাল কিছু করে দেখানোটাই হবে তাঁদের পাশে দাঁড়ানো। সেটাই চ্যালেঞ্জ। আমি অন্তত সে ভাবেই দেখছি।"

এর পর নয়ের পাতায়

আপনার মতে

শান্তি প্রক্রিয়ায় এগোতে গিয়ে কি কেন্দ্র নিরাপত্তায় মনোযোগ দিচ্ছে না?

এসএমএস করুন ৮২৪৩ নম্বরে

'হ্যাঁ' হলে লিখুন: **Apoll a**

'না' হলে লিখুন: **Apoll b**

উত্তর পাঠন হাচ, এয়ারটেল, টাটা ইন্ডিকম, রিলায়েন্স ইন্ডিয়া অথবা বিএসএনএল মোবাইল থেকে।

আগাম সতর্কতা সত্ত্বেও এই বিস্ফোরণ কি প্রশাসনের গা ছাড়া মনোভাবের প্রমাণ?

হ্যাঁ ৯৫% না ৫%

3 suicide bombers, UK manufacturer

Bali policemen piece together terror attack

HTC & Agencies
Bali/London, October 2

A DAY after the Bali bombing, police on Sunday traced the chain of events that led to deaths of at least 25 people and left more than 100 injured. At least six people conspired to carry out the latest Bali blasts including the three suspected suicide bombers, Bali police chief Made Mangku Pastika said on Sunday.

A British link has been revealed who is said to be the top bomb-maker for Jemaah Islamiya (JI), the Indonesian affiliate of al-Qaida.

The bombs used by the suicide bombers were allegedly made by Azahari bin Huisn, 48, called the Demolition Man, who had completed a doctorate degree at Reading University here in 1990. The search for him has been intensified and the Scotland Yard and Interpol are said to be on the alert for him. The International Crisis Group, a security think tank, said Azahari and another fugitive Noordin M Top, could be tempted to attack another western target in Indonesia. A senior counter-terrorism official was quoted in the *Sunday Times*, saying that hunting Azahari was top priority and he hoped the US and Australia do not become his next target. Azharai, born in Malaysia studied in Australia before coming to Britain.

"What is clear is they number more than three, at least there are three more people," Pastika told a press conference. "I am certain that there are others involved in this bombing. There are those who planned it, there were those making the arrangements, those preparing the bombs and those are the ones we must search for."

Pastika said investigators believed the attacks were carried out by suicide bombers because of the way the suspects' bodies had been torn apart, with fragments of their jackets clinging to their dismembered body parts.

Also there were traces of TNT on



This combo photograph, displayed at a press conference in Bali, shows the three alleged suicide bombers.

the corpses, all evidence that the explosives had been strapped to their bodies, he said. "From these two pieces of information, there is strong evidence that these are suicide bombings," he said.

The Bali police chief said the suspects' heads had been found and remained fairly intact, and sketches would soon be drawn up to aid in the identification process. Pastika said he estimated that each of the devices detonated last night, killing at least 26 people, weighed no more than 10 kilograms, and that they also contained chemicals other than TNT.

Police showed a chilling video of

one of the Bali suicide bombers walking into a restaurant packed with holidaymakers before exploding in a ball of fire. The video, shot by a man whose identity is being kept secret for his protection, showed the bomber enter the Raja restaurant in Bali's Kuta entertainment district and walk slowly between the busy tables. He appeared in the background of the shot, behind dozens of customers including western and Asian tourists.

The bomber reached the back of the room and entered the kitchen, which was screened off from the dining room by a chest-high partition, and was engulfed by a blinding flash.

'They chose Bali to humiliate Indonesia'

Terror Network Shows It Is Still Active Through Repeat Attacks

Jakarta: Saturday's bombings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali show that the Al Qaida-linked militant group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) is still active, despite the Indonesian government having arrested dozens of its members, terrorism experts in the region said on Sunday.

No one has claimed responsibility for Saturday's blasts, but Australian terror expert Clive Williams said it bore all the hallmarks of JI.

JI has staged more than 50 bombings or attempted bombings since April 1999. These include bombings on Christmas Eve 2000 (19 dead), the Bali suicide blasts of October 2002 (202 dead), a suicide attack on Jakarta's Marriott hotel in August 2003 (12 dead) and a suicide blast outside the Australian embassy

in Jakarta in September 2004 (12 dead). JI is also suspected of involvement in bombings in the Philippines and bomb plots in Thailand and Singapore.

Dozens of alleged JI members have been rounded up. Indonesian courts have convicted and sentenced some 40 to 50 people for the Bali, Marriott and Australian embassy blasts, with five receiving death sentences. Former operations chief Hambali is in US custody after being arrested in Thailand in 2003. Abu Bakar Bashir, JI's alleged spiritual leader, is in prison for in-



A woman identifies a relative's body after Saturday's blast in Bali

volvement in a conspiracy that led to the first Bali bombings. The cleric praises bin Laden, but denies terror links and was cleared of more serious charges.

But some of JI's most dangerous militants are still on the run, like Malaysians Azahari Husin and Noordin Mohammad Top, and Indonesians Dulmatin and Umar Patek. Williams, di-

rector of the Strategic and Defense Studies Center, said the arrests had failed to cripple JI. "Clearly, they are still able to mount small-scale operations," Williams said. He said the most

likely masterminds of Saturday's blasts were Azahari and Top, or Zulkarnaen, who reportedly took over as JI's operations chief after Hambali's arrest.

Singapore-based terror expert Rohan Gunaratna said, "JI is the only group with the intention and capability to mount an attack on Bali on such a coordinated level."

There should be no doubt that they did it," Gunaratna, author of *Inside Al Qaida: Global Network of Terror*, said the group chose Bali to send a message that it was active despite the arrests. "They chose Bali in order to embarrass and humiliate Indonesia," Gunaratna said. "Especially in light of reports that said JI has been dismantled, they're now proving that JI is still capable." Agencies

Asia's most wanted: A PhD and a terrorist

Jakarta: Every time a major bomb explodes in Southeast Asia investigators whisper the name of Dr Azahari Husin, the master bomber from Malaysia who is considered Asia's most wanted man. Dubbed "The Demolition Man" by newspapers in Malaysia, Azahari is believed to be a key leader in the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and the group's top explosives expert.

Azahari, who is in his late 40s, studied in Australia for four years in the 1970s before obtaining an engineering degree at home and a doctorate at Reading University, UK, security experts say. He lectured at Malaysia's Universi-



ty of Technology before dropping out of sight during a crackdown on Islamic militants in 2001.

Married with two children, he is described as a fanatic who is ready to die for the cause of JI, security sources say. Azahari left his wife saying he had the greater cause of God to serve, say security sources who speculate that his move to radical Islam could have been prompted by his wife developing throat cancer in the early 1990s.

Azahari and another Malaysian, Noordin Mohammad Top, are suspected of making the bombs used in the 2002 Bali bombings and the 2003 attack on the Marriott hotel. They are reportedly hiding in Indonesia today. While some reports of the previously shadowy Aza-

Pan-Islamic Objectives

Jemaah Islamiyah (or Islamic Community) dreams of creating a pan-Islamic state in Southeast Asia. Its ultimate goal is to unite Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore and the southern Philippines into a fundamentalist Islamic state. It has its roots in Darul Islam, a group which fought for an Islamic state in Indonesia in the 1950s and 1960s and survived a military defeat in the 1960s. AFP

hari say he trained in bomb-making in Afghanistan, he is believed to have honed his skills in Mindanao in the Muslim separatist southern Philippines in 1999.

Security officials say he is the author of the JI bomb manual, which was used in the Bali and Marriott bombings. Apart from providing technical expertise, he was allegedly a key figure in planning the attacks.

Azahari was widely named as a possible successor to JI operations chief Hambali, an Indonesian who was arrested in Thailand last year and is in the custody of the US.

But Malaysian security officials, uncomfortable with the role played by Malaysians in JI, insist that the JI leadership will always be Indonesian.

They note that the two Malaysians were recruited by Hambali and alleged JI leader Indonesian cleric Abu Bakar Bashir when the latter lived in exile in Malaysia during the rule of former Indonesian dictator Suharto. Azahari and Noordin narrowly escaped a police trapnet last year in the Indonesian city of Bandung on Java island, and Indonesian newspapers have criticised the police for their failure to capture them. Agencies

Blasts rock Bali again, 19 killed

Attack took place at two restaurants packed with foreign and Indonesian diners

BALI (INDONESIA): Bombs exploded almost simultaneously on Saturday in two tourist areas of the Indonesian resort island of Bali, killing at least 19 people and injuring at least 51, police and hospital officials said.

The victims included foreign tourists and suspicion for the explosions, which came almost three years to the day of another Bali attack, fell on the Al-Qaeda linked regional militant group Jemaah Islamiyah.

The blasts at Jimbaran beach and a bustling outdoor shopping centre in downtown Kuta "were clearly the work of terrorists," police Maj. Gen. Ansyraad Mbai, a top Indonesian anti-terrorism official, told the Associated Press.

Putu Putra Wisada, spokes-

them foreign tourists. The Jemaah Islamiyah has been blamed for that attack.

The latest bombs went off at about 7:30 p.m. (1130 GMT) at two restaurants packed with foreign and Indonesian diners.

Wayan Kresna said he witnessed the first bomb at a seafood restaurant on Jimbaran beach. "I helped lift up the bodies," he told the private El Shinta radio station. "There was blood everywhere."

Another explosion hit the three-storey Raja restaurant in the busy outdoor shopping cen-

• Suspicion falls on Al-Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah

• Blasts came days ahead of anniversary of October 12, 2002

• No crater outside building, indicating that it was not a car bomb

tre of Kuta, 30 km away. Smoke poured from the building, which was badly damaged.

The bomb apparently went off on the second floor of the restaurant, said an AP reporter, who saw three bodies and at least five injured. There was no crater outside the building, another indication that it was not a car bomb.

The exact number of blasts was not clear. Some witnesses said they heard at least two explosions at each location.

Since the 2002 Bali blasts, the Jemaah Islamiyah has been tied

to at least two other bombings in Indonesia, both in the capital, Jakarta. Those blasts, one at the JW Marriott Hotel in 2003 and the other outside the Australian Embassy in 2004, killed at least 23. Western and Indonesian intelligence agency have consistently warned the group was plotting more attacks. Last month, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said he was especially worried the extremist network was about to carry out more attacks.

Ken Conboy, author of an upcoming book on Southeast Asian terrorism, said that Saturday night's bombings had all the hallmarks of the Jemaah Islamiyah. "It looks like the Jemaah Islamiyah," he said. "They saw the 2002 Bali bombing as their only true success because it inflicted foreign casualties and the collateral damage weren't Muslims." — AP

Limited Progress On Fighting Poverty & Terrorism, Boosting Security

UN endorses modest reforms

Paul Taylor & Evelyn Leopold
UNITED NATIONS 17 SEPTEMBER

WORLD leaders endorsed modest reforms of the United Nations on Friday at the end of a summit that made only limited progress on fighting poverty and terrorism, boosting security or protecting human rights.

The final document was adopted by consensus to polite applause after Venezuela condemned the procedure as 'grotesque' and illegal and the United States put on record its opposition to any "support, endorsement, or promotion of abortion."

"We, the leaders of the world, have for three days discussed how the United Nations can be strengthened to meet the challenges of the 21st century," Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson, the co-chairman, told the closing session.

With many leaders including US President George W. Bush having left New York, those remaining voiced a mixture of hope that the biggest summit in U.N. history would give new momentum to development goals and disappointment at the meager outcome.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan hailed an unprecedented agreement on the international responsibility to intervene to protect civilians from genocide and ethnic cleansing designed to

the most elemental democratic procedures". Cuba and Belarus, both at odds with the West over democracy and human rights, also made dissenting statements.

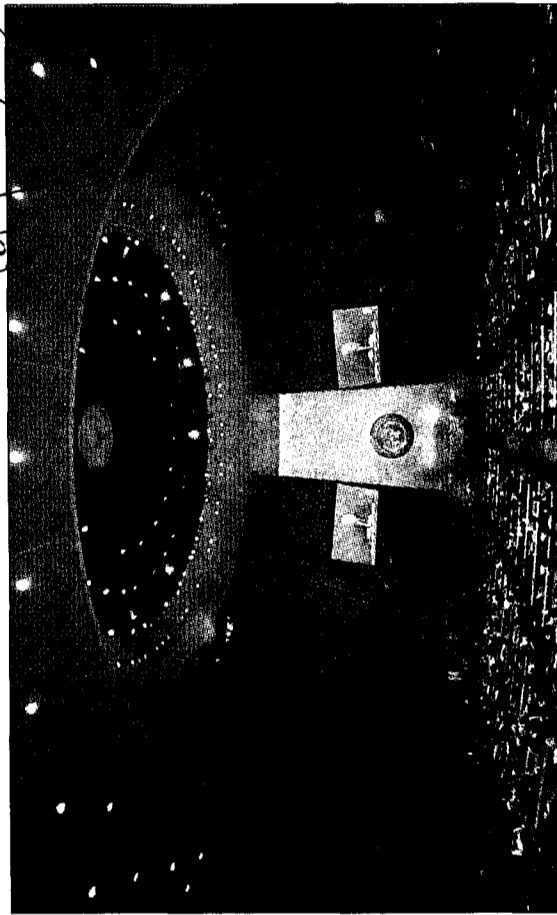
Cuba's Ricardo Alarcon, the parliamentary speaker, called the summit "an unforgivable sham" and accused Washington of trying to turn the United Nations into an instrument of global dictatorship.

Anti-poverty campaigners were unimpressed by the outcome. Nicola Reindorp of the relief agency Oxfam said in a statement: "This has been a tale of two summits. The historic agreement to stop future genocides stands in stark contrast with the lack of progress on ending poverty."

Opposition from Washington and China, as well as discord among scores of aspirants, thwarted the most serious attempt for decades to broaden the 15-nation Security Council to include countries such as Japan, Germany, India and Brazil as well as two African nations.

Islamic countries sympathetic to the Palestinians blocked Western-backed efforts to adopt a new definition of terrorism branding all attacks on civilians as unacceptable, although the section on terrorism was stronger than expected.

Developing countries loath to see the 191-member General Assembly lose more power to the Security Council. — Reuters



A FULL HOUSE: World leaders attend the 2005 World Summit being held at the United Nations — AP

failed to give teeth to a planned new Human Rights Council. European External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner called it a mere name-change for the discredited U.N. Human Rights Commission.

The final document took months of back-room wrangling between Western and developing nations, and at times between the United States and its European allies.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Ali Rodriguez said it was "conceived in darkness and brought here to be adopted in violation of

being used again is terrifying ... Our failure to address the threat from these weapons at the summit leaves us with a crucial task ahead," he said.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono listed a series of reforms he would have liked to have seen, including a more representative Security Council. The inability to reform the highest U.N. body was one of the glaring failures of months of negotiations.

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin voiced "profound disappointment" that the summit had

prevent a repeat of massacres in Rwanda, Bosnia and Kosovo.

Other achievements he cited included the establishment of a peace-building commission to help nations emerging from conflict, and member states' reaffirmation of goals set by a U.N. Millennium summit in 2000 to halve poverty by 2015.

In a final statement, Persson regretted the failure to agree on a common approach to preventing the spread of nuclear arms or a comprehensive strategy to counter terrorism. "The prospect of weapons of mass destruction

7/7 bombing pieces fall into place

VIJAY Dutt
London, September 20

IT WAS indeed the al-Qaida who masterminded the London blasts on July 7. And the bombers had staged a practice run towards the end of June.

Separate videos with the two revelations have surfaced. Al-Qaida deputy chief Ayman al-Zawahri appeared on film claiming that his terror network was "honoured" to have launched the "blessed" London attacks, while police studied tens of thousands of hours of CCTV footage to deduce that the bombers had gone on a trial run, *The Evening Standard* reported.

Al-Zawahri's statement was the al-Qaida's first explicit claim of responsibility. The tape was broadcast by the Arabian-language al-Jazeera channel on Monday. In an earlier video broadcast on September 2 on the same channel, al-Zawahri had described the attack as a "slap in the face" to the policies of UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, but he had not directly said that the al-Qaida had carried it out.

In the latest tape aired on Qatar-based al-Jazeera and monitored in Cairo, he said: "The blessed London attack was one which al-Qaida was honoured to launch against the British crusader's arrogance and against the American crusader's aggression on the Islamic nation for 100 years. In their final testament, the heroic brothers in the London attacks ... provided great lessons to the Islamic nation and Muslims in Pakistan to oppose the infidels.... This blessed attack revealed the real hypocritical face of the West."

The latest tape, a video suicide message from Mohammad Sique Khan also broadcast by the al-Jazeera on September 2 and the trial run theory have caused a "shift in thinking" by Metropolitan Police investigators who now believe there was a more of an international dimension to the attacks than was previously thought.

The BBC endorses the trial run theory. Police trawling through CCTV footage "saw that three of the bombers had carried out a dummy run" on the stations that were later bombed, BBC said.

Police analysed around 80,000 CCTV tapes as part of the "huge job" which resulted in the belief that a practice run took place.



"The attack is one of the attacks that al-Qaida ... had the honour of carrying out"

—Ayman al-Zawahiri

1. Al-Qaida deputy chief Ayman al-Zawahri has said his terror network carried out the July 7 London bombings in a statement broadcast on Monday, marking the group's first direct claim of responsibility for the attacks.

2. A handout image taken from CCTV footage shows London bombing suspects (from left) Mohammed Sidique Khan (obscured), Shahzad Tanweer and Germaine Lindsay at the King's Cross Underground Station in central London. They staged a dry run on June 28.

3 Tanweer, Lindsay and Khan at the Luton station

4 Entering the Luton station.

সন্ত্রাস কাকে বলে, মার্কিন সংজ্ঞায় আপত্তি পাকিস্তানের

সীমা সিরোহি • নিউ ইয়র্ক

১৩ সেপ্টেম্বর: সন্ত্রাসের বিরুদ্ধে লড়াইয়ে যারা সঙ্গী, সেই পাকিস্তানই এ বার আমেরিকার বাড়া ভাতে ছাই দিচ্ছে। একেবারে নির্ভেজাল মার্কিন স্বার্থ নয়, পাকিস্তান বাদ সাধছে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের সংস্কার কর্মসূচিতে। কিন্তু সেই কর্মসূচির কাণ্ডারী যে হেতু বৃশের দেশ, তাই গায়ে লাগছে তাদেরই।

আমেরিকার পেশ করা প্রায় সমস্ত প্রস্তাবেই বিরোধিতা করছে পাকিস্তান। আর তার মধ্যে সন্ত্রাসবাদ, মানবাধিকার এবং উন্নয়ন সহায়তার মতো তিনটি মুখ্য প্রসঙ্গে পাকিস্তানের প্রবল আপত্তির জন্য রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের গোটা সংস্কার পরিকল্পনাই ভেঙে যাওয়ার আশঙ্কা দেখা দিয়েছে। নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের সম্মেলনের জন্য জি-৪-এর উদ্যোগে পাকিস্তানের জল ঢেলে দেওয়ার দৃষ্টান্ত দেখেছে ভারতের মতো দেশ। এ বার একই অভিজ্ঞতা খাস আমেরিকার।

এমনিতে আমেরিকার কাছ থেকে সামরিক ও অর্থনৈতিক সাহায্য বাবদ বছরে ৩০০ কোটি ডলার পেয়ে থাকে পাকিস্তান। সেই পাকিস্তানের সঙ্গেই রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের এ বারের অধিবেশনকে ঘিরে কূটনৈতিক তিক্ততা এমন পর্যায়ে গিয়েছে যে, রবি ও সোমবার রাতভর আলোচনার শেষে বিবৃতি দিতে গিয়ে মার্কিন মুখপাত্র পাকিস্তানের নাম করেই উন্মাদ প্রকাশ করেছেন।

মূল গোলযোগটা সন্ত্রাসবাদের সংজ্ঞা নিয়ে। আমেরিকা যাকে সন্ত্রাসবাদ মনে করে, পাকিস্তান তা মানে না। মিশরের মতো কিছু দেশকে পাশে নিয়ে পাকিস্তান বলতে চাইছে, নিজের অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠার জন্য হিংসার ব্যবহার সন্ত্রাসবাদ নয়। আর আমেরিকা, ভারত বা ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়নের মতো সন্ত্রাসের ভুক্তভোগীদের বক্তব্য, সাধারণ মানুষের বিরুদ্ধে হিংসা মানেই সন্ত্রাসবাদ। সুতরাং দশ বছরের পুরনো বিতর্ক এখন দাঁড়িয়ে সেই মোদ্দা কথাটার উপরে যে, এক দেশের স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামী অন্য দেশের কাছে জঙ্গি কি না।

রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের মহাসচিব কোফি আন্নান গত মার্চে সন্ত্রাসবাদ সংক্রান্ত যে 'ফর্মুলা'র প্রস্তাব করেছিলেন, তাতেও বলা ছিল— কোনও কারণ বা ক্ষোভ যত ন্যায্যই হোক, তার জন্য সাধারণ মানুষের উপরে আক্রমণ মেনে নেওয়া যায় না। জঙ্গি

গোষ্ঠীর জন্য অর্থ বা অন্যান্য সাহায্য বন্ধ করা, সন্ত্রাসে মদত দেওয়া থেকে কোনও দেশকে বিরত করা, সন্ত্রাস-বিরোধী ব্যবস্থা গড়ে তোলা এবং মানবাধিকার রক্ষা করা— এই লক্ষ্যগুলিকে সামনে রেখেই তিনি নতুন কৌশল তৈরির খসড়া দিয়েছিলেন।

কিন্তু এর সবেতেই আপত্তি আছে পাকিস্তানের। নিউ ইয়র্কে এসে পাক প্রেসিডেন্ট পারভেজ মুশারফ সাক্ষাৎকারে বলেছেন, তাঁর দেশে প্রায় ৭০০ জঙ্গিকে গ্রেফতার করা হয়েছে এবং আল কায়দার মেরুদণ্ড ভেঙে দিতে এই অভিযান চলবে। অথচ রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জ সন্ত্রাসবাদের সংজ্ঞা মানতে তারা নারাজ। কিছু আরব দেশও এই সংজ্ঞায় বদল চায়। ইজরায়েলের দখলদারির বিরুদ্ধে প্যালেস্তাইনের হিংসাত্মক লড়াইয়ের কথা মাথায় রাখছে তারা।

রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের নতুন মানবাধিকার পরিষদ গড়ার প্রস্তাবেরও

তীব্র বিরোধী পাকিস্তান। এই প্রস্তাব পেশেও অগ্রণী ভূমিকা ছিল আমেরিকার এবং সেখানে বলা হয়েছিল, মানবাধিকার লঙ্ঘনের অভিযোগ রয়েছে যাদের বিরুদ্ধে, তারা নতুন পরিষদের পরিচালন ক্ষমতায় থাকতে পারবে না। জেনিভায় এখন যে মানবাধিকার কমিশন আছে, তার চেয়ে ছোট

কলেবরে এই পরিষদ আরও মসৃণ ভাবে কাজ করবে। গণহত্যা বা সংখ্যালঘু হত্যায় দোষী রাষ্ট্রকে শাস্তি দেওয়ার ক্ষমতা পরিষদকে দেওয়ার প্রস্তাব রয়েছে। একটা বাৎসরিক অধিবেশন নয়, সারা বছরই বৈঠক বসবে পরিষদের।

উন্নয়ন সহায়তা বাড়ানোর ক্ষেত্রে দাতা দেশগুলি চায়, দরিদ্রতম রাষ্ট্রের হাতে সাহায্য পৌঁছক। মাঝারি আয়ের রাষ্ট্রের হাতে নয়। ২০১৫ সালের মধ্যে বিশ্ব থেকে দারিদ্র মোচনের উদ্দেশ্য নিয়ে কোফি আন্নানের তৈরি 'সহস্রাব্দের উন্নয়ন লক্ষ্য' শীর্ষক রিপোর্টেও তাই বলা আছে। পাকিস্তান এই প্রস্তাব আটকাতে চায়, কারণ তাদের এতে লাভবান হওয়ার কিছু নেই।

সাধারণ অধিবেশন থেকে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের সচিবালয়ে বেশি ক্ষমতা সরাতে চায় আমেরিকা এবং রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জ প্রতিপত্তি কমার আশঙ্কায় এখানেও আপত্তি পাকিস্তান বা মিশরের।

'বন্ধ' পাকিস্তান এখন এমন যাতনাই দিচ্ছে আমেরিকাকে।



Al-Qaida warns of strikes on LA, Melbourne

General

Indo-Asian News Service

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11. — The Al-Qaida has threatened to attack Los Angeles and Melbourne in video footage aired on an American TV channel today.

A suspected Al-Qaida member delivered the threat in a videotape telecast by the ABC channel on the fourth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Adam Gadahn, described as a US citizen who converted to Islam and became a supporter of Osama bin Laden, made the threat. The 11-minute tape was sent to the network's office in Pakistan.

"Yesterday, London and Madrid. Tomorrow, Los Angeles and Melbourne, God willing," Gadahn said on the tape.

"At this time, don't count on us demonstrating restraint or compassion. We are Muslims. We love peace, but peace on our terms, peace as laid down by Islam, not the so-called peace of occupiers and dictators," the bespectacled Gadahn said in American-accented English, his head and face covered with a black cloth.

Officials here said the genuineness of the tape was being verified.

Another report on page 3



THORNY MEMORIES: A couple embraces beside a pool at Ground Zero in New York on the fourth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. — AFP

12/9 FOUR YEARS 8

In terms of tragedy, it is impossible — as well as prejudicial and insensitive — to compare terrorist strikes, to say which is greater or greatest. But there are certain aspects of 9/11 that threaten to make it unforgettable for a long time, and four years since September 11, 2001 seem nothing in retrospect. The spectacle, the scale, the daring, the coolly reckless planning, the sinister patience, and the display of nightmarish horror and pain have inflicted one of the more hideous scars on the world's memory. This is just one aspect of 9/11. Its outcome is the other aspect, although inextricable from the first. It is debatable whether the United States of America's 'war against terror' and the worldwide 'coalition against terror' have begun to achieve what they had intended. It has been asked — and the answer to the question is both self-evident and too late to bother about — why the American state should suddenly wake up to terrorism after 9/11. However that may be, it is now time to assess how effective the worldwide efforts to shut down channels of material support to terrorist groups have been.

The US's attack on Afghanistan in the wake of 9/11 was seen as more reasonable than its attack on Iraq. The bloody fields of Iraq yet show no signs of drying. Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib have not improved the quality of the US's credentials for those who regard its actions with distrust. It is in an exacerbation of distrust that 9/11 is also remembered. Surveys show that ordinary Muslims all over the world, including India, feel more vulnerable, more likely to be blamed whenever violence occurs. On the positive side, it has led to introspection within the community, a rethinking of the place of extremism in religious thought, a restatement of the abhorrence of violence in the faith, even worries about the lack of non-religious education in *madrassahs*. But the obvious political motivation behind the US's choice of actions has not increased trust — the attack on Iraq on, as it turned out, no grounds at all, its support for Israel, or its selective use of the term 'terrorist' and its selective valuation of the victims of terrorism. Big terror now seems to have been split into small single-mission units. A lot is needed to defeat this. But the unity against terror that could be achieved, to some extent, by crossing cultural divides through mutual understanding has remained elusive so far.

Reminders of terror, 4 years later

Terror tape threatens attacks in US, Australia

ASSOCIATED Press
New York, September 11

A TAPE delivered to US television network ABC News in Pakistan this weekend features a masked man making terrorist threats against Los Angeles and Melbourne in Australia.

ABC News reported that the man is believed to be Adam Yahiye Gadahn, an American from California purported to be an al-Qaida member and wanted by the FBI.

The CIA said on Sunday it was aware of the report but had no immediate comment about the tape's authenticity.

Counter terrorism officials believe Gadahn may also be the person featured on a 75-minute video given to ABC News in Pakistan last year.

The terror tape was aired on ABC's *Good Morning America* on Sunday, the fourth anniversary of the September 11 attacks. The man on the tape, wearing a black turban with most of his face covered, calls the attacks of four years ago "blessed events" before

UNDER ATTACK

making a threat against the US. "Yesterday, London and Madrid. Tomorrow, Los Angeles and Melbourne, Allah willing. And this time, don't count on us demonstrating restraint and compassion," the man says during the 11-minute tape.

He goes on to call US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair "liars" and issues a warning. "We love peace, but when the enemy violates that peace or prevents us from achieving it, then we love nothing better than the heat of battle, the echo of explosions, and slitting the throats of the infidels," he says.

Investigators have said Gadahn, who grew up on a farm in California, converted to Islam as a teen, moved to Pakistan, attended al-Qaida training camps and served as a translator for the terrorist organisation.

A phone listing for Gadahn's father, Philip Gadhan, could not be found on Sunday. Last year Philip Gadhan said that he was baffled by the allegation his son was an al-Qaida operative, saying he has spoken to his son only occasionally in recent years, but still can't imagine that he would be involved with a terrorist network.

Pakistan's interior minister Aftab Khan Sherpao said that authorities in his country "naturally inquire when such a tape appears, to know who delivered it or how."

Asked whether Gadahn could be hiding in Pakistan, Sherpao said, "I have no information."



A man takes a picture of Ground Zero in New York.

Bush compares Katrina to 9/11

AGENCIES
Washington, September 11

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush vowed that Americans will overcome the ordeal presented by Hurricane Katrina as a weekend of September 11, 2001, remembrances was overshadowed by scenes of destruction in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast.

Bush has failed to recapture the spirit of national unity he championed in the weeks and months after the September 11 attacks, and widespread dissatisfaction with the federal government's slow response to the storm has helped send his rating to an all-time low.

While Democrats had rallied to help Bush after the 9/11 attacks, this time they have questioned the slow federal response to the hurricane, demanded an independent investigation and criticised his handling of the crisis. Many Republicans have joined in the criticism.

"Today, America is confronting another disaster that has caused destruction and loss of life. This time the devastation resulted not from the malice of evil men, but from the fury of water and wind," Bush said. "America will overcome this ordeal, and we will be stronger for it."

"Like that day four Septembers ago, we once again find ourselves asking, 'How could this have happened?'" said Rep. Bennie Thompson, a Mississippi Democrat. "The answer is painful, but it must be acknowledged: we simply were unprepared."

In New York, brothers and sisters of 9/11 victims recited their names and messages of remem-

brance before a weeping crowd gathered at the site where the World Trade Center once stood.

The roll of the lost began with Gordon M. Aamoth Jr., an investment bank employee. Relatives in the crowd bowed their heads and sobbed as speakers uttered brief, personal messages to the brothers and sisters they had lost.

"You're still our hero, please keep watching over us," Elizabeth Ahearn said to her brother, fire lieutenant Brian Ahearn.

"Donald, there's not a day that goes by that we don't think about you," a sobbing Suzanne Gavagan Mascitis said of her brother, Donald Richard Gavagan Jr, a 35-year-old bond trading firm employee.

As the names were read, weeping mourners filed down a ramp to a reflecting memorial pool at the floor of the 16-acre site, which remains virtually empty four years after the attack that killed 2,749 and tore a hole in the New York skyline. Families dropped red, orange and yellow roses in the still water, some inscribed dedications on the wooden edge of the pool.

In New Orleans, firefighters from New York helping with the relief effort gathered around a makeshift memorial for their fallen comrades. At the service, a bell from a neighbouring church, its steeple wiped out by Katrina, was given to them.

The trade centre site fell silent at 8.46 am, the time at which a hijacked jetliner crashed into the north tower, at 9:03 am, when a second plane had struck the south tower, and at 9:59 am, when the south tower fell and at 10:29 am, the precise time when the second tower collapsed.

US plans for preventive nuke strikes

S. Rajagopalan
Washington, September 11

THE PENTAGON has come up with a revised planning document that envisages the use of nukes to pre-empt attacks against the US or its allies by terrorists with access to weapons of mass destruction.

Still in circulation among defence services and field commanders, the draft came into the public domain on Sunday — a day when the US observed the fourth anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks. The draft,

however, is dated March 15.

The 69-page document, titled "Doctrine of Joint Nuclear Operations", revises the 1995 guidelines on the subject that made no mention of using nukes pre-emptively or specifically against threats from WMDs. Put together by the Pentagon's Joint Chiefs of Staff office, it is still to be approved by defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Details of the plan, first reported by the *Washington Post* and available on websites like www.globalsecurity.org, list

COUNTER TERRORISM

out the scenarios under which commanders can request presidential approval for pre-emptive use of nuclear weapons. The strategy is not confined to dealing with terrorists. It is also aimed at rogue states with such potential and gunning for US targets.

The document says there are about 30 nations with WMD programmes along with "non-

state actors (terrorists) either independently or as sponsored by an adversarial state".

The plan also envisions the use of nukes for "attacks on adversary installations including WMD, deep, hardened bunkers containing chemical or biological weapons".

A point emphasised by the document is that adversarial groups and states must be conditioned to believe the US has "both the ability and the will to pre-empt or retaliate promptly with responses that are credible and effective".

7/7 mobile link with Pak

HT Correspondent
London, September 11

A STOLEN mobile phone has been found in Pakistan after the secret agencies there were asked to trace it by MI5, which suspected that one of the four suicide bombers made numerous calls to it from London, three days before the bomb attacks on July 7.

Pakistani officials have said that they suspect the phone was used by the suicide bombers to keep in touch with their terrorist colleagues. It was discarded after the London bombings.

Shehzad Tanweer — one of the London bombers who visited Pakistan six months before the attacks along with the suspected leader of the bomber cell, Mohammad Sidique Khan, — is said to have called up the Pakistan mobile several times; his last call to the cell was made on July 4.

The sim card of the stolen phone originally came from a mobile in Sukkur, Sindh. It was originally owned by a tailor but fell into the hands of criminals. It has not been used since July 7.

Whitehall sources refused to comment on the MI5 request for "operational reasons" but admitted that mobile phone calls, including some made abroad, were now central to the investigations to find the mastermind of 7/7. Once the probe is complete, it is likely to establish beyond doubt the links of the bombers with a group in Pakistan.

Hizb members in IBM, Reuters: Report

VIJAY Dutt
London, September 11

THE HIZB-UT-TAHRIR, an allegedly militant group which is banned in Germany and most countries in West Asia — and will soon be banned by Tony Blair as well — has members in some of Britain's most important institutions, including the National Health Service and blue-chip companies such as IBM and Reuters, according to an exclusive investigation by the *Independent* on Sunday.

In contrast to other Islamic

groups that the British government is contemplating banning, members of Hizb-ut-Tahrir are mainly middle-class professionals. A significant proportion is university-educated and work in finance, information technology, health and education fields. Quite a few articulate members of the organisation, including a *chador*-clad young woman and a doctor who claimed to have treated 7/7 victims, recently appeared on television to castigate the government for trying to ban the organisation. Apparently, Hizb members do not intend to take the proposed

ban lying down.

Recently, the *Independent* on Sunday disclosed *The Guardian* had employed Dilpazier Aslam, a Hizb member, as a trainee journalist and articles he wrote after the London bombings did not mention his connection with the group. He lost his job after refusing to give up his membership.

According to the paper's investigations at least two members of Hizb — which seeks to form a global Islamic state regulated by the sharia — work for computer giant IBM, and Reuters has at least one member

among its employees. When informed of this a Reuters spokesperson said: "We are not aware of any of our employees being members of Hizb ul-Tahrir. If it becomes illegal, then certainly we would review the matter on the 'Do their private actions impact our public reputation?' principle."

An IBM spokesperson said they were assessing the impact of any new legislation. It would not disclose personnel information "for reasons of data protection".

Sajjad Khan, a prominent member of Hizb who runs class-

UK, Pak to ink extradition pact

General admits 7/7 Bomber Was
Linked To Lahore Madrassa

By Rashmee Roshan Lal/TNN

London: Britain has confirmed it is on the verge of signing its very first extradition treaty with Pakistan, just hours after President General Pervez Musharraf admitted, for the first time, that there was a link between a Lahore madrassa and the 7/7 suicide bomber Shehzad Tanweer.

Late on Friday, Musharraf confirmed for the first time that Tanweer had attended the madrassa, which is considered a hotbed of militant indoctrination.

Meanwhile, the British Home Office said the UK was "in the final stages" of negotiating an extradition treaty that could see suspected terrorists linked to 7/7 flown to London for questioning.

Musharraf's admission comes after months of an acerbic official Pakistani response to British accusations that 7/7's three British Pakistani suicide bombers had been radicalised in Pakistan.

The three British Pakistani bombers Mohammed Siddique Khan, Hasib Hussain and Tanweer are said to have traveled to Pakistan in the months before London's multiple bomb attacks. Security agencies say that there, they made contact with several men



linked to Kashmiri militancy, including Osama Nazir of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed and Zeeshan Siddique, who is thought to have fought the Indian Army in J&K.

Musharraf said on Friday that his government was "investigating and would move against any organisation that helped him (Tanweer) in any way."

In the weeks since the London bombings, British prime minister Tony Blair has been pressing Pakistan to crack down hard on radical madrassas and preachers of hate. British police and intelligence agencies have said that a formal extradition treaty with Pakistan would ease the process of investigating links between British Pakistani radicals and their counterparts in Pakistan.

EU, India for jihad against terrorism

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 7 SEPTEMBER

TIES between India and the 25-member European Union moved to a higher plane on Wednesday with the two sides agreeing to join forces to combat terrorism by blocking the flow of financial resources to the jihadi forces and devising ways to root out money laundering.

While India has been subjected to cross-border jihadi terrorism for almost two decades, it is a relatively new phenomenon in Europe. The recent bombings in London's underground rail network hit the Europeans hard, as they for the first time came face-to-face with the menace. So it was only natural that the two sides would pool their resources together to fight it.

While agreeing to enter into a security dialogue with each other, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his British counterpart Tony Blair, who also heads

Barroso said there was need to reach a consensus on the issue of Security Council enlargement, but felt it was not possible at this stage as there were other important issues like climate change to be addressed in the upcoming Millennium Summit.

Admitting that some countries were not in favour of the resolution mooted by the G-4 countries comprising India, Brazil, Germany and Japan, Indian PM Manmohan Singh said he had been assured there was no opposition to New Delhi's candidature. "So, we haven't given up," he remarked.

A 19-page joint action plan, described as roadmap for strengthening ties between the two sides, adopted at the conference enumerated a nine-point agenda to strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts, that included establishing contacts between the Indian and EU counter-terrorism coordinators.

The two sides agreed to conclude a framework agreement

on India's participation in the Galileo Satellite Navigation Systems, work towards an accord on maritime transport and launch a joint initiative on clean development and climate change, a two-page Political Declaration on India-EU Strategic Partnership said.

Addressing a joint press conference with Mr Blair after a meeting lasting some two-and-a-half hours, Mr Singh remarked: "We've agreed that there is no place for terrorism in the civilised world and that we would work together towards fighting it."

The two sides also agreed that efforts to combat the menace could only be bolstered by global institutions such as the UN. "Without credible and effective global institutions, it would be impossible for us to meet global challenges," the two leaders felt. Mr Blair asserted that killing innocent people and sowing seeds of hatred in the name of a cause could not be legitimised.



day to hold discussions with the Indian Prime Minister, but the programme was cancelled in view of the inclement weather in the Himalayan state.

While the Indo-EU summit ended on a positive note, India failed to persuade the EU to agree to its claim on a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Asked about EU's stand on India's candidature, all Mr Blair and president of the European Commission, Mr Jose Manuel

Russia's Beslan relives the pain

ASSOCIATED Press
Beslan, September 3

THOUSANDS OF bleary-eyed and anguished residents of the small town of Beslan on Saturday marked the anniversary of one of Russia's deadliest terrorist attacks with white doves rising into the air and bells tolling. Mourners again bid a wrenching farewell to hundreds who perished on September 3, 2004, after enduring nearly three days of thirst, hunger and terror at Beslan's School No. 1.

A day after an extraordinary meeting with victims' relatives, President Vladimir Putin ordered a fresh investigation, acknowledging criticism of the authorities' handling of the school seizure by heavily armed militants, the botched rescue and the subsequent inquiry.

On the edge of town, several thousand people poured into the cemetery of red granite graves. The sea of grieving people listened for nearly 30 minutes as the list of the dead was read aloud to the sound of a ticking clock. Some wept quiet-



Relatives at the grave of a Beslan victim on Saturday.

ly; most bowed their heads.

Then, a wave of sobbing swelled from the crowd as a white sheet was pulled off an 8-meter statue depicting four women holding up a tree of angels. White doves released into the air circled over the crowd several times.

Family members and friends gathered around graves, laying crackers and chocolates on the

stones and pouring water onto the dirt as offerings for the dead. Some whispered farewells to the graves.

"After this, what else can I believe in? What else can I see? What can I expect? I don't know what else. I've lost faith," said Sveta Beroyeva, whose 10-year-old twin grandsons, Soslan and Aslan, were killed. The ceremonies "will help some. For

many, nothing will ever help."

Earlier, Putin opened the weekly meeting of his Security Council with a moment of silence. He then said investigators would be sent to Beslan to verify information he had been given at a Friday meeting with members of a mothers' committee who have demanded that negligent or corrupt officials be prosecuted.

Susanna Dudiyeva, the head of the Beslan Mothers' Committee, told reporters after Friday's meeting that the group still held Putin personally responsible for the tragedy and that Putin told them he feels guilty.

Around Beslan on Saturday, cauldron fires could be seen burning in courtyards between apartment buildings as families cooked lamb and beef and traditional Ossetian flatbread for mourning meals. At 1.05 pm the time of the first explosion, at least 4,000 people had squeezed into the courtyard outside the Beslan school gymnasium. As a bell tolled, children released hundreds of white balloons into the air to symbolise the souls of the dead.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

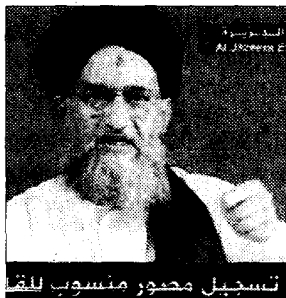
Zawahri, 7/7 bomber warn of more attacks

YARA BAYOUMY
DUBAI, SEPTEMBER 2

THE suspected ring-leader of the July 7 London suicide bombers warned of more strikes in a pre-death videotaped statement that included praise for the bombings from Al Qaeda's second-in-command Ayman al-Zawahri.

"Until we feel secure, you will be our targets; until you stop the bombing, gassing, imprisonment and torture of my people, we will not stop this fight. We are at war and I am a soldier," said Mohamad Sidique Khan on a videotape aired by Al Jazeera television on Thursday.

Al Jazeera presented Al Qaeda deputy Zawahri and Khan in separate segments of videotaped statements, which the network described as a claim of responsibility from Al Qaeda for the blasts on London's transport system which



Zawahri on the tape

killed 56 people, including the four bombers.

It was not clear how long before Khan's death the tape had been made, or where. The single videotape appeared to be a compilation of different pieces of footage. Zawahri and Khan did not appear together on the tape. Neither statement explicitly said Osama bin Laden's network was behind the bombings.

"The blessed London raid was a slap in the face of the arrogant, crusader British rulers," Zawahri said. "This glorious raid,

like the others before it in New York, Washington and Madrid, has moved our battle right to the enemy's doorstep," he added, referring to the September 11, 2001, attacks in the United States and last year's bombing on Madrid trains which were blamed on Al Qaeda.

Khan appeared wearing a turban, seemingly relaxed and speaking directly to camera in the heavy accent common to people from Yorkshire in northern England, where he had lived.

Khan called bin Laden, Zawahri, and Al Qaeda in Iraq leader Musab al-Zarqawi "today's heroes" and hailed the "martyrs" who had given their lives in defence of Islam.

"Our words are dead until we give them life with our blood," he said. "I and thousands like me are forsaking everything for what we believe." —Reuters

LEADER

EXPRESS

Islamic terror in Ulfā's hub?

RSS leader's death points to increasing influence of jihadi outfits

RAHUL Karmakar
Guwahati, August 31

ARE ISLAMIC terrorist groups, until recently parasitic on the Ulfā, taking over the outlawed outfit's hub? Intelligence agencies armed with documents collated over the years believe so, although the Congress government prefers to play it down.

The gunning down of RSS leader Sukleswar Medhi, allegedly by militants belonging to the Muslim United Liberation Tigers of Assam (Multa) in Nalbari on Tuesday has given the BJP and the Sangh Parivar the stick to beat the Congress government with. It has gone on the overdrive, calling an Assam Bandh on Thursday.

Though the Nalbari district administration has pointed fingers at the Ulfā — they have refused to disclose the identity of one of the slain assailants given the volatile situation — Medhi's killing has

put the glare back on Islamic militancy in Assam.

Of particular interest is the "growing clout" of jihadi groups in Nalbari, believed to be an Ulfā stronghold as well as the hub of Hindutva forces in Assam.

Islamic militancy had reared up its head in the 1990s in Assam, though relatively docile compared to the frontline outfits like Ulfā and NDFB. At least 20 Islamic groups were believed to be playing a subservient role to the Ulfā until the time Begum Khaleeda Zia assumed power in neighbouring Bangladesh.

According to intelligence officials, the Islamic outfits have been operating among migrants in Muslim-dominated districts like Dhubri, Goalpara, Karimganj and Hallakandi bordering Bangladesh. Groups such as Multa and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen — its cousin in Bangladesh is the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen — grew in strength.

Strangely, the Tarun Gogoi govern-

ment has been denying the presence of ISI-backed Islamic militancy in Assam.

The former Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) government, however, came out with documents on the gravity of the issue. Former chief minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta presented a detailed document in the Assam Assembly in April 2000 following the arrest of four ISI agents a year earlier, two of them Pakistani.

The document, prepared on the basis of the statement of the ISI men and at least 160 other home-grown Islamic militants, asserted that the ISI was actively involved in fomenting violence and terrorism in Assam, creating new militant outfits along ethnic and communal lines, promoting fundamentalism and militancy among local Muslim youth by misleading them in the name of *jehad*, besides promoting communal tension by way of highly inflammatory propaganda.

Islamic militant outfits

- Muslim United Liberation Front of Assam
- Muslim United Liberation Tigers of Assam
- Islamic Liberation Army of Assam
- United Muslim Liberation Front of Assam
- United Reformation Protest of Assam
- People's United Liberation Front
- Muslim Volunteer Force
- Adam Sena
- Islamic Sevak Sangha
- Harkat-ul-Mujahideen
- Harkat-ul-Jehad
- United Liberation Militia of Assam
- Revolutionary Muslim Commandos
- Muslim Security Council of Assam
- Muslim Security Force
- Muslim Tiger Force

Terrorism

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2005

No double standards on terrorism

Time and again, when governments promise “strong” action against terrorism, they come up with knee-jerk responses that inevitably undermine civil liberties. The British Government seems to be no exception, despite the plausible assurances by Prime Minister Tony Blair that his new anti-terrorism measures are directed at “extremism, and extremism only.” If anything, the Blair Government has shown a readiness to compromise on human rights and the much cherished British tradition of freedom of expression and liberal values for the very first of the measures that will be implemented – deportation of foreigners for “unacceptable behaviour” that includes “fomenting, justifying or glorifying terrorist violence [and] other serious criminal activity.” A signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights, Britain cannot return people to countries where they might face death penalty, torture, or other mistreatment. The British Government’s assurances that the safety of those it sends back will be guaranteed by “memoranda of understanding” with the countries concerned have not satisfied many. In the age of advanced communication, does it help that hate-mongers will not be able to preach in Britain? They could as easily propagate their message of violence from anywhere else in the world.

Aside from the concerns about the impact of the new measures on human rights and civil liberties in Britain, elsewhere in the world there is the nagging worry of British and American double standards when it comes to defining terrorism, especially in respect of non-Western countries. The United Kingdom Terrorism Act, 2000, describes terrorism as acts that involve “serious violence” against a person or “serious damage” to property, endanger a person’s life, create a “serious risk” to public safety or health, or interfere with or disrupt an electronic system and are used to influence the government or intimidate the public and to advance a political, religious or ideological cause. The legislation covers terrorism within and outside the U.K. It makes an offence of inviting financial and other support for a proscribed organisation and of addressing a meeting in support of such an organisation. Under this Act, the British Government should have long ago acted against Anton Balasingham, political adviser to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and a British citizen normally resident in Britain. The LTTE is banned in the U.K., but Mr. Balasingham routinely addresses meetings in its support. The British Government did not invoke this law even when the LTTE carried out the outrageous July 2001 attack on Sri Lanka’s international airport; instead, it advocated that Sri Lanka should begin peace talks with the Tigers. Now that the Blair Government has proposed fresh measures that will make an offence of condoning or glorifying terrorism in Britain and abroad, by foreigners as well as British citizens, it is time for an honest debate on a more focussed but also universal definition of terrorism and the types of related conduct that would be unacceptable. This alone will safeguard human rights, and ensure that the real terrorists do not slip through the cracks anywhere in the world.

Al Qaida may attack Asian, Australian financial hubs

Intelligence Reveals Terrorists Want To Shatter Investor Confidence In Region, Says Top French Official

London: Terror group Al Qaida could be planning an attack on Asian or Australian financial centres to undermine investor confidence in the region, a senior French anti-terrorism judge said in an interview on Thursday. Speaking to Britain's Financial Times newspaper, Jean-Louis Bruguere, France's top terrorist investigator, said an attack on Tokyo, Singapore or Sydney would be symbolically important for Al Qaida.

"We have several elements of information that make us think that countries in this region, especially Japan, could have been targeted," Bruguere said. The man nicknamed 'Le Sheriff' said, "Any attack on a financial market like Japan would mechanically have an important economic impact on the confidence of investors. Other

countries in this region, such as Singapore and Australia, are also potential targets."

He said several Asian countries were less prepared for an attack than the US or Europe, which have both been targeted by bin Laden's network. In Asia, Indonesia has suffered terrorist blasts, though the attacks mainly targeted Australians. The Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), which perpetrated the blasts, appears to have strong connections to Al Qaida, terror experts say.

"We are somewhat neglecting the capacity or desire of the Al Qaida organisation to destabilise the Southeast Asia region," Bruguere said, according to a transcript of the inter-



MICHAEL ALBERT. A poster on a Sydney street

view on FT's web site.

Asked where he saw the next threat coming from, the magistrate said there was also a "serious danger" of more violence stretching from the Caucasus through

Yen dips, security tightens in Japan

Tokyo: Japan said on Friday that it has tightened security after a French official warned that Al Qaida was preparing to attack a large Asian financial centre such as Tokyo.

The terror warning also caused the yen to dip against the dollar on Friday morning. "It isn't clear how concrete this report (warning) is," said chief cabinet secretary Hiroyuki

Hosoda.

Al Qaida has repeatedly threatened Japan, a close US ally that stations 600 troops in Iraq and hosts the largest US military base in Asia.

Experts say Al Qaida would have a tougher time infiltrating and plotting attacks in largely homogenous Japan than they would in a multicultural city such as London. Agencies

Central Asia to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Bruguere has overseen the arrest of more than 500 terrorism suspects in 20 years. He warned of the danger of terrorists hijacking aircraft well

before 9/11 after foiling a 1994 attempt by Algerian radicals to crash an Air France jet into the Eiffel Tower. He said there were signs that Britain would come under attack well before the July 7 attacks. Agencies

আল কায়দার নজর এ বার টোকিও, সিডনি, সিঙ্গাপুরেও

প্যারিস, ২৬ অগস্ট: পূর্ব গোলার্ধে এ বার বড়সড় হামলা চালাতে পারে আল কায়দা। টোকিও, সিঙ্গাপুর বা সিডনির মতো অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ শহরকে আক্রমণের লক্ষ্য করে এই সব অঞ্চলের অর্থনৈতিক শ্রীবৃদ্ধিকেই ধাক্কা দিতে চায় তারা। সারা বিশ্বে সন্ত্রাসের বিভিন্ন ঘটনার তদন্তে যুক্ত ফরাসি বিচারপতি জাঁ-লুই ব্রুগিয়ের এই আশঙ্কার কথা জানানোর পরেই নড়েচড়ে বসেছেন গোয়েন্দারা।

শুধু এশিয়া বা অস্ট্রেলিয়ার শহরেই নয়, ইউরোপেও নতুন নতুন লক্ষ্যে হামলা চালানোর ফন্দি আঁটছে আল কায়দা। এখনও কোনও সূত্র থেকে এশিয়া বা অস্ট্রেলিয়ায় হামলার হুমকি সরাসরি আসেনি। কিন্তু ভ্যাটিকানে আক্রমণ চালানোর কথা আল কায়দাই বলেছে। মাদ্রিদে একটি স্পেনীয় রক্ষণশীল দৈনিক এবং টেলিভিশন চ্যানেলের দফতরে পাঠানো বার্তায় গত কালই আল কায়দা হুমকি দিয়েছে, 'পুঁজিবাদী দেশ'গুলিকে সমর্থন করার ফল ভুগতে হবে ভ্যাটিকানকে। আরবিতে লেখা তিন পাতার ওই বার্তায় ব্রিটেন ও স্পেনে জঙ্গি হানা সমর্থন করে বলা হয়েছে, ইরাক ও আফগানিস্তানে 'সন্ত্রাসবাদের বিরুদ্ধে আত্মরক্ষায় এ ছাড়া পথ ছিল না।

ইরাকে মার্কিন বাহিনীর নেতৃত্বে সামরিক অভিযানে অংশ নিয়ে এবং সে দেশে এখনও তৃতীয় বৃহত্তম সেনাবাহিনী (আমেরিকা ও ব্রিটেনের পরে) রেখে দিয়ে ইতালি নিজেই আতঙ্কিত যে, তারা যে কোনও দিন সন্ত্রাসের লক্ষ্য হতে পারে। লন্ডনে জঙ্গি হানার পরে রোমই তাদের পরবর্তী লক্ষ্য বলে জানিয়ে একাধিক বার হুঁশিয়ারি দিয়েছে আল কায়দা। লন্ডন-কাণ্ডের পরে ইতালি জুড়ে চূড়ান্ত সতর্কতা জারি রয়েছে। বিমানবন্দর, ট্রেন, সাবওয়ে স্টেশন এবং তার সঙ্গে ভ্যাটিকান, কলোসিয়ামের মতো গুরুত্বপূর্ণ স্থানে নিরাপত্তা জোরদার করা হয়েছে। ভ্যাটিকানকে হুঁশিয়ারি দিয়ে আল কায়দার নতুন বার্তার পরে স্বভাবতই আরও আতঙ্ক বেড়েছে ইতালিতে। মাদ্রিদে বার্তাটির প্রেরক কে, সেটা স্পষ্ট নয়। কিন্তু গোয়েন্দারা মনে করছেন, লন্ডন-কাণ্ডের পরে যারা দায় স্বীকার করেছিল, তাদের চেয়ে এই প্রেরকের সঙ্গে আল কায়দার যোগ অনেক বেশি বিশ্বাসযোগ্য।

ফরাসি তদন্তকারী তথা বিচারপতি ব্রুগিয়ের কুড়ি বছর ধরে সন্ত্রাসের বিভিন্ন ঘটনা নিয়ে ঘাঁটখাঁটি করছেন এবং বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন প্রান্ত থেকে বহু সন্দেহভাজন জঙ্গিকে গ্রেফতারে তাঁর প্রত্যক্ষ ভূমিকা ছিল। ব্রিটেনের একটি নামকরা অর্থনৈতিক দৈনিককে ব্রুগিয়ের বলেছেন, আল কায়দার সম্ভাব্য জঙ্গি হানা প্রতিরোধে এশিয়ার বহু দেশই আমেরিকা বা ইউরোপের চেয়ে কম প্রস্তুত। তাঁর কথায়, "দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব এশিয়ার স্থিতিশীলতা নষ্ট করে দিতে আল কায়দার বাসনা বা ক্ষমতাকে আমরা ছোট করে দেখছি। আমাদের জোগাড় করা তথ্য থেকে বলা যায়, এই অঞ্চলের দেশগুলি, বিশেষত জাপান আক্রমণের লক্ষ্য হতে পারে।"

জঙ্গি হানার এই সম্ভাবনা সম্পর্কে জন সচেতনতা বাড়তে চেয়ে ব্রুগিয়ের বলেছেন, আল কায়দা এখন 'সফট টার্গেট'-এর চেয়ে অর্থনৈতিক ভাবে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ লক্ষ্যবস্তুতে হামলা চালানোর কৌশলেই বেশি করে শান দিচ্ছে। জাপানে হামলা হলে তার প্রভাব সব চেয়ে বেশি হবে বলেই জাপানের আক্রান্ত হওয়ার সম্ভাবনা বেশি। এমনকী, তৎপর গোয়েন্দা বাহিনী থাকা সত্ত্বেও সিঙ্গাপুর হামলার লক্ষ্য হতে পারে। একই আশঙ্কা রয়েছে সিডনিরও।

অস্ট্রেলিয়ার প্রধানমন্ত্রী জন হাওয়ার্ড বলেছেন, তাঁর দেশের আক্রান্ত হওয়ার আশঙ্কা বহু দিন থেকেই রয়েছে। আর অ্যাটর্নি জেনারেল ফিলিপ রুডক জানিয়েছেন, জঙ্গি হানার কোনও নির্দিষ্ট হুমকির কথা যে হেতু জানা যায়নি, তাই তাঁরা বিশেষ বিচলিত নন। ৯/১১-এর পর থেকেই মাঝারি স্তরের সতর্কতা জারি রয়েছে এবং এই আশঙ্কার পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে তাতে কোনও বদল হচ্ছে না।

জাপানি মন্ত্রিসভার মুখ্যসচিব হিরোয়ুকি হোসোডারও প্রায় এক সুর। তিনি বলেন, "এই রিপোর্ট কতটা সুনির্দিষ্ট, জানি না। কিন্তু সন্ত্রাস মোকাবিলায় আন্তর্জাতিক ভাবে যা ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া হচ্ছে, জাপান সরকার তাতে সব সময়েই যোগ দিচ্ছে।" লন্ডনের ৭/৭-এর পরে নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থাও আঁটোসাঁটো করা হয়েছে বলে জাপান প্রশাসন সূত্রের খবর।

— এ এফ পি, পি টি আই

AQABA ■ Iraqis, Egyptians, Jordanians and Syrian in custody

Jordan arrests Arabs over Aqaba rocket attacks

REUTERS

AMMAN, AUGUST 21

JORDAN has detained scores of Arab suspects as part of the investigation into a rocket attack on US warships in the Red Sea port of Aqaba, security officials said on Sunday.

Most of the suspects were arrested in the Shalala quarter of the Red Sea Port that overlooks the port during house-to-house searches following Friday's attack, the officials said.

Interior Minister Awni Yarfah said security forces were making headway in the probe into the firing of three Katyusha rockets that missed their targets but hit Jordanian facilities in the city, killing one soldier and injuring another. "The authorities have made advanced progress in their work," Yarfah said, without giving any details.

The Bahrain-based US Fifth Fleet said one missile narrowly missed the USS Ashland, an amphibious ship designed to transport marines and launch assault landing craft and helicopters.

Security sources said several Iraqis, a Syrian and scores of Egyptians and Jordanians were among those detained in the poor Shalala area, known as a hotbed of crime and a hideout for smugglers and cross border drug trading.

Police sources said a number of unused Katyushas were also found in the warehouse in the industrial area near the city cen-

Attack may signal opening of new Zarqawi front

SULEIMAN AL-KHALIDI

AMMAN, AUGUST 21

A ROCKET attack which narrowly missed two US warships in Jordan may be a signal that Iraq's Al Qaeda leader Abu Musab al Zarqawi has opened a new front against Washington's closest Arab ally, security experts said on Sunday.

The two US warships were likely to be carefully chosen targets, the experts said. The vessels are among those that have been regularly docking and unloading supplies in the Red Sea port of Aqaba since the US led the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Jordanian intelligence experts say the attack using Katyusha rockets indicates Zarqawi may favour expanding military attacks to pro-US ally Jordan to hurt Washington's war effort in Iraq.

"Zarqawi appreciates more than ever that by hitting the US Military in Jordan he would score not just a symbolic victory but maybe disrupt a hitherto safe supply route for the US Army into bases in the western desert (of Iraq)," said one intelligence expert and official who requested anonymity.

Jordan denies providing logistical backing to Washington's military campaign though the US Military has said in briefings that it

has used the country as a main supply route.

"This is the first time they actually penetrated in a well coordinated military operation. Zarqawi will have learned from this how to conduct a military operation in Jordan even if it missed its target..." one security official said. The incident has stoked fears in a tightly policed country that has not seen the kind of attacks on tourist resorts and Westerners that have taken place elsewhere.

"The possibilities now exist of an increase in terror attacks and wider targets. It's unavoidable we have now become targetted like Saudi Arabia and Egypt," said Mahmoud Kharabsheh, a prominent deputy and a former senior intelligence official.

The last major attempt by Zarqawi's group last year was a plot to wage a chemical attack using suicide bombers against government and US targets in the kingdom.

Audio tapes purportedly from Zarqawi have vowed to punish Jordan's rulers for "aiding the treacherous enemy America".

"It's premature to tell now but if the attackers trained in Iraq then this could be a very dangerous turn. We have so far only seen Jordanian militants heading to Iraq and blowing themselves up in suicide bombings," one former minister with ties to the intelligence community said. —Reuters

tre from where investigators say the rockets were launched.

The authorities had earlier said the warehouse was leased a few days before the Friday attack by Iraqis and Egyptians.

One Jordanian security offi-

cial said that while they have not conclusively established who ultimately sponsored the attacks several new leads point to Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda network. He did not elaborate.

A security source said initial probes indicate the attackers may have planned to hit other targets including King Abdullah's beach palace resort and a hotel complex used by American soldiers.

22 AUG 2005

আল কায়দার হাতে পরমাণু অস্ত্র, দাবি মার্কিন কর্তার

ওয়াশিংটন, ২০ অগস্ট: আল কায়দার হাতে কি সত্যিই পরমাণু অস্ত্র রয়েছে? আমেরিকার উপরে কি এ বার পরমাণু হামলা চালানোর পরিকল্পনা করছে ওসামা বিন লাদেনের নেতৃত্বাধীন এই জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠী? প্রাক্তন এফবিআই কর্তা পল উইলিয়ামস অন্তত সে রকমই দাবি করেছেন। সেই পরমাণু অস্ত্রের ভাঁড়ার সামলানোর জন্য না কি ইতিমধ্যেই রুশ ও পাকিস্তানি বিজ্ঞানীদের কাজেও লাগিয়েছে আল কায়দা সন্ত্রাসবাদীরা।

সারা বিশ্বে আতঙ্ক-জাগানো এই জঙ্গি গোষ্ঠীর কার্যকলাপ নিয়ে একটি বই লিখছেন উইলিয়ামস। সেটি প্রকাশিত হতে এখনও কিছু দিন দেরি থাকলেও এর মধ্যেই তা নিয়ে হইচই পড়ে গিয়েছে আমেরিকায়।

প্রাক্তন গোয়েন্দাকর্তা জানিয়েছেন, আফগানিস্তান-সহ বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন জায়গায় আটক নথিপত্র এবং ধৃত জঙ্গিদের সাক্ষ্য থেকেই প্রধানত এই বইয়ের মালমশলা সংগ্রহ করেছেন তিনি। তাঁর কথায়, ঠান্ডা লড়াইয়ের সময় সোভিয়েত ইউনিয়নের কাছ থেকে খান চল্লিশেক পারমাণবিক অস্ত্র জোগাড় করেছিল আল কায়দা। এর মধ্যে স্ট্রেকেস বোমা, পারমাণবিক মাইন ইত্যাদি ছোটখাটো বিস্ফোরক তো আছেই, এমনকী ফ্লিপগান্ডও রয়েছে। তাদের মোট পারমাণবিক অস্ত্রের অন্তত অর্ধেক সাম্প্রতিক কালে চেচেন জঙ্গিদের কাছ থেকে কেনা। তা ছাড়া, বর্তমানে মেক্সিকো সীমান্ত দিয়েও বেআইনি ভাবে আমেরিকায় পরমাণু অস্ত্রশস্ত্র ঢুকছে বলে জানিয়েছেন উইলিয়ামস। দুনিয়ার বাঘা বাঘা গোয়েন্দারা না কি এ নিয়ে একমত। তবে মোট অস্ত্রের সংখ্যা নিয়ে এখনও সন্দেহ রয়েছে।

এই অস্ত্রভাণ্ডার সামলাতে এবং ব্যবহারের উপযোগী করে তুলতে আল কায়দা না কি রাশিয়া ও পাকিস্তানের বেশ কিছু বিজ্ঞানীকে নিযুক্ত করেছে। এমনকী ঠান্ডা লড়াইয়ের সময় আমেরিকার বিভিন্ন জায়গায় লুকিয়ে রাখা রুশ পরমাণু অস্ত্রের হদিশ জানতে রাশিয়ার প্রাক্তন গুপ্তচর বাহিনী 'স্পেটজনাঞ্জ'-এর কয়েক জন কর্তাকে কাজে লাগিয়েছে ওই জঙ্গিরা।

উইলিয়ামসের দাবি, ওয়াশিংটন, নিউ ইয়র্ক, বস্টন, লাস ভেগাস, মায়ামি, শিকাগো-সহ বিভিন্ন শহরে পরমাণু হামলা চালানোর পরিকল্পনা রয়েছে আল কায়দার। অন্তত চল্লিশ লক্ষ মার্কিন নাগরিককে হত্যা করতে পারলে তবেই না কি তাদের প্রতিহিংসা চরিতার্থ হবে, লাদেনকে উদ্ধৃত করে বলেছেন তিনি। পিটিআই

জামাতুলকে অর্থ দিচ্ছে আল কায়দার সঙ্গীরাই

নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা, ঢাকা, ২০ অগস্ট: বিদেশি সন্ত্রাসবাদী সংগঠনের প্রসঙ্গ প্রথমে তুলেছিলেন বিরোধী নেত্রী শেখ হাসিনা ওয়াজেদ। এ বারে বাংলাদেশে বিস্ফোরণের পিছনে আল কায়দার সহযোগী সংগঠনের হাত দেখেছে এখানকার কয়েকটি প্রথম সারির সংবাদপত্র।

এই কাজের পিছনে যে জামাতুল মুজাহিদিন রয়েছে, সেটা স্পষ্ট হয়ে যায় প্রথম দিনই, ঘটনাস্থলে ছড়িয়ে যাওয়া তাদের প্রচারপত্র থেকে। প্রশ্ন ছিল, জামাতুলের পিছনে কে বা কারা? ধীরে ধীরে তার কাছ পৌঁছচ্ছে পুলিশ।

ঘটনার পরের ৪৮ ঘণ্টায় দু'দফায় শতাধিক সন্দেহভাজনকে গ্রেফতার করে পুলিশ। জেরায় অনেকেই স্বীকার করে, তারা কোনও না কোনও ভাবে জামাতুল মুজাহিদিনের সঙ্গে যুক্ত এবং

বিস্ফোরণের দিন ঘটনাস্থলে বোমা রেখে এসেছিল এই দলের অনেকেই। বস্তুত, প্রথম দফায় যে ১৪ জনকে গ্রেফতার করা হয়, তাদের কাছ থেকে তথ্য পেয়েই পরবর্তী তল্লাশি চালায় পুলিশ। জেরার সময় ওই সন্দেহভাজনেরা জানিয়েছে কী ভাবে জামাতুল মুজাহিদিন সে দিনের অভিযান চালিয়েছিল। আরও জানা গিয়েছে, পুরো পরিকল্পনাই ছিল দলের অন্যতম মাথা আবদুর রহমানের।

জামাতুল মুজাহিদিন গঠনের সময় থেকেই আসাদুল্লা গালিবের পাশে রয়েছেন আবদুর রহমান। যে বাংলা ভাইয়ের খোঁজে বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ হনো হয়ে গিয়েছে, তিনিও রহমানেরই হাতে তৈরি। কয়েকটি সংবাদপত্র এখানে দাবি করেছে, সংগঠনকে আরও শক্তিশালী করতে যে বিপুল পরিমাণ

অর্থের প্রয়োজন, জামাতুলকে সেটা জুগিয়েছে 'রিভাইভাল অফ ইসলামিক হেরিটেজ সোসাইটি অফ কুয়েত'। এই সংগঠনটি আল কায়দার সহযোগী সংগঠন হিসাবে পরিচিত। শুধু তাই নয়, তিন বছর আগেই মার্কিন প্রশাসন তাদের নিষিদ্ধ ঘোষণা করে।

জঙ্গিদের ধরতে তৎপরতা ও তল্লাশির মধ্যেই আজ ফের এক বিস্ফোরণে মেহেরপুর জেলায় দু'জন প্রাণ হারিয়েছে। পুলিশ সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে, একটি পরিত্যক্ত বাড়িতে বসে বোমা তৈরি করছিল ওই দু'জন। সেই সময় বিস্ফোরণ ঘটে। নিহত দু'জনকেই পুলিশ দীর্ঘ দিন ধরে খুঁজছিল। এ ছাড়াও, ঢাকার এলিফ্যান্ট রোড ও দিনাজপুর শহর থেকে দু'টি তাজা বোমা উদ্ধার করে পুলিশ। পাশাপাশি বিরোধী দল আওয়ামি লিগের ডাকা

বন্ধু ঘিরেও এ দিন উত্তপ্ত হয়ে ওঠে ঢাকা-সহ দেশের বিভিন্ন অঞ্চল। পুলিশ ও নিরাপত্তা বাহিনীর সঙ্গে সংঘর্ষে সব মিলিয়ে আহত হয়েছেন ৪০ জন আওয়ামি সমর্থক।

জঙ্গিদের খোঁজে তল্লাশির সঙ্গে সঙ্গে ধৃতদের জেরা চালাচ্ছে পুলিশ। সেই জেরাতেই জানা গিয়েছে, ঘটনার চার দিন আগে নিজের গোপন ঘাঁটি থেকে মোবাইলে বিস্ফোরণ সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় নির্দেশ পাঠিয়েছিলেন আবদুর রহমান। তখনই তিনি বলেন, বিস্ফোরণের মাত্রা এমন হবে যাতে প্রাণহানির আশঙ্কা অত্যন্ত কম। বোমাগুলি অবশ্য জামাতুল কর্মীদের হাতে আসে ঘটনার দিন সকালে। কী ভাবে সেগুলি তারা পেয়েছিল, তাই নিয়েও রহস্য কম নয়। উদাহরণ হতে পারে যশোরে ধৃত সাগরের জবানবন্দী।

জেরায় সে জানিয়েছে, সকালে তার মামা তুহিন তাকে দু'টি ব্যাগ কালেক্টরেট এলাকায় রেখে আসতে বলে।

গোটা বাংলাদেশেই এই ভাবে জাল ছড়িয়ে রেখেছে জামাতুল। এর জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় জঙ্গি প্রশিক্ষণ, সংগঠন পরিচালনা, অস্ত্র ও বিস্ফোরক সংগ্রহ-সহ যাবতীয় কাজ চালাতে কুয়েতের সংস্থাটি তাদের সাহায্য করে। যদিও ঢাকায় সংস্থাটির শাখা-প্রধান অভিযোগ অস্বীকার করেছেন। কিন্তু জামাতুলের সঙ্গে তাদের মাখামাখি নিয়ে সকলেই প্রায় নিঃসন্দেহ। দু'দল একত্রে দেশ জুড়ে মাদ্রাসা, অনাথালয়, মসজিদ গড়েছে। এদের সাহায্যেই জামাতুল মুজাহিদিন ৫৩টি জঙ্গি সংগঠনের একটি মঞ্চ পরিণত হতে পেরেছে। এবং সেই কারণেই বুধবার তারা এত বড় মাপের ঘটনা ঘটতে পেরেছে।

Rockets hit Red Sea port, miss US ships

Qaida group claims responsibility ● Security forces seal off port

Agencies
Amman, August 19

ONE JORDANIAN soldier was killed and another severely wounded on Friday in a rocket attack, apparently targeting American ships in the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba, officials said. An Al-Qaida-linked group has claimed responsibility for rocket attacks.

The three Katyusha rockets hit a warehouse and a hospital in Aqaba, killing a Jordanian soldier, and struck the nearby Israeli port city of Eilat. A second Jordanian soldier was severely wounded. No U.S. military personnel were injured.

"Zionists are our rightful target," said a statement, signed by Al-Qaida in Levant and Egypt, the Martyr Abdallah Azzam Brigades.

The statement, posted on an Islamist website, promised an attack in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv.

"We bombed them in Taba and we attacked them today in Eilat and we will shake them up in Tal Al-Rabih (Tel Aviv in Arabic), God willing," the statement said, according to a translation.

The authenticity of the claim has not been confirmed.

The Martyr Abdallah Azzam Brigades is one of several groups that claimed responsibility for the October 2004 attacks in the Sinai, Egypt tourist resorts of Taba and Ras Shitan. Those attacks killed 34 people.

Three Katyusha rockets were fired from a warehouse in Aqaba close to the port, a Jordanian government statement said.

The casualties occurred when

one rocket flew over the bow of the USS Ashland and struck a warehouse used by the Jordanian military, the officials said.

"At approximately 8:44 a.m. local time, a suspected mortar rocket flew over the USS Ashland's bow and impacted in a warehouse on the pier in the vicinity of the Ashland and USS Kearsarge. The warehouse sustained an approximate 8-foot hole in the roof of the building," according to a statement from the US Central Command. No US military personnel were injured.

A second missile landed near a military hospital in Aqaba, and the third landed in the neighbouring Israeli Red Sea port city of Eilat, the Jordanian government said.

The third rocket partially exploded, Israeli military sources said, damaging a road and a car. It fell on a road just east of the city's airport. No injuries were reported.

A Jordanian security source said authorities were searching for three men in the Katyusha missile attack, which was launched from an industrial warehouse area near the entrance to the city.

"We're searching for a Syrian and two Iraqis who are in Aqaba and used Kuwaiti number plates," the source said.

Immediately after the attack, the two US amphibious assault ships, which had been on a joint training exercise with the Jordanian navy, weighed anchor and headed for the safety of open water.

Israeli defence minister Shaul Mofaz said the two countries were

cooperating in the investigation.

The ships were in port so sailors could train with regional partners, the US Navy commander Jeff Breslau said. "It's very unusual for the US ships to be under attack in this part of the region... It's pretty safe to conclude that they were probably trying to hit one or both of the ships."

Security forces sealed off the area of the port near the warehouse. Breslau said the US military ships subsequently left the port.

Marines from the 26th Expeditionary Unit were on board the ships "in support of the global war on terrorism (and) Operation Iraqi Freedom," Breslau said.

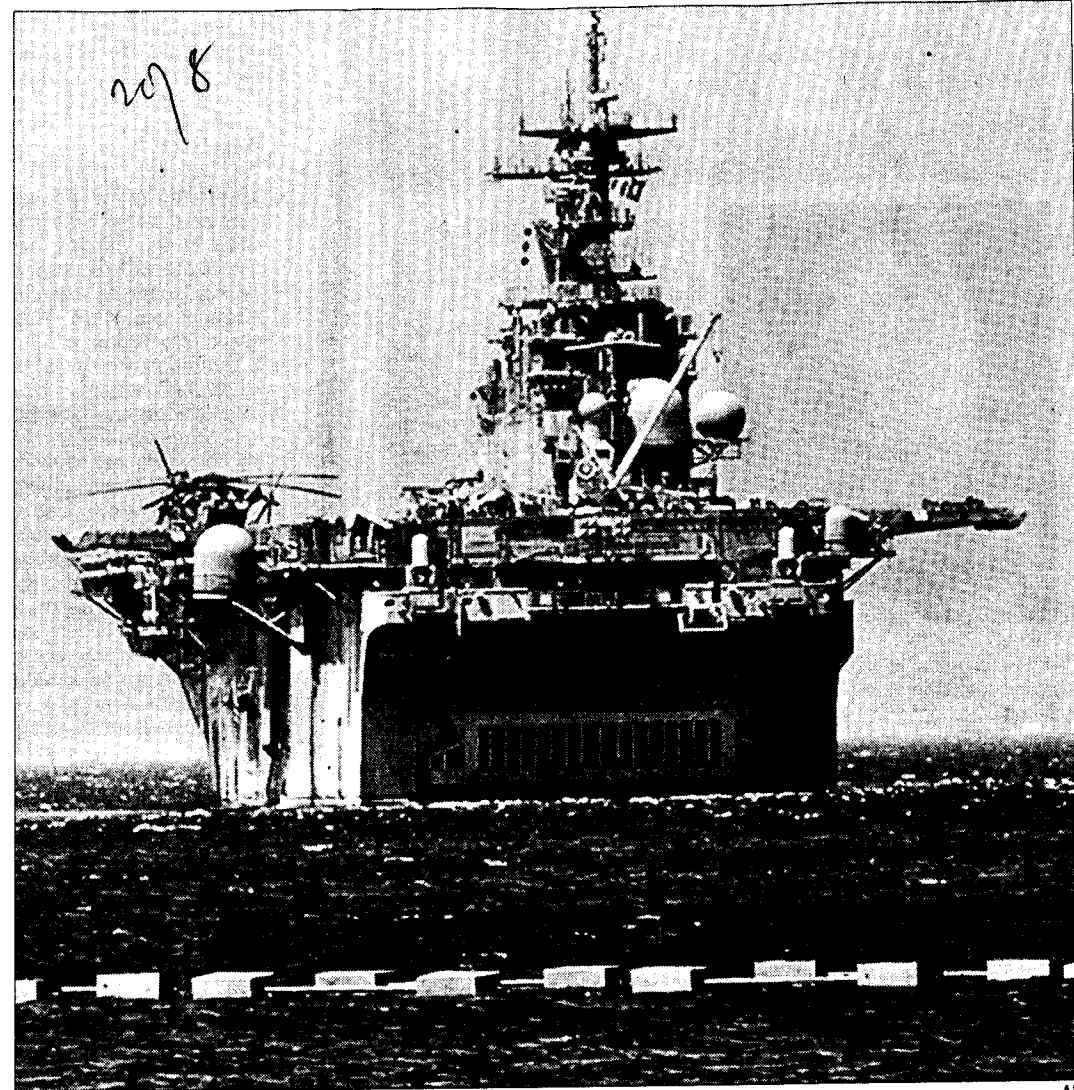
The massive 844-foot, 40,500-ton USS Kearsarge is staffed with nearly 2,000 Marines and more than 1,000 sailors, according to its website.

The smaller 609-foot, 16,000-ton USS Ashland carries more than 400 Marines and more than 400 sailors.

The Kearsarge, which carries Harrier jump jets and about 2,000 personnel, serves as the command ship of an Amphibious Ready Group and was involved in the famed 1995 rescue of US Air Force pilot Captain Scott O'Grady after he was shot down over Bosnia.

Oil climbed back above \$64 after the attack even though Jordan is not a crude oil exporter.

"The knee jerk reaction to this sort of headline is to think of the Middle East as a powder keg," said Deborah White, senior energy analyst at SG Commodities in Paris.



US navy vessel USS Kearsarge, an amphibious assault ship, leaves the Jordanian port of Aqaba on Friday after unknown attackers fired at least three missiles.

Sharm bombing mastermind detained

ASSOCIATED Press
Cairo, August 19

EGYPTIAN POLICE has detained a suspected mastermind behind last month's deadly attacks in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik, an interior ministry official said on Friday.

Hassan el-Arishi was arrested on Thursday at a house in the northern Sinai Peninsula, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Other suspects detained since the three July 23 bombings that killed at least 64 people have identified el-Arishi as one of the masterminds who also helped carry out the attacks, the official said.

El-Arishi had been using identity documents belonging to a Nile Delta farmer, the official added. The suspect's family is being questioned.

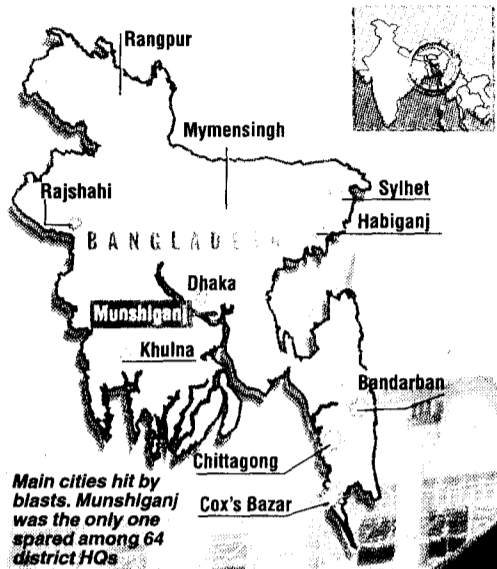
No other details were provided. The detainee's name has not previously surfaced as a suspect in the Sharm attacks, which Egyptian investigators believe may have been carried out by home-grown Islamic militant cells based in the Sinai, possibly with international links.

The attacks included two car bombs and a bomb in a knapsack that ripped through a luxury hotel in Egypt.

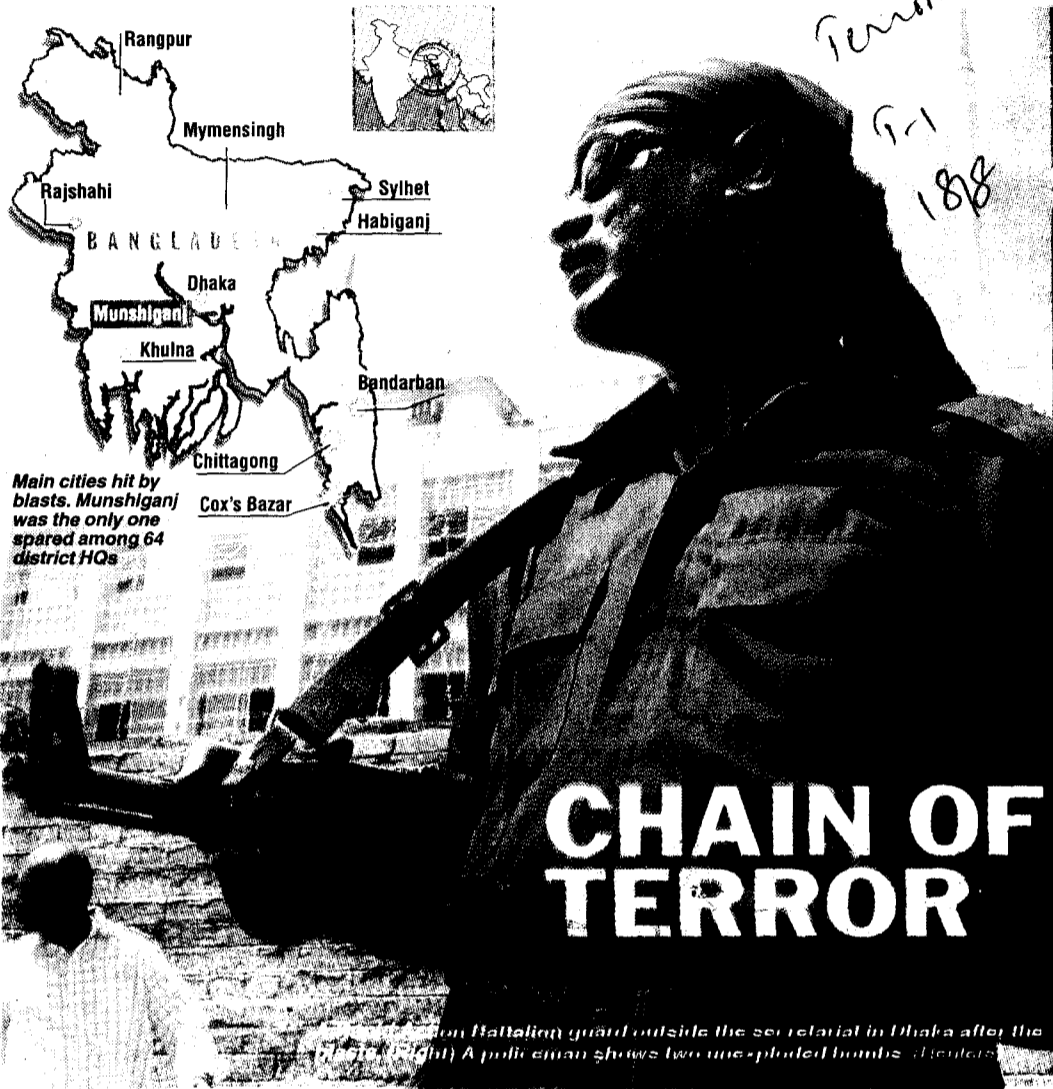
20 AUG 2005

Blast after blast after...

500 bombs explode across Bangla in half hour



Main cities hit by blasts. Munshiganj was the only one spared among 64 district HQs



CHAIN OF TERROR



Islamic rule in war cry

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka, Aug. 17: A wave of fear struck Bangladesh this morning as over 500 crude bombs exploded almost simultaneously across towns and cities, killing two persons and injuring about 140.

The bombs targeted government offices, courts, press clubs and universities in Dhaka and 63 of the country's 64 district headquarters, sparing only Munshiganj.

Leaflets left at blast sites, bearing the name of banned Islamist outfit Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, asked the government and Parliament to establish Islamic rule in Bangladesh.

"It is time to implement Islamic law... there is no future with man-made law," they said. "We are warning Bush and Blair to abandon occupation of Muslim countries. NGOs are warned to stop anti-Islamic activities... else they will be completely uprooted."

The 11-11.30 am blasts, which took place just hours after Prime Minister Khaleda Zia left for China, almost paralysed the nation.

Work stopped at government and private offices with people rushing back home. Cars and rickshaws went off the roads in most cities. The blasts killed a rickshaw-puller in the western Chapainawabganj town and a child in Savar.

A man who has a shop near Dhaka's National Press Club said a young man with a cap on his head came and left a small paper bag. "It exploded minutes after he left," he said. "I did not suspect that there was a bomb inside the bag."

Security was tightened at key installations and additional forces deployed across the country by a government that seemed surprised by the timing of the attack.

Home minister Lutfuluzzaman Babar said the authorities had been tipped off about possible bomb attacks on August 14, 15 and 16. "Nothing happened during that period," he told reporters. "We had no information about August 17."

At every blast site, the police found pairs of batteries

used as detonator. The bombs, they said, were locally made but not powerful.

About 50 people, including a few madarsa students, were arrested from various parts of the country.

In Dhaka, bombs went off on the premises of the Judge Court and the Supreme Court, near the press club, the airport and Sheraton Hotel, at Uttara and Gulshan townships and the Palasi area.

"We heard the blast from the first floor of the Judge Court," said lawyer Abdul Matin. "Then there was another blast from the other side."

A bomb exploded from inside a vendor's van at the Chittagong press club.

"Bombs exploded in front

SET OF BELIEFS

- Promulgate Islamic law
- Reject judicial system and Constitution
- Disband administrative and electoral system
- Boycott courts until Islamic law takes hold
- Proponents of democracy are Islam's enemies

of the Chittagong press club, Shah Amanat bridge, EPZ area, Bahaddarhat bus terminal, New Market, Darul Fazal Market, near Port Bhaban, Muradpur, Halishahar court building, near CMM court, registry office at court building, Kazir Dewri crossing, Lalkhan Bazar, Agrabad and Dewanhat crossing," said local journalist Osman Gani Mansur. "The city is in panic."

The Opposition has called a strike on Saturday in protest against the blasts.

Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, led by the fugitive "Bangla Bhai", was banned in February with the Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh amid a spate in political violence in the country.

Bengal and north-eastern states have stepped up border vigil.

Police recovered a dozen bombs, said to be similar to those used in Bangladesh, from a house near Bongaon, 4 km from the border.

Hit	By	Time	Target	Suspect
63 of 64 districts	500 crude bombs	Between 11 and 11.30 am	Government offices, courts, press clubs	Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen

Musharraf's choice before Khaleda

PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, Aug. 17: The serial blasts in Bangladesh have again raised questions about the Khaleda Zia-led coalition government's ability — even intention — to deal with rising Islamic fundamentalism.

For India, though, the vital concern is an unstable neighbour with which it shares more than 4,000 km of border that was virtually sealed after the blasts.

Officially, its response was brief. A foreign ministry spokesman said: "We have seen reports relating to the hundreds of explosions all over Bangladesh which have

injured dozens of people, some seriously. The scale and coordination of these explosions countrywide raises a number of questions."

It seems almost a certainty that the blasts in 63 of the country's 64 district headquarters were not the handiwork of a single outfit.

Zia's Bangladesh National Party came to power four years ago with a promise to improve deteriorating law and order.

Today, its ability to do so has been called into question in a spectacular manner.

She will now be under growing pressure, within and outside the country, particularly

from the Americans, to crack down on fundamentalists, as Pervez Musharraf has been forced to.

Like Musharraf, Zia has banked on this constituency to ride to power, defeating the moderate Awami League of Sheikh Hasina.

Although Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen's leaflets have been found at the blast spots and suspicion will also fall on Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh — both banned outfits — sources in Dhaka and Delhi said neither had the ability to carry out an operation of this scale.

The low-yield explosives also made it clear that the

blasts were not aimed at killing people but to send a signal of the ability to do damage on a massive scale.

"Those behind the blasts wanted to tell the government that if they wanted to they could have created massive damage," a source said.

An Indian official accused Zia and her supporters of encouraging a culture that has had its "logical conclusion" in today's blasts.

Questions have often been raised about alleged links many in the Jamaat-e-Islami, a part of the coalition, have with fundamentalist groups.

Some BNP ministers have also come under the scanner

for allegedly encouraging the entry of illegal arms into the country.

India had refused to participate in the Saarc summit in Dhaka early this year after an Awami League leader was killed. It also had the Americans moving with the FBI coming down to help investigations.

Bangladesh's donors threatened to stop funds unless Zia took steps to control fundamentalism.

Early this year, she did ban some groups, but within months the government decided to go slow. The serial blasts could yet make a Musharraf out of Zia.

■ See Pages 8 and 13

DHAKA | Bombs apparently targeting government buildings spread panic; 100 hurt Blasts rock Bangladesh, 1 killed

NIZAM AHMED

DHAKA, AUGUST 17

S CORES of mysterious bomb blasts, apparently targeting government buildings, rocked cities across Bangladesh on Wednesday, killing one person, wounding at least 100 and triggering panic.

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutuzzaman Babr said the blasts appeared to be "pre-planned and well organised", but he did not blame any individual or group. Roughly 200 homemade bombs exploded on the streets, at courts and near key government buildings in various places across Bangladesh between 0500 and 0530 GMT, police and witnesses said. One bomb also exploded outside Dhaka's Sheraton Hotel, security officers said.

A rickshaw driver was killed in the northern city of Rajshahi, while the wounded were taken to hospitals in the capital Dhaka, the southern port city of Chittagong and dozens of towns elsewhere, police and witnesses said. Bombs also exploded in the capital's heavily guarded Gulshan diplomatic enclave and outside Dhaka International Airport. Police said no foreigners were hurt.

Authorities issued nationwide security alerts, and police said dozens of suspects had been detained.



Bangladesh security forces guard the Secretariat in Dhaka after the explosions on Wednesday. Reuters

Bangladesh has a long history of political violence, labour strife and gang warfare. Though it has been hit by a number of unexplained bombings in the past two years, the country has never experienced anything quite like this before. No one claimed responsibility for the blasts, but copies of a leaflet found at most of the bomb sites carried a call by a banned Islamic group, Jamaat-ul-Mu-

jahideen, for Islamic rule in Bangladesh. "It is the third call to establish Islamic rule in the country. If ignored and (if) our people are arrested or persecuted, the Jaamat-ul-Mujahideen will take counter-action," the leaflets said.

The leaflets warned the United States and Britain against the occupation of Muslim lands, telling US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair to "vacate Muslim countries, or to face a Muslim upsurge". Bangladesh banned the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen along with the Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh in February for their alleged involvement in criminal activities, officials said. Nationwide security alerts were issued, including for foreign ships at ports and for all key installations. —Reuters

বাংলাদেশ জুড়ে ৪০০ বিস্ফোরণ

১ পাতার পর আসন্ন ঢাকা সফর নিয়ে বিদেশমন্ত্রী নটবর সিং জানিয়েছেন, এ সব সফর বাতিল হয়নি। তবে নটবর না বললেও প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সফরের বিষয়টি অন্যরকম গুরুত্বের। নভেম্বরে তাঁর সার্কে যাওয়ার ব্যাপারে এখন আবার নিরাপত্তার বিষয়টি আবার যাচাই করে নেওয়া হবে। এটা বলাই যায়, অনিশ্চিত হয়ে পড়ল প্রধানমন্ত্রী মনমোহন সিংয়ের সফর। ঢাকায় বাংলাদেশের স্বরাষ্ট্র রক্ষণমন্ত্রী লুৎফুজ্জামান বাবরও বলেছেন, আজকের ঘটনা গভীরভাবেই সুপরিকল্পিত। তিনি জানিয়েছেন, গোয়েন্দা রিপোর্ট ছিল ১৪, ১৫, ১৬ আগস্টের মধ্যে জঙ্গি আক্রমণ হতে পারে। সে জন্য সতর্কতা জারি ছিল। কিন্তু সময় পেরিয়ে যাওয়ার পর ঘটল এরকম ঘটনা। আজকের ঘটনায় ঢাকা ও জেলায় জেলায় পুলিশের সঙ্গে টহল দিচ্ছে র‍্যাপিড অ্যাকশন ব্যাটেলিয়ন (র‍্যাব)। সারা দেশে সন্দেহক্রমে গ্রেপ্তার করা হয়েছে ৪৮ জনকে। বাংলাদেশে এক সপ্তাহ ধরে নতুন করে বাংলাভাইয়ের মুজাহিদিন বাহিনী ও মাওবাদী নকশালপন্থী গোষ্ঠীগুলির বিরুদ্ধে চালানো হচ্ছিল পুলিশি অভিযান। কেউ কেউ বলছেন আজকের ঘটনা তারও প্রত্যক্ষাঘাত হতে পারে। বাংলাদেশের ঘটনার পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে পশ্চিমবঙ্গে আজ বাংলাদেশ সীমান্তবর্তী জেলাগুলিতে জারি করা হয়েছে লাল সতর্কতা। সীমান্তে কড়া নজর রাখছেন সীমান্তরক্ষীরা।

পকেটবোমা! পরপর বিস্ফোরণ
রাজধানী ঢাকায় প্রথম বোমাটি ফাটে সকাল ১১টায় শেরাটন হোটেল চত্বরে। ওই বিস্ফোরণে একটি বেসরকারি সংস্থার কর্মী মাসুম (২৬) আহত হন। এরপর বিস্ফোরণ পরপর জাতীয় প্রেস ক্লাব, সুপ্রিম কোর্ট, জজ কোর্ট, ঢাকার জিয়া আন্তর্জাতিক বিমানবন্দর, বিমানবন্দর রেলস্টেশন, ফার্ম গেট, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় চত্বর, নতুন বাজার, গুলশন ও পলাশি ক্রসিংয়ে সড়কে। ঢাকার জাতীয় প্রেস ক্লাবেরই লাগোয়া মন্ত্রীদের দপ্তর সচিবালয়। অন্তত ২৫ জন আহত হন। চাঞ্চল্য ও আতঙ্কের সৃষ্টি হয়। সশস্ত্র পুলিশের সঙ্গে রাস্তায় নামে র‍্যাপিড অ্যাকশন ব্যাটেলিয়ন। সুপ্রিম কোর্ট চত্বরে আহত হন ডেপুটি অ্যাটর্নি জেনারেল আমিনুল রহিমের গাড়ির চালক খাসরুল ইসলাম (২৫)। পলাশি ক্রসিংয়ে বোমাটি ফাটে একটি বড় ব্যাক্সের সামনে। সেখানে আহত হন এক দোকানদার মনিরুজ্জামান (৩০)। দুজনেই ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে, অবস্থা সঙ্কটজনক। বেলা সোঁনে ১২টা নাগাদ ঢাকার বাংলা মোটর এলাকায় সন্দেহভাজন এক যুবককে পুলিশ ধাওয়া করতেই

তার পকেটে রাখা বোমাটি ফেটে যায়। রুহুল আমিন নামে ৩০ বছরের ওই যুবকটিকে পুলিশ পাহারায় আহত অবস্থায় ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে ভর্তি করা হয়েছে।

খুলনায় ১১ বোমা
শুধু খুলনা শহরেই কম করে ১১টি বোমা ফাটে। সকাল ১১টা থেকে সাড়ে ১১টার মধ্যে। বিস্ফোরণ হয় খুলনার জজ কোর্ট, সি এম এম আদালত, ডাকবাংলা ক্রসিং, রূপসা প্রাইমারি স্কুল, গোলোকমণি শিশু পার্ক, দৌলতপুর মহসিন হাইস্কুল, বি এল কলেজ শিক্ষক আবাসন ও বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শহিদ মিনার চত্বরে। শহিদ মিনার চত্বরে খেলাছিল তিনটি বালক: রবিউল (১০), রকিব (৬) ও রুবেল (৮)। তাদের ভর্তি করা হয়েছে হাসপাতালে। পুলিশ জানিয়েছে, খুলনায় বিস্ফোরণস্থলগুলি থেকে পাওয়া গেছে জামাতুল মুজাহিদিনের প্রচারপত্র। বাংলা ও আরবিতে লেখা এই প্রচারপত্রে বাংলাদেশে ইসলামি শাসন কায়েমের ডাক দেওয়া হয়েছে।

রাজশাহিতে রাস্তাঘাট জনশূন্য
প্রচণ্ড শব্দে রাজশাহি শহর কেঁপে ওঠে বুধবার বেলা সওয়া ১১টা নাগাদ। একাধিক বিস্ফোরণের শব্দ প্রায় একই সঙ্গে। রাজশাহির জিরো পয়েন্ট, আর ডি মার্কেট, রেল ভবন, সাহেব বাজার জজ কোর্ট, বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় চত্বর ও লক্ষ্মীপুরে এ সব বিস্ফোরণে কেউ হতাহত না হলেও আতঙ্ক ছড়িয়ে পড়ে সারা শহরে। দোকানপাট, স্কুল-কলেজ, অফিসকাছারি বন্ধ হয়ে যায়। রাস্তাঘাট জনশূন্য হয়ে যায়। রাস্তায় রাস্তায় পুলিশি টহল শুরু হয়। রাজশাহিতেও পাওয়া গেছে জামাতুল মুজাহিদিনের প্রচারপত্র। পুলিশ কাউকে ধরতে পারেনি।

যশোরেও লক্ষ্য সরকারি ভবন
যশোরে বেছে বেছে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ সরকারি ভবন ও আদালতের সামনে ৬টি বোমা বিস্ফোরণ ঘটানো হয়। বেলা ১১টা থেকে সাড়ে ১১টার মধ্যে এ সব বিস্ফোরণ ঘটে জজ কোর্ট, বার লাইব্রেরি, জেলাশাসকের দপ্তরের সামনে, কোতোয়ালি থানা ও পালবাড়ি চত্বরে। এক পুলিশ কনস্টেবল ও একটি বালক এ সব বিস্ফোরণে আহত হয়েছেন। যশোরেও বিস্ফোরণস্থলগুলি থেকে 'জামাতুল মুজাহিদিন বাংলাদেশ'-এর প্রচারপত্র পাওয়া গেছে। প্রচারপত্রে বাংলায় সংগঠনের নাম দেওয়া ছিল ইসলাম বাস্তবায়ন সংস্থা।

ঝিনাইদহে ৪ বোমা
ঝিনাইদহ শহরে ফাটে ৪টি বোমা। কোর্ট চত্বর, এল জি ডি এলাকা, শাপলা চত্বর ও বাসস্ট্যাণ্ডে বেলা ১১টা ২০ নাগাদ। আহত হয় রাসেল নামে ১২ বছরের এক বালক। এ সব

বিস্ফোরণে পশ্চিমবঙ্গের লাগোয়া এই জেলায় ছড়িয়েছে আতঙ্ক।

চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জে মৃত্যু
চাঁপাই নবাবগঞ্জে বিস্ফোরণে হাসপাতালে মারা গেছেন ৪৫ বছর বয়সী আসাদুর রহমান। অন্তত ৯টি বোমা বিস্ফোরণ হয়েছে চাঁপাই নবাবগঞ্জ শহরে আহত হয়েছেন রবিউল আলম, রবি দাস ও রবি সাহা। তাঁদের হাসপাতালে ভর্তি করা হয়েছে। এই জেলার পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সীমান্তবর্তী মেহেরপুর শহরে ফেটেছে ৮টি বোমা। তবে কেউ হতাহত হননি। সন্দেহক্রমে পুলিশ রামনগর হাইস্কুলের এক ইসলামি শিক্ষককে আটক করেছে।

কুমিল্লাতেও ইসলামি প্রচারপত্র
কুমিল্লা শহরে ফেটেছে ৯টি বোমা। আহত হয়েছেন ৭০ বছরের বৃদ্ধ দিলু মিয়া, ৫৩ বছরের ওসমান ও ৩০ বছর বয়সী লোকমান। তিনজন আহত হন জজ কোর্ট চত্বরের বিস্ফোরণে। এ ছাড়া বোমা ফেটেছে জেলাশাসকের দপ্তর, কোর্ট লাইব্রেরি চত্বর, ক্যান্টনমেন্ট এলাকা ও কুমিল্লা প্রেস ক্লাবের সামনে। কুমিল্লাতেও পাওয়া গেছে ইসলামি প্রচারপত্র।

চাঁদপুরে ৭ বোমা
চাঁদপুরে ৭টি বোমা ফাটে কালেক্টরেট ভবন, জেলা আদালত, বার লাইব্রেরি, জজ কোর্ট, পুরভবন, রেল স্টেশন ও প্রেস ক্লাবের সামনে। এ সব বিস্ফোরণে ১০ জন আহত এখন জেলা হাসপাতালে। এঁদের মধ্যে জয়নাল আবেদিন (৫৫) ও শামসুল হকের (৪২) অবস্থা আশঙ্কাজনক। ইসলাম বাস্তবায়ন সংস্থার প্রচারপত্র পাওয়া গেছে চাঁদপুরেও।

নোয়াখালিতে বোমা-সহ ধৃত ৩
নোয়াখালির পুলিশ সুপার শহিদুল ইসলাম জানিয়েছেন, বেলা ১১টা ৫ মিনিটে একসঙ্গে ৪টি বোমা ফাটে কালেক্টরেট ভবন, প্রেস ক্লাব, পুরনো বাস স্ট্যাণ্ড ও জামে মসজিদ রোডে। বাসস্ট্যাণ্ডে বিস্ফোরণে সোহেল (৩২), তাঁর স্ত্রী লুৎফুন্নাহার লতা ও আনোয়ার হোসেন নামে তিন পথচারী আহত হন। নোয়াখালিতে পুলিশ বোমাসহ তিন যুবক ইব্রাহিম, হুমায়ন, নুরুল আলমকে গ্রেপ্তার করেছে। তাদের জিজ্ঞাসাবাদ করা হচ্ছে।

ময়মনসিংয়ে ১০ বোমা
অন্তত ১০টি বোমা ফেটেছে ময়মনসিং শহরে। জজ কোর্ট, প্রেস ক্লাব, কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, আনন্দমোহন কলেজ, চীনা ব্রিজ ও চারপাড়া ক্রসিংয়ে। এ সব বিস্ফোরণে ২০ জন আহত হয়েছেন। আহতদের মধ্যে রয়েছেন কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ছাত্র ইমতিয়াজ। পুলিশ ময়মনসিংয়েও বিস্ফোরণ স্থলে জামাতুল মুজাহিদিন বাংলাদেশ-এর প্রচারপত্র পেয়েছে।

গোপালগঞ্জে আতঙ্ক, তাজা বোমা

৫টি বোমা ফেটেছে জেলাশাসকের অফিস, জেলা ট্রেজারি, কালেক্টরেট ভবন, বঙ্গবন্ধু সরকারি কলেজ ও সদর হাসপাতালের সামনে। কেউ আহত না হলেও শহরে ছড়ায় আতঙ্ক। রাস্তাঘাট হয়ে যায় জনশূন্য। পুলিশ কালেক্টরেটের সামনে থেকে একটি তাজা বোমা পেয়েছে। বোমা বিশেষজ্ঞরা সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তার টাইমারটি অকেজো করে দেন। এই শহরেও বিস্ফোরণস্থলে মিলেছে জামাতুলের প্রচারপত্র।

সিরাজগঞ্জে গ্রেপ্তার ৮
কম করে ৭টি বোমা ফাটে সিরাজগঞ্জ শহরে। জেলা শাসকের অফিস, জজ কোর্ট চত্বর, সিরাজগঞ্জ বাজার স্টেশন এলাকায় এ সব বিস্ফোরণে অন্তত ১৫ জন আহত হয়েছেন। সন্দেহভাজন ৮ জনকে গ্রেপ্তার করেছে পুলিশ।

হবিগঞ্জ সন্ত্রস্ত
হবিগঞ্জে বোমা ফেটেছে জেলা আদালত, বার লাইব্রেরি, পুরবাজার, মুক্তিযুদ্ধ স্মৃতি সৌধের সামনে। কেউ আহত না হলেও শহরে ছড়িয়েছে আতঙ্ক।

নওগাঁও আদালত হানা
নওগাঁও জেলা আদালত চত্বরেই শুধু আজ ফেটেছে ৫টি বোমা। এ ছাড়াও বোমা ফাটে অতিরিক্ত বিচারকের দপ্তর, জেলা পুলিশ সুপারের অফিসের সামনে, জেলা জজের গাড়ির গ্যারেজে, নওগাঁও গোষ্ঠীহাট ক্রসিংয়ে। কোনও হতাহতের খবর নেই। কিন্তু ভয়ে ডুবে আছে গোটা শহর। এখানেও বিস্ফোরণস্থলে মিলেছে ইসলামি প্রচারপত্র।

রংপুরে আক্রান্ত 'ব্রাক'
রংপুরে আতঙ্ক ছড়িয়ে ফেটেছে অন্তত ৮টি বোমা। বিস্ফোরণস্থল সেই জেলাশাসকের দপ্তর, প্রেস ক্লাব, জজ কোর্ট চত্বর। এ ছাড়া বোমা ফেটেছে ব্রাক-এর দপ্তর, রংপুর শহরের বাস টার্মিনাল, সাতমাথা মোড় ও মডার্ন ক্রসিংয়ে। জেলাশাসকের অফিসের সামনে থেকে পুলিশ গ্রেপ্তার করেছে এক সন্দেহভাজনকে।

পিরোজপুরে টাইমবোমা
পিরোজপুর শহর ও জেলায় সকাল ১০টা ৫০ থেকে আশ ঘটায় বোমা ফাটে ৭টি। পিরোজপুর শহরের কালেক্টরেট ভবনের সামনে ৩টি বোমা ফাটে। এ ছাড়া কালীবাড়ি এলাকায় সদর উপজেলায় বোমা ফাটে। বোমা ফাটে রাজারহাং বাটার দোকানের সামনে। সব ক'টিই টাইম বোমা। হতাহতের খবর নেই। তবে ছড়িয়েছে ভীতি।

খাগড়াছড়িতে ৪ বোমা
খাগড়াছড়ি শহরে কালেক্টরেট ভবন, জজ কোর্ট ও শাপলা চত্বরে ৪টি বোমা ফাটে। আহত হন ৪ জন। আহত অবস্থায় আবু মুসাফ নামে একজনকে সন্দেহভাজন হিসেবে গ্রেপ্তার করা হয়েছে।

বাংলাদেশ জুড়ে

৪০০ বিস্ফোরণ

জঙ্গি তাণ্ডবে মৃত ২, জখম
১৫০, সরকারকে হুমকি
সন্ত্রাসী বাংলাভাইয়ের



খালেদা এখন টানে



ফেরার বাংলাভাই

রফিকুল ইসলাম রতন, ঢাকা • তারিক হাসান, কলকাতা • দেবারুণ রায়, দিল্লি

১৭ আগস্ট— বাংলাদেশের প্রধানমন্ত্রী খালেদা জিয়া আজ সকালে চীন সফরে রওনা হওয়ার দু ঘণ্টার মধ্যে দেশ জুড়ে অগুনতি বোমার বিস্ফোরণ ঘটিয়ে নিজেদের দাপট বুঝিয়ে দিল ইসলামি জঙ্গিরা। রাজধানী ঢাকা, যশোর থেকে সিলেট, রংপুর থেকে খাগড়াছড়ি— বাংলাদেশের ৬৪ জেলার ৬৩টিতে আজ আধ ঘণ্টায় অন্তত ৪০০ বোমার বিস্ফোরণে প্রাণ হারিয়েছেন এক শিশু-সহ দুজন। আহত ১৫০ জন। হিংসায় অভ্যস্ত বাংলাদেশেও এমন ঘটনা আগে কখনও ঘটেনি, গোটা বিশ্বের কোনও দেশে ঘটেছে কি না সন্দেহ! ঢাকা-সহ শহরে শহরে বিস্ফোরণস্থল ছিল মন্ত্রীদের

সন্ত্রাসবাদ ছড়িয়ে উত্তর বাংলাদেশে হয়ে উঠেছে মূর্তিমান আতঙ্ক। এক বছরের বেশ কিছু সময় ধরে চেষ্টা চালিয়েও বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ তাকে ধরতে পারেনি। বিস্ফোরণস্থলগুলি থেকে আজ যে প্রচারপত্রগুলি পাওয়া গেছে, তাতে বাংলাদেশে ইসলামি আইন কায়েমের ডাক দেওয়া হয়েছে। বলা হয়েছে, মানুষের আইন মানুষকে শাসন করতে পারে না। পারে আল্লার আইন। প্রচারপত্রে বুশ-ব্রায়ারকে বলা হয়েছে, দুনিয়ার শত্রু। আজ সারা বাংলাদেশ জুড়ে যে বোমাগুলি ফাটানো হয়েছে, তা হাতে তৈরি দেশি বোমা। তবে পুলিশের বিশেষজ্ঞরা বলেছেন, কিছু ক্ষেত্রে বোমায় টাইমার ব্যবহার করা হয়েছে, কিছু ক্ষেত্রে বিস্ফোরণ ঘটানো হয়েছে রিমোট। কোনও বোমারই বিস্ফোরণ ক্ষমতা জোরালো ছিল না, তাই মৃত্যুসংখ্যা বেশি নয়, কোনও ভবন ধ্বংস হয়নি। মুন্সিগঞ্জ ছাড়া আর সব জেলাতেই ফেটেছে বোমা। সরকারকেই সন্ত্রাস্ত করার উদ্দেশ্য ছিল এই বিস্ফোরণের। তাই ঢাকায় উঠেছে প্রশ্ন। কয়েকদিন আগেই ঢাকায় এসেছিলেন ভারতের বিদেশমন্ত্রী নটবর সিং। এ মাসেই ঢাকায় আসার কথা ভারতের বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রী কমলনাথ, পেট্রোলিয়াম মন্ত্রী মণিশঙ্কর আয়ারের। সেপ্টেম্বরের গোড়ায় আসার কথা ভারতের জলসম্পদ মন্ত্রী প্রিয়রঞ্জন দাসমুন্সির। মায়ানমার থেকে ভারতে গ্যাস লাইন আনার ব্যাপারে বাংলাদেশের সঙ্গে কথা হবে। হওয়ার কথা কিছু চুক্তিও। ইসলামি জঙ্গিরা কি সে সব ভেঙে দিতেই এই বিস্ফোরণ ঘটিয়েছে? সামনে নভেম্বরে সার্ক। নিরাপত্তার কারণে এর আগে সার্ক পিছিয়েছে। বাংলাদেশে দৃষ্টিস্তা জেগেছে নভেম্বরের সার্ক নিয়েও। দিল্লিতে বিদেশ মন্ত্রকের মুখপাত্র সতর্কতার সঙ্গে মন্তব্য করেছেন, যেরকম পরিকল্পিতভাবে বাংলাদেশের সর্বত্র বিস্ফোরণ ঘটানো হয়েছে, তাতে অনেক প্রশ্ন উঁকি দিচ্ছে। প্রশ্নগুলি বিশদভাবে জানাননি ওই মুখপাত্র। তবে পশ্চিমবঙ্গ, আসাম, ত্রিপুরার মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর বারবার বাংলাদেশে জঙ্গি ঘাঁটির কথা কেন্দ্রকে বলেছেন। ভারত সরকার তা জানিয়েছে বাংলাদেশকে। বাংলাদেশে পাক গোয়েন্দা চক্র আই এস আইয়ের ঘাঁটির কথাও ঢাকাকে জানিয়েছে দিল্লি। দিল্লিতে বিদেশ মন্ত্রকের মনোভাব, আজকের ঘটনায় তা প্রমাণ হল। কেন্দ্রীয় মন্ত্রীদের

এরপর ৫ পাতায়



আতঙ্কের... বিস্ফোরণের নিষ্ফল প্রচেষ্টায় রাপিসিও অ্যাকশন ব্যাটেলিয়নের বিশেষজ্ঞরা। চট্টগ্রামে। ঢাকায় কড়া পাহারা সচিবালয় ঘিরে। বৃধবার। ছবি: এ এফ পি

সচিবালয়, জেলাশাসকদের দপ্তর, সরকারি ভবন, আদালত ও প্রেস ক্লাবগুলি। ঢাকায় বোমা ফেটেছে সুপ্রিম কোর্ট, জিয়া আন্তর্জাতিক বিমানবন্দর, পাঁচতারা হোটেল চত্বরেও। লক্ষ্য করার মতো ঘটনা হল, শাসক বি এন পি জোট, বিরোধী আওয়ামি লিগ ও তার সহযোগী দলগুলির কোনও দপ্তর কোথাও আজকের বিস্ফোরণের লক্ষ্য হয়নি। স্পষ্টতই বিস্ফোরণের উদ্দেশ্য, সরকারকেই হুমকি দেওয়া। সুপরিকল্পিতভাবে তাই সরকারি ভবন, আদালত চত্বরে বিস্ফোরণ। প্রায় প্রতিটি বিস্ফোরণস্থল থেকেই পাওয়া গেছে আরবি ও বাংলায় ছাপা 'জামাতুল মুজাহিদিন বাংলাদেশ' সংগঠনের প্রচারপত্র। নিষিদ্ধ এই সংগঠনটির বাংলাদেশে নেতৃত্বের দায়িত্ব নিয়েছে 'জাপ্রত মুসলিম জনতার' সন্ত্রাসী নেতা বাংলাভাই। বাংলাদেশের নওগাঁও জেলার সিদ্দিকুর রহমান ওরফে বাংলাভাই গত কয়েক বছর ধরেই ইসলামি

UK cracks down on 'preachers of hate'

SAM KNIGHT

London, Aug. 11: Britain's promised crackdown on the "preachers of hate" began this morning as ten foreign nationals were detained, including Abu Qatada, described as al Qaida's spiritual ambassador in Europe.

Abu Qatada, 44, who is also known as Sheikh Omar Abu Omar, and the other nine foreign nationals were picked up in raids carried out by four police forces, working with the immigration service, sources said. They are in a prison service facility while the home office prepares to deport them.

The home office has not formally confirmed that Abu Qatada is among the detained but Charles Clarke, the home secretary, said the foreign nationals were being held and would be removed for "reasons of national security".

"In accordance with my powers to deport individuals whose presence in the UK is not conducive to the public good for reasons of national security, the immigration service has today detained ten foreign nationals who I believe pose a threat to national security," said Clarke.

"They will be held in secure prison service accommodation and I shall not disclose their names," he said.

"Following months of diplomatic work we now have got reason to believe that we can get the necessary assurances from the countries to which we will return the deportees so that they will not be subject to torture or ill-treatment," Clarke added.

This morning's raids, which were carried out by the immigration service in concert with the Metropolitan Police and forces from Bedford-

shire, Leicestershire and the West Midlands, came just hours after Britain signed a controversial deal with the Jordanian authorities to allow them to deport Abu Qatada back to his homeland, where he has been sentenced to life imprisonment.

Clarke has assurances from Jordan that Abu Qatada's human rights will not be abused and he will not face the death penalty once he is deported.

Abu Qatada was the most high profile of the 12 foreign nationals arrested in the months after the September 11 attacks. They were released in March after the law lords ruled that their detention without charge in Belmarsh high security prison in south-east London contravened their human rights.

Abu Qatada was held for two-and-a-half years before

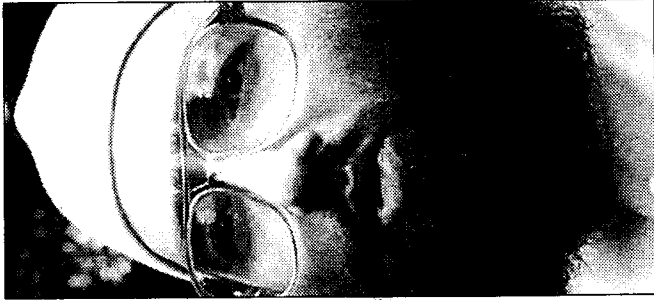
his release on a control order, under which he was denied access to the Internet and forbidden to preach in mosques. He also wore an electronic tag and lived under a strict curfew.

It is unclear how many of the other people detained this morning were among those released from Belmarsh, although reports indicated that as many as half of those picked up today were living under control orders.

In June, Clarke said that 11 men, including Abu Qatada and Mahmoud Suliman Ahmed Abu Ridelh, another Jordanian, were living under control orders. The remaining nine are from Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.

The home office can only deport foreign nationals if the countries that receive them promise not to torture or put them to death.

THE TIMES, LONDON



Omar Bakri Mohammed

11 T-A Cleric held

Beirut, Aug. 11 (Reuters): Lebanese authorities detained British-based radical Muslim cleric Omar Bakri Mohammed today, just days after he arrived in Beirut from London, Lebanese security officials said.

The officials said Bakri was detained by a force from the General Security Directorate (GSD) after he left the news studios of Future Television in Beirut.

A source said he had taped an interview and was heading to another Arab satellite television for another interview when he was picked up.

A GSD spokesman confirmed the detention but refused to comment on the reason. Future Television reported that Bakri was being questioned about how he entered Lebanon.

"Sheikh Bakri was picked up by security forces as he was on his way to a local television station for an interview," a security source said. Bakri, who is Syrian-born, left Britain on Saturday after the British government pledged to silence radical Islamists as part of measures taken after last month's bombings in London.

Bakri, who has lived in Britain for 20 years, used to live in Lebanon and holds Lebanese citizenship. He said on Tuesday he was merely taking a holiday and planned to return to Britain. Associates had said earlier he would not go back.

কাশ্মীরের

বদলা নেব,

হুমকি আল

কায়দার

দু'বাই, ১০ অগস্ট: আশঙ্কাজনক
বোধহয় সত্যিই হতে চলেছে।

কাশ্মীরের চারটি জঙ্গি সংগঠনের সঙ্গে ওসামা বিন লাদেনের আল কায়দার সরাসরি যোগ আছে বলে সম্প্রতি রিপোর্ট দিয়েছে কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রক। তাদের তথ্যে যে ভুল নেই, তার প্রমাণ মিলেছে আজ। একটি তথ্যচিত্রে নিজেকে আল কায়দার সদস্য হিসাবে দাবি করে এক জঙ্গি বলেছে, “খুনের বদলা খুন। তোমরা আমাদের বোমা মেরেছ, এখন আমরা তোমাদের মারব। প্যালেস্তাইন, আফগানিস্তান, কাশ্মীর, ইরাক, ইন্দোনেশিয়ায় তোমরা আমাদের স্বজনকে মারবে, আর আমরা চূপ করে থাকব, এটা হতে পারে না।”

কাশ্মীরের নাম করে আল কায়দার হুমকি এই প্রথম। এবং স্বাভাবিক ভাবেই ঘুম ছুটেছে কেন্দ্রের। তবে তাদের পক্ষে আপাত স্বস্তির কথা এটাই যে, কাশ্মীরের নামোল্লেখ ছাড়া ভারতের নামে সরাসরি আর কিছু বলেনি মুখোশধারী ওই জঙ্গি। তার হুমকির আগাগোড়াই ছিল জর্জ বৃশ ও টনি ব্লেয়ারের উদ্দেশ্যে। একটি আরবি ও একটি অস্ট্রেলীয় টেলিভিশন চ্যানেলে দেখানো দু'ঘণ্টার ওই তথ্যচিত্রে আমেরিকা ও ব্রিটেনকে তুলোথোনা করে বলা হয়েছে, আফগানিস্তানে মার্কিন বাহিনীর উপরে যে কোনও দিন ফের হামলা চালানো হবে। একটি ল্যাপটপ দেখিয়ে সেটি মার্কিন বাহিনীর কাছ থেকে কেড়ে নেওয়া বলে দাবি করেছে জঙ্গিটি।

স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রকের রিপোর্ট অনুযায়ী, ৯/১১-র ঘটনার পর থেকেই ভারতে জাল ছড়াচ্ছে আল কায়দা। কাশ্মীরে হরকত-উল-মুজাহিদিন, জইশ-ই-মহম্মদ, হিজবুল মুজাহিদিন এবং লঙ্কর-ই-তইবা লাদেন বাহিনীর সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ রেখে চলে। তাদের সদস্যেরা আল কায়দার শিবিরে প্রশিক্ষণ পায়। আল কায়দার মদতে দিল্লি-সহ ভারতের বিভিন্ন শহর এবং কাশ্মীরের সীমান্তবর্তী এলাকায় নাশকতা চালানোর ছক কষছে ওই সব সংগঠন। স্কু ভা-ই নয়, মাফিয়া ডন দাউদ ইব্রাহিমও এই বড়যন্ত্রের সঙ্গে জড়িত বলে স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রকের ধারণা।

এই আশঙ্কার মাঝে আজকের তথ্যচিত্র কেন্দ্রীয় গোয়েন্দাদের স্নায়ুচাপ অনেকটাই বাড়িয়ে দিল সন্দেহ নেই। ওই জঙ্গি সত্যিই আল কায়দার সঙ্গে জড়িত কি না, সে ব্যাপারে নিশ্চিত হওয়া যায়নি ঠিকই, কিন্তু এই হুমকিকে উড়িয়েও দিচ্ছে না পশ্চিমী গোয়েন্দা সংস্থাগুলি। লন্ডন আর মিশরে জঙ্গি আক্রমণের পরে এক মাস কাটতে না কাটতেই ‘মার্কিন বাহিনীর উপরে বড়সড় হামলার’ হুমকি নিয়ে তাঁরা চিন্তিত। কারণ, আফগানিস্তানে নির্বাচনের আগেই লাদেনের বাহিনী ফের আঘাত হানতে পারে, এমন আশঙ্কা রয়েইছে।

তাঁদের আরও ভাবাচ্ছে, জঙ্গির উচ্চারণ। তার কথায় অস্ট্রেলীয় টান রয়েছে বলে মনে হচ্ছে গোয়েন্দাদের। তথ্যচিত্রে বলা হয়েছে, ইউরোপীয় জঙ্গিরাও আঘাত হানার জন্য তৈরি হচ্ছে। প্রকাশ্যে অবশ্য বেশি কিছু বলতে রাজি নয় আমেরিকা। কাতারে মার্কিন সেন্ট্রাল কমান্ডের মুখপাত্র বলেন, “তথ্যচিত্রটি দেখিনি, তাই আমাদের পক্ষে এখনই কিছু বলা সম্ভব নয়।” — এ এফ পি, এ পি

Britain bans two militant outfits, tightens terror laws

HSRAO *Gen*
LONDON, AUGUST 5

DESCRIBING the Al Qaeda justification of the London bombings as a "complete obscenity", British Prime Minister Tony Blair unveiled stringent measures to clamp down on terrorism on Friday, even as he announced a ban on two extremist organisations, the Hizb ut-Tahrir and the successor organisation to the Al-Muhajiroun.

Hizb ut-Tahrir spokesman Imran Waheed said the group would fight any ban through the courts.

Speaking at Downing Street, in an apparent reference to Thursday's video message from Al Qaeda number two Ayman al-Zawahri, Blair said, "These are the self-same people who support the killing of wholly innocent people in Iraq (and) Afghanistan.... That is why, when they try to use Iraq or Afghanistan or Palestine as a means of saying 'We



British PM Tony Blair in London on Friday. Reuters

have justification for what we do,' it is a complete obscenity."

Blair also said that consultations were under way to frame guidelines for excluding or deporting persons involved with terrorism. These would include fostering hatred, advocating violence and justifying or validating such violence.

"We will consult on a new power to order the closure of a place of worship which is used as a centre for fomenting extremism," Blair said, "and will consult with Muslim leaders in respect of those clerics who

are not British citizens, to draw up a list of those not suitable to preach."

New anti-terror legislation is expected later this year, which envisages making an offence of condoning or glorifying terrorism, applicable worldwide, not just in the UK.

Anyone who has participated in terrorism or has anything to do with it anywhere would automatically be refused asylum.

"We already have powers to strip citizenship from those individuals who act in a way that is contrary to the interests of this country. We will now consult on extending these powers.... Let no one be in any doubt that the rules of the games are changing," Blair said.

Commending the British public for responding with tolerance to the London terror attacks, the Prime Minister added that that tolerance was in danger of being stretched. —PTI

06 AUG 2005

INDIAN EXPRESS

Death for main accused, reprieve for three others

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, August 4

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday upheld the death penalty on a militant who attacked Parliament four years ago, but reduced the sentence on an accomplice. Mohd Afzal, a Jaish-e-Mohammed militant, faces death while his cousin Shaukat Hussain Guru's sentence was reduced to 10 years' imprisonment.

The Supreme Court also endorsed the acquittal of Afzal's wife Afsan Guru and Delhi lecturer S.A.R. Geelani. The court agreed that Geelani's role was suspect but said there was no direct evidence to convict him.

The four had earlier appeared in a trial court and then in Delhi High Court before the matter went to the apex court. The Delhi police wanted the acquittals overturned, but the court not only upheld these but also relaxed one of the death sentences.

Only Afzal was awarded the death sentence each time. Supreme Court judges P.V. Reddi and P.P. Naolekar said there was not even a shred of doubt about his role in the attack. "The collective conscience of the society will be satisfied only if the death penalty is awarded to Afzal," the Bench said.

Shaukat got a fresh lease of life, having been awarded death on both earlier occasions. The Supreme Court said he apparently had known of the conspiracy but had not been involved in the actual attack. It gave him a jail term for not disclosing what he knew to the authorities. Shaukat was also fined Rs 25,000; in case of default, he will have to spend an extra year in jail.

Afsan, initially sentenced to five years in jail, had been acquitted by the Delhi High Court. The apex court endorsed her acquittal, but had a lot to say about Geelani, a lecturer in Zakir Hussain College.

Geelani had been awarded death in the first trial before being acquitted by the High Court. The Supreme Court said a spectre of suspicion hung over him because of his behaviour at the time of the attack and the "false statements" he gave to the police. "But suspicion alone is not sufficient to convict a person," Reddi said.

The reprieve was lost on Geelani, who termed as "unnecessary" the court's remark that his conduct after the incident was suspect. "I have not gone through the judgment, yet I think that these were unnecessary remarks. The High Court had said I was not even remotely connected with the conspiracy," he said.

"Naturally, I am happy to be a free man, but I don't

think acquittal of an innocent man is a cause for celebration. I think it is a time for reflection on why I was sentenced to death in the first place," he said.

Shaukat's advocate Shanti Bhushan said the 10-year sentence was surprising, given that the offence was not disclosing the conspiracy to attack Parliament. The advocate was upset that the court had not summoned him to hear his arguments on this charge.

Afzal's advocate Sushil Kumar said, "My client should have been treated on a par with Shaukat, but the Supreme Court awarded death to him while relaxing the sentence on Shaukat."

Cycle of JUSTICE

- **DEC 2001** Trial court awards death to Afzal, Shaukat and Geelani, 5 years jail to Afsan
- **OCT 2003** Delhi High Court upholds death penalty to Afzal and Shaukat, acquits Geelani and Afsan
- **AUG 2005** Supreme Court upholds death penalty to Afzal, reduces Shaukat's sentence to 10 years' imprisonment, upholds acquittal of Geelani and Afsan



S.A.R. Geelani Acquitted but suspect



Mohammed Afzal Death upheld



Shaukat Guru Relaxed to 10-year RI



Afsan Guru Acquittal upheld

0 = AUG 2005

Osama deputy threatens more attacks

VIJAY Dutt & Agencies
Cairo/London, August 4

AL-QAIDA DEPUTY leader Ayman al-Zawahri threatened more attacks in London on a videotape aired on the pan-Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera on Thursday. He said that British Prime Minister Tony Blair would be the reason for them. Al-Zawahri also threatened the US with tens of thousands of military dead if it does not withdraw its troops from Iraq immediately. The tape was delivered exactly one month after the July 7 bombings in London that killed 56 people, including four suicide attackers.

"Blair has brought to you destruction in central London, and he will bring more of that, God willing," al-Zawahri said in the tape, referring to the July 7 and July 21 attacks on London's tubes and buses.

In London, Blair's Downing Street office declined to comment on the broadcast.

Al-Zawahri, an Egyptian doctor who merged his militant faction with that of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan in the late 1990s, spoke with a Kalashnikov rifle propped up behind his right shoulder against a plain background. He has been in hiding since the US invaded Afghanistan in late 2001.

The warning came with London already in a panic after two attacks on successive Thursdays. On the fourth Thursday after July 7, the Metropolitan Police were out in full force to reassure jittery commuters. Over 6,000 officers, many armed, patrolled stations and key sites, as the Piccadilly Line finally reopened a month after a train on it was bombed.

"We are using all the resources we can possibly muster to reassure Londoners and to prevent another attack," said Detective Chief Constable Andy Trotter. The police were doubly busy this Thursday as the first person



A TV grab from Al-Jazeera shows Ayman al-Zawahri warning the West to expect more attacks.

charged in connection with the attacks was due in court.

An Algerian, 23-year-old Ismael Abdurahman of Newport Street, Kensington, south-east London, was produced before the Bow Street Magistrates' Court charged under the Terrorism Act in relation to the failed attacks in London on 21 July. Arrested on 28 July, he is accused of withholding information that may have helped catch a person involved in terrorism. The allegation is understood to relate to the Shepherd's Bush bombing, with suspect Osman Hussain currently being held in Italy. A

further 14 people are being held in connection with the attacks.

Sources told HT that a high-visibility police presence in the capital on Thursday was aimed at making the public feel safe, while undercover officers mingled with passengers on the Underground and on buses trying to spot would-be bombers. Although the police had received no intelligence about another attack, all leave had been cancelled and detectives drafted into uniform.

"This is the biggest threat London has faced in peacetime and we have to throw all our resources into it," said Detective

Chief Constable Andy Trotter. "It's extremely costly, there is no doubt about it. The budget is under enormous pressure and operationally there is pressure. But, we will continue as long as it is necessary."

But the good news was that all stations on the tube network were finally open, with the Piccadilly Line reopening and the Circle Line beginning a limited service.

"It's a very poignant moment today," said Detective Chief Constable Trotter. "Today is part of getting London back to normality although it will be a different normality from before."

London bombs were homemade: NYPD

HTC & Agencies
New York/Rome, August 4

THE LONDON suicide bombers cooked up their explosives using mundane items like hydrogen peroxide. They stored them in a fancy commercial refrigerator that was out of place in their grimy apartment. And cell phones were probably used to set the bombs off. Those details from the bombing emerged on Wednesday at a briefing given by the New York Police Department to city business leaders — part of a programme designed to encourage more vigilance by private security at American business centres.

"Initially it was thought that perhaps the materials were high-end military explosives that were smuggled, but it turns out not to be the case. It's more like these terrorists went to a hardware store or some beauty supply store," police commissioner Raymond Kelly said.

Investigators believe the bombers used a peroxide-based explosive called HMDT, or hexamethylene triperoxide diamine. HMDT can be made using ordinary ingredients like hydrogen peroxide (hair bleach), citric acid (a common food preservative) and heat tablets (sometimes used by the military for cooking). HMDT degrades at room temperature, so the bombers preserved it in a way that offered an early warning sign, said Michael Sheehan, deputy commissioner of counter terrorism at the US's largest police department.

"In the flophouse where this was built in Leeds, they had commercial grade refrigerators to

FOLLOW UP Terror trail

keep the materials cool," Sheehan said, describing the setup as "an indicator of a problem."

Even the bombs used in the botched July 21 attacks were homemade. Hussain Osman, one of the suspect bombers, has claimed that the device in his rucksack was nothing more than a flour bomb.

Osman told his government-appointed Italian lawyer that he had no intention of killing anyone. He is supposed to have stated that he had never killed anyone and had never even dreamt of carrying out a suicide bombing attack. "I love life", he said. "I made a mistake and if I could turn the clock back I would not do it again."

Osman was arrested by the Italian police and is being held in Rome. Britain has requested that Osman be handed over to them. His lawyer Antonietta Sonnessa said that she would fight attempts to extradite her client to Britain. She claimed that he intended to make a "demonstrative gesture" only. "What he said is that there were harmless materials, that is, flour. And then there was (the detonator) to make it explode — but only to create a bang."

But Scotland Yard dismissed the claim and said the bombs would have caused carnage but for one mistake in their configuration. The British Embassy is confident that Osman will be extradited by December.

UP police suspects SIMI hand in Shramjeevi blast

Sketches Released; Investigations Reveal Ammonium Nitrate Was Used In The Explosives

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Investigating agencies probing the Shramjeevi Express blast suspect the hand of banned Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) in the incident.

Additional DG, GRP, V K Bhalla told reporters, "This blast matches the modus operandi of the SIMI operations of the past." He said the type of explosive used strongly indicated that it was the handiwork of SIMI.

He, however, added that it was too early to say anything

conclusively as the investigation was in progress with the help of the Special Task Force (STF) and the state intelligence agencies.

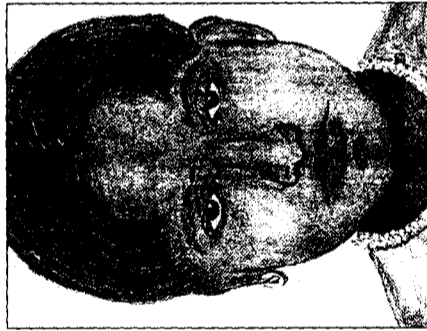
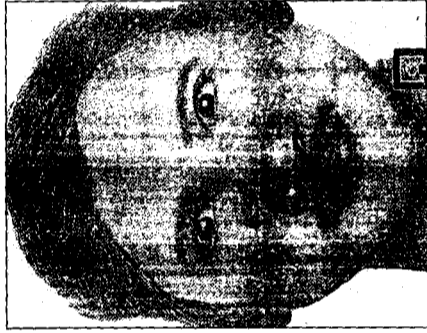
While releasing the sketches of two of the four suspects, the ADG said that sketches of the remaining two were being prepared and would be released soon. He said as per the description given by the eyewitnesses, one of the suspects was tall, fair, wearing ear studs and "resembled cine actor Salman Khan."

The other one was short and dark complexioned. Both of them were around 30 years of

age. In reply to a question Bhalla said the eyewitnesses told the sleuths that the language they were conversing in suggested that they belonged to eastern Uttar Pradesh.

The ADG said that the forensic lab report has established that ammonium nitrate mixed with mobil oil was detonated with the help of a timer device.

Bhalla said the suspects had boarded the train at Varanasi and when they failed to stop the train by pulling the chain, all of them jumped out of the running train into a pond when the train slowed down.



Egypt gives Osama clean chit on blasts

Cairo: The Egyptian prime minister has given a clean chit to Osama bin Laden and his network at least with regard to the July 23 terrorist attacks in Sharm el Sheikh, saying he has seen no evidence of possible al-Qaida involvement in these blasts. Instead, he said, the Bedouin outcasts might be responsible for the violence in the resort town.

"It doesn't look this way," Ahmed Nazif told CNN.

He said although Egypt has been subject to 'a lot' of terrorist attacks, none have been related to al-Qaida in the past. The suicide bombings July 23 killed 84 people, including at least two bombers, and wounded more than 200 others.

"That kind of method of operation has not been typical to Egypt before. To do this, you have to have some cooperation of locals, such as the tribesmen in Sinai, and that's the main assumption we're working on right now," Nazif said from Alexandria.

Egyptian security has already linked a series of bomb blasts in the Red Sea resort of Taba that killed 34 people last October to the Bedouins, he said, and it is suspected that they were involved in the action in Sharm el Sheikh as well.

Nazif described most of the Bedouins in Sinai as 'really peaceful people', but said some tribal outcasts — typically in their teens and early 20s — "are the ones that seem to be carrying out these violent acts."

Nazif said he had no indication that the terrorists are pursuing a larger agen-



OTHER NAME OF TERROR:
Osama bin Laden

da, but acknowledged that Egyptian officials simply do not know. "The difficult thing about this is that you really don't have a dialogue with these people."

Asked whether Egypt is less safe as a result of the US-led invasion of Iraq that toppled Saddam Hussein, Nazif said: "That's a difficult question. We can see that acts of violence are definitely increasing. Whether that is directly related to the invasion or not is anybody's guess." Agencies

Qaida funded Jakarta Aussie mission attack'

Canberra: Terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden bankrolled the bombing of the Australian embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia in retaliation for Australia sending troops to Iraq, an alleged terrorist has told police, media reports say.

A truck bomb killed 10 people when it blew up at the fortified gates of the embassy on September 9 during Australia's election campaign last year. None of the victims was Australians.

A newspaper and Australia's national broadcaster reported on Monday that a transcript of Indonesian police interviews with the alleged plot leader Rois after he was arrested in November.

Rois told police that according to Malaysian bomb maker Azahari bin Husin, bin Laden had used a courier to send Australian \$10,000 (\$7,558) to pay for the bombing, *The Australian* reported.

Rois, a 30-year-old trader from West Java, said the embassy was targeted because of Australian involvement in the Iraq war. AP

Police arrest two brothers of suspect in Italy

Rome, July 31

France cracks down on radical imams

FRENCH AUTHORITIES have started cracking down on radical imams, who are accused of inciting young Muslims to violence. Tough-talking interior minister, Nicolas Sarkozy, has launched a series of measures he says will show "zero tolerance" for Muslim clerics who preach violence and recruit young men for jihad, or holy war. In just a week, two imams out of about a dozen threatened with either expulsion or losing their French nationality were sent back to Algeria.

AFP, Islamabad

Foreigners in Pak madrasas to leave

Hundreds of foreign students in Pakistan's Islamic seminaries are preparing to go home in line with an expulsion order from President Pervez Musharraf. Most of these students plan to finish their studies in seminaries in their own countries.

AFP, Islamabad

Zambia suspect

Zambia has decided to hand over the Briton of Indian origin who is in their custody. Haroon Aswat is allegedly the mastermind behind the July 7 London bombings but police refused comment.

AP, London

7 nabbed in UK

Police have arrested seven more people from Sussex in southern England

AP, London

ITALIAN POLICE on Sunday arrested another brother of a London bombings suspect detained in Rome, who reportedly told the police that the failed attacks on July 21 were fuelled by the Iraq war and hatred of Westerners. Hamdi Issac, 27, an Ethiopian-born naturalised Briton also known as Osman Hussain, remained in police custody in the Italian capital for a third day, and has vowed to fight his extradition to Britain.

He is suspected of planting one of the four bombs that failed to go off on London's transport system on July 21, in a virtual carbon copy of the attacks that claimed 56 lives, among them four bombers, on July 7.

In northern Italy, anti-terrorist police were interrogating Osman's brother Fati, who was arrested on Sunday in the town of Brescia on suspicion of having hidden or destroyed documents considered important by investigators. Another brother, Remzi, was arrested in Rome on Friday. He was accused of having sheltered Osman and of holding fake documents in his shop in the capital. The police tracked down both brothers after Osman called them by on his mobile as he was fleeing Britain on July 26.

Using his phone records, Italian investigators have uncovered a network of people originally from Ethiopia and Eritrea who are thought to have helped Osman cover his tracks, interior minister Giuseppe Pisanu said. "We are watching very closely the evolving situation in the Horn of Africa, where in areas that are outside of state control, Al-Qaida has set up bases and is trying, by various means, to send its followers to Europe and the rest of the world," Pisanu said.

During his interrogation, Osman was reported in the Italian media to have denied any link to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, or to the four July 7 suicide bombers, three of whom were Britons of Pakistani origin. He defended the London bombings as retaliation for the bloodshed caused by the Iraq war, according to the daily *La Repubblica*.

AFP



Nicaraguan-born Bianca Jagger, ex-wife of Rolling Stones lead singer Mick Jagger, joins Alessandro Periera after a requiem mass for his cousin — Brazilian national Jean Charles de Menezes who was shot dead by the police — at Westminster Cathedral in London.

Third terror cell primed for attack

VIJAY Dutt
London, July 31

FEAR INTENSIFIED among commuters with reports that a third Islamist terror cell was planning multiple suicide bomb attacks in tube trains and other soft targets in central London. Another report revealed that over 300 potential fanatics were identified during the hunt for the London bombers. The police strength has been accordingly increased to monitor those iden-

tified as potential bombers. A Whitehall source said: "We have to remember that the London suicide bombers were British Muslims, not foreign terrorists sent to the UK by al-Qaida. These atrocities were planned not in some Afghan cave but on the streets of Leeds". He stressed greater focus on home-grown terrorists and their local support groups. It was of the utmost urgency to find out about their support network from the arrested suspects, he admitted and revealed they were be-

ing questioned at the high-security Paddington police station to find out about the "brain, money and ideology that made the attacks happen". Scores of intelligence operatives, police detectives and forensic scientists are working round the clock to locate and identify the mastermind and as well as the source for the funds required by the attackers for shelters and for training in the art of making bombs. This may be key to the size and shape of the support

networks, said sources. The anti-terrorist unit officers are sure that the attackers and the potential attackers "are surrounded by sympathisers, bankers and bomb-makers". The radicalisation of inmates in prisons is also being looked into. Richard Reid, the shoe-bomber who tried to blow up an American passenger jetliner, was converted while serving time in a prison. There are 6,000 Muslim inmates and 130 imams in the 138 prisons in Britain.

Bag of fake passports found at Heathrow

London, July 31

BRITISH ANTI-TERRORIST police were on Sunday examining an abandoned bag which could be a "potential terrorist goldmine", containing forged documents such as 19 fake passports including for Pakistani, Indian and Nepali nationals and bogus identity cards. The bag found in the Heathrow airport was stuffed with visas, forged Home Office documents, bank cards and work permits, and is being thoroughly examined by top anti-terrorist cops after being handed over by British tabloid *News of the World*.

Its discovery came as sources revealed that the July 7 and 21 bombers may only be a small part of a pyramid structure of al-Qaida cells operating in UK. The fear is the holdall is a "terror kit" meant to assist future bombers get in and out of the country.

The bag — with a Qatar Airways luggage tag — was spotted on the grass verge of a busy airport route by a passing taxi driver who found 19 passports inside — for Pakistani, Indian, British, Nepalese and South African nationals. Some of the documents and letters in the bag were linked to north London, Leeds and Dewsbury — all at the centre of anti-terrorist investigations since the July 7 attacks, the tabloid said.

According to the report, several of the passports contained fake visas in different shades of ink from genuine documents. Photographs of the same two men appear on different valid passports in different names. The first man, a burly Asian, is on two Indian passports in different names. The second man is on a Pakistani passport and a Portuguese passport in different names.

PTI

জেহাদের নূতন লক্ষ্য

কাশ্মীরের সীমান্ত দিয়া সন্ত্রাসবাদী অনুপ্রবেশের ঝড় শুরু হইয়া গিয়াছে, এমন কথা মনে করিবার যথেষ্ট কারণ রহিয়াছে। কয়েক দিন আগে সেনাবাহিনী জানাইয়াছিল, বরফ গলার সময় হইতে জঙ্গি অনুপ্রবেশের হারও বৃদ্ধি পাইবে। সতাই, গুরেজ সীমান্ত বরাবর জঙ্গিদের এক বিরাট দল পাক ভূখণ্ড হইতে ভারতে অনুপ্রবেশের চেষ্টা করে। সেনাবাহিনী সে অপপ্রয়াস বানচাল করিয়া দিলেও ফাঁক-ফোকরে অনুপ্রবেশ যে চলিতেছে, কাশ্মীর উপত্যকায় জঙ্গি হামলার প্রকোপে তাহার স্পষ্ট সংকেত। জেহাদিরা কখনও হোটেলের সামনে, কখনও স্কুলবাড়ির সামনে হানা দিতেছে। তাহারা সাধারণ মানুষদেরও হত্যা করিতেছে। আবার সেনাবাহিনীও ভুল করিয়া জঙ্গি সন্দেহে নিরীহদের মারিয়া ফেলিতেছে। সেনারা তবু অন্তত ভুল স্বীকার করিয়া মার্জনা প্রার্থনা করে, জঙ্গিদের সে সবেবর বালাই নাই।

জঙ্গিরা যে পাকিস্তানের নিরাপদ ঘাঁটি ও প্রশিক্ষণকেন্দ্র হইতেই কাশ্মীরে ঢুকিতেছে, ইহাতে সন্দেহ নাই। পাকিস্তান কিন্তু ক্রমাগত জঙ্গি শিবির নষ্ট করিয়া দিবার দাবি জানাইতেছে। যখন ব্রিটেনে সংঘটিত বিস্ফোরণের জন্যও পাক জেহাদিদের দিকে অভিযোগের অঙ্গুলি উঠিতেছে, তখনও প্রেসিডেন্ট পারভেজ মুশারফ দায় স্বীকারে অসম্মত। তিনি অবশ্য ইসলামি মৌলবাদ শিক্ষার কেন্দ্র মাদ্রাসাগুলির উপর কড়া কড়ি করার কথা বলিতেছেন। কিন্তু এই সব কঠোর ব্যবস্থাপত্র ফলপ্রসূ হওয়ার লক্ষণ নাই। অন্তত কাশ্মীরে পাকিস্তান হইতে জঙ্গি অনুপ্রবেশের স্রোত অব্যাহত, বস্তুত বেগবান। এ ব্যাপারে পাকিস্তানের উপর চাপ বাড়াইবার প্রয়োজন অনস্বীকার্য। জঙ্গিরা কেবল কাশ্মীর উপত্যকায় হানাদারি কেন্দ্রীভূত রাখিয়াছে, এমনও নয়। অযোধ্যায় বিতর্কিত ধর্মস্থানে তাহাদের আত্মঘাতী হামলা এবং দিল্লি ক্যান্টনমেন্টে চত্বরের প্রধান ফটকের বাহিরে আকস্মিক হানা দেখাইয়া দেয়, তাহারা অন্যত্রও ছড়াইয়া পড়িয়াছে। এক বার কাশ্মীর উপত্যকায় ঢুকিয়া পড়িলে জনারণ্যে মিশিয়া গিয়া দেশের নানা স্থানে ছড়াইয়া পড়া কঠিন কিছু নয়। পাকিস্তানের সহিত ভারতের শান্তি-আলোচনা যত অগ্রসর হইবে এবং কাশ্মীর সমস্যার শান্তিপূর্ণ মীমাংসার সম্ভাবনা যত উজ্জ্বল হইবে, জঙ্গিরা যে ততই মরিয়া হইয়া উঠিবে, ইহা স্বাভাবিক। যদি উপমহাদেশের বিরোধ মিটিয়া যায়, কাশ্মীর সমস্যার নিষ্পত্তি হইয়া যায়, তবে তাহাদের অস্তিত্বই তো সঙ্কটাপন্ন হইয়া পড়িবে।

সম্ভবত সে জন্যই তাহারা খলিস্তানি জঙ্গিদের অস্তিম কৌশলটি অবলম্বন করিয়াছে। বাছিয়া বাছিয়া রাজ্যের সংখ্যালঘুদের হত্যা করিতে শুরু করিয়াছে। হিন্দু গরিষ্ঠতার দেশ ভারতে কাশ্মীরই একমাত্র মুসলিম-গরিষ্ঠ রাজ্য, হিন্দুরা এখানে পঞ্জাবের মতোই সংখ্যালঘু। জঙ্গি তৎপরতার প্রথম যুগেই হিন্দু পণ্ডিত পরিবারগুলি উপত্যকা ছাড়িয়া জম্মু সহ অন্যত্র শরণার্থী হয়। কিছু কাল আগে ছরিয়ত সম্মেলনের নরমপঞ্জী গোষ্ঠীটি সেই উদ্বাস্তু পণ্ডিতদের প্রতিনিধিদের শ্রীনগরের দলীয় সদর দফতরে আমন্ত্রণ করিয়া আলোচনায় বসেন। অথচ জঙ্গিরা রঞ্জোরিতে পাঁচ নিরীহ হিন্দু মেম্বারকে গলা কাটিয়া হত্যা করিয়াছে। এ ধরনের সাম্প্রদায়িক হত্যাকাণ্ডের লক্ষ্য একটাই। সংখ্যালঘু জনগোষ্ঠীর মধ্যে পাল্টা সাম্প্রদায়িক বিদ্বেষ ও জিঘাংসা সৃষ্টি করা। উগ্র হিন্দুত্ববাদীরা তো এ ধরনের প্ররোচনার জন্য অপেক্ষা করিয়াই থাকে। পরে সুযোগ মতো পাল্টা আক্রমণে যাইতে গোটা সাম্প্রদায়িক উস্কানি দেয়। ইন্দিরা-হত্যার পরবর্তী শিখ-বিরোধী দাঙ্গায় ইহা লক্ষ করা গিয়াছে। 'কাশ্মীরিয়ত' বলিতে একদা যে সাম্প্রদায়িক সৌহার্দ্যকে বুঝাইত, উপত্যকা হইতে পণ্ডিত পরিবারগুলির বিতাড়ন তাহাকে অনেকাংশে দূষিত করিয়াছে। সে জন্যই শুভবুদ্ধিসম্পন্ন ছরিয়ত নেতারা তাঁহাদের প্রত্যাবর্তনের অনুকূল পরিবেশ রচনায় উদ্যোগী। তাহা বুঝিয়াই সম্ভবত জেহাদি জঙ্গিরা বাছিয়া বাছিয়া হিন্দু মেম্বারদের হত্যা করিল। জেহাদিরা যে কাশ্মীরের মঙ্গলকামী নয়, তাহার আরও প্রমাণ দরকার? সরকার ও প্রশাসনকে অতএব সতর্ক-সজাগ থাকিতে হইবে। জঙ্গি-দমনই একমাত্র কাজ নয়, সেই সঙ্গে জঙ্গি প্ররোচনাও সচেতনভাবে বানচাল করিতে হইবে।

01 AUG 2005 41

India maps 55 Pak terror camps

By Rajat Pandit/TNN

New Delhi: With the jihadi factory in Pakistan once again under the spotlight after the London and Egypt bombings, Gen Pervez Musharraf is facing international heat again to tackle the menace. If he needs help in detecting the terror camps, here it is in full detail.

The lowdown on the 55 jihadi training camps is based on impeccable intelligence from the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Military Intelligence (MI), with supporting evidence in the form of photographs, radio intercepts, interrogation reports and the like.

What's significant is that the list of the camps, accessed by TOI, show they are spread all over Pakistan and not limited to Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) alone, the fictionally "independent" area



Shehzad Tanweer, who brings up the rear in this security camera snap of the suspected London bombers, is believed to have been trained in one of the camps

for which Islamabad desisted from taking responsibility before January 6, 2004.

While 29 such camps are located in PoK, 15 or more are in the North West Frontier Province. Another seven are in Punjab,

three in the Northern Areas of Gilgit-Baltistan, and one in Sindh. "Some of these camps are makeshift and can quickly be translocated to other parts to escape international scrutiny. Many of these camps had gone into hibernation after the US operations in Afghanistan. But they have now been revived," said an official.

These training camps send out jihadis to not only Kashmir and other parts of India, but to terror targets worldwide. For instance, one of the London suicide bombers, Shehzad Tanweer, is believed to have undergone training at one such camp in Muridike, near Lahore.

The well-established camps in PoK include those in Kotli, Khuiretta, Rawlakot, Bagh, Halan-shumali, Garhi Dupatta, Nikial, Sensa, Aliabad and Deolian.

► Anti-terror pledge broken: India, P 9

Anti-terror pledge breached: India

By Rajat Pandit/TNN

New Delhi: Some "new" terror camps have sprung up across the border, at Palani, Palak and Kund, apart from the "reopened" camps at Samani, Dudhinal and Fagosh.

"While some of these have a mix of cadres from JeM, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Hizbul Mujahideen, al-Badr, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, al-Barq and other 'tanzims', others are restricted to one outfit," an official said.

The North West Frontier Province is another hotbed for all this. The densely-forested hilly Manshera region, in particular, houses several madrasas, which also act as training camps. The Jangal Mangal camp, for instance, is a relatively large one, housing over 150 militants, primarily from Hizbul Mujahideen.

The camps in Punjab are located in Muridke, Tilla, Shakergarh, Jhelum and even in and around big cities like Rawalpindi (Chakala), Gujranwala (Zaffar Iqbal Baiwa) and Lahore (Changa Manga).

The Northern Areas, in turn, have camps in Gultari, Tarkuti and Skardu, while the

Tanda Allabyar camp is located in Sindh. "Our reports show the Gultari and Tarkuti camps have 30 to 40 trainees of Hizbul Mujahideen each," he said.

Indian authorities here feel that the list signifies a clear breach of the anti-terror pledge that Musharraf had signed on in order to engage India. Although they continue to maintain that they would still like to persevere with the peace process, the disappointment with Pakistan has already sapped New Delhi's enthusiasm and might force it to tread the path with excessive caution.

India has already concern to Pakistan about the drastic spike in infiltration along the Line of Control over the last two months. In July alone, the Army killed over 50 terrorists trying to sneak into J&K.

"The number of terrorists in these camps, to receive arms and explosive training, is estimated to be between 2,000 and 2,500. Apart from training, jihadis for Jammu and Kashmir; these camps often also house terrorists headed for other parts of the world," said a senior official.

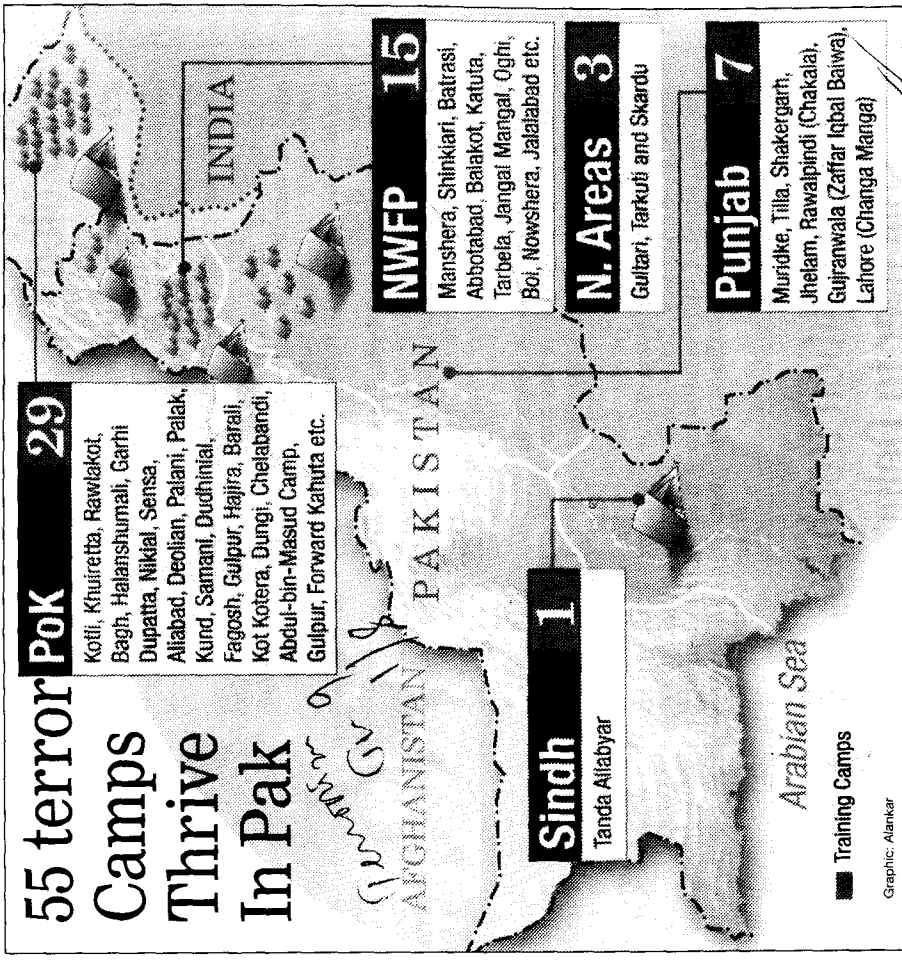
55 terror POK 29
Camps Thrive In Pak
 Kotli, Khurettta, Rawlakot, Bagh, Halanshumali, Garhi Dupatta, Nikkal, Sensa, Aliabad, Deoliar, Palani, Palak, Kund, Samani, Dudhinal, Fagosh, Gulpur, Hajira, Barali, Kot kotera, Dungi, Chelabandi, Abdul-bin-Masud Camp, Gulpur, Forward Karuta etc.

Sindh 1
 Tanda Allabyar

NWFP 15
 Manshera, Shinkari, Batrasi, Abbotabad, Balakot, Katuta, Tarbela, Jangal Mangal, Oghi, Boi, Nowshera, Jalalabad etc.

N. Areas 3
 Gultari, Tarkuti and Skardu

Punjab 7
 Muridke, Tilla, Shakergarh, Jhelam, Rawalpindi (Chakala), Gujranwala (Zaffar Iqbal Baiwa), Lahore (Changa Manga)



■ Training Camps
 Graphic: Alankar