

'Pakistan must rein in terrors to keep peace process alive'

Indian PM says Mumbai bombings had support from across border

AFP, AP, Mumbai

India's premier Friday warned it will be hard to make peace with Pakistan unless it cracks down on militants, and said those behind the deadly Mumbai train bombings had support "from across the border".

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Pakistan had promised in 2004 that it would not allow territory under its control to be used to "promote, encourage, and abet terrorist elements directed against India."

"That assurance has to be fulfilled before the peace process and other processes make progress," he told a news conference after visiting victims in hospital of Tuesday's blasts, which killed 179 people and wounded nearly 800 in Mumbai, India's financial capital.

Nuclear-armed India and Pakistan have been engaged in a slow-moving peace process since January 2004 to settle all disputes, including over the thorny issue of Kashmir, which has sparked two of their three wars.

"We are certain these terror modules are instigated and supported by elements across the borders without which they cannot act with such devastating effect," Singh said.

"They clearly want to destroy our growing economic strength, destroy our unity and provoke communal disunity," he added.

"The time has come to crack down on and destroy all these anti-national elements. We will leave no stone unturned."

Singh's strong tone was in contrast to his televised address earlier this week to the nation in which he said only that India would wage an unrelenting fight against terrorism and did not mention Pakistan by name.

Indian authorities named three suspects in this week's train bombings, an apparent breakthrough in the frenetic investigations into the well-coordinated attacks that killed at least 200 people.

On Friday Mumbai police said a man known only as Rahil was being sought in connection with the blasts but gave no more details.

The government's Anti-Terror Squad on Thursday issued photos of two young, lightly bearded men identified as Sayyad Zabiuddin and Zulfiqar Fayyaz, said Sunil Mane, an anti-terror official.

Officials did not provide their nationalities, and it wasn't clear where the photos had set up a wing in Kashmir, where Muslim militants have been fighting for independence or union with overwhelmingly Muslim Pakistan.

Pakistan, which described the blasts as "despicable," has warned New Delhi not to blame it in a "knee-jerk" fashion for the attack.

It says it has taken action since 2004 to curb guerrilla violence against India.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said Thursday his country would support India's probe into this week's bomb blasts in Mumbai that killed some 200 people.

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Garment Sramik Oikya Forum holds a rally at Muktagong in the capital demanding implementation of their agreement with the authorities and release of the arrested workers' leaders yesterday.



Cultural activists form a human chain in Chittagong New Market area demanding re-investigation of the Udichi murder case yesterday.

MUMBAI BLASTS Pakistan terms report on phone calls 'frivolous'

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan yesterday said reports that Indian police are tracing telephone calls to Pakistan and Bangladesh following the Mumbai train bombings were "frivolous".

But the foreign office reiterated President Pervez Musharraf's offer to support the probe into Tuesday's coordinated attacks on India's commercial hub, which killed 179 people.

"These reports or charges are simply frivolous," foreign office spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam told AFP.

The Times of India reported Friday that a telephone call traced by intelligence services from the southern Pakistani city of Karachi to the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka said "congratulations".

Another caller contacted his mother in Karachi from a public call box saying he was fine but could not disclose his location — and swiftly hung up, the newspaper said.

India and Pakistan have already exchanged diplomatic barbs amid speculation that Pakistan-based Kashmiri militant groups may have had a hand in the Mumbai attacks, India's deadliest in more than a decade.

Pakistan was ready to cooperate with the investigation if India would share information and evidence, said the foreign office's Aslam.

"Our stand is what President Pervez Musharraf has already said — that we would support India's probe into the bomb blasts," he said.

A senior police official in Karachi said they were ready to look into the telephone calls if necessary.

"If someone has contacted his mother in Karachi from Mumbai after the bomb blast saying he is fine, it's nothing but natural. If there is anything else we are ready to help," he told AFP on condition of anonymity.

US vetoes UN resolution to halt Gaza offensive

Israel steps up assault, 76 killed so far

AFP, Gaza City

Israel pressed on with its air assault on Gaza yesterday in a bid to retrieve a soldier abducted nearly three weeks ago and stop rocket attacks but troops withdrew from the centre of the territory.

The continued offensive came as the United States vetoed a UN resolution calling on Israel to halt its military operations in Gaza, as the Security Council prepared for an emergency debate on escalating violence in Lebanon.

The air force carried out at least two overnight raids, while ground artillery and naval gunboats pounded the north and south of the Palestinian territory as part of its campaign to secure the release of Corporal Gilad Shalit.

One raid struck the house of an MP for the governing Palestinian movement Hamas, whose administration has been directly targeted in the offensive, in Beit Lahiya in north Gaza, and a bridge in the central part of the territory.

At least 76 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier have now been killed since Israel stepped up a ground assault on Gaza July 5 in a bid to retrieve Shalit, snatched in a deadly raid on June 25, and stop Palestinian rocket attacks.

Three rockets fired from Gaza exploded in the southern Israeli town of Sderot on Friday but caused no damage or any casualties, the military said.

The armed wing of radical movement Islamic Jihad claimed to have fired one rocket on Sderot in response to continued Israeli "aggression".

One Palestinian was killed late Thursday when a tank fired a shell at a vehicle moving towards Israeli forces stationed in the Qarara in southern Gaza.

But tanks and armoured jeeps positioned in the centre near the Deir al-Balah refugee camp and the town of Khan Yunis withdrew from the area Friday, witnesses and the army said.

Ahmed al-Kurd, the Hamas mayor of Deir al-Balah, said at least 30 hectares of farmland and orchard, largely olive trees, were badly damaged by the Israeli troops in the town and around 20 homes partially or entirely destroyed.

"There is a lot of damage to Salaheddin street (the main road running north and south in the Gaza Strip). We are trying to repair it but that won't be easy," said Khan Yunis governor Osama Farra.

An army spokeswoman said the only place where Israeli ground forces remain in Gaza is in Dahaniya, in the south, near the former international airport that was destroyed by the army after the second Palestinian uprising erupted.

The pullback came after Israel's chief ally the United States vetoed a UN resolution urging Israel to halt military operations in Gaza, condemning the assault and calling for the immediate withdrawal of its troops.

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BODIES IN BARRELS One identified as iron trader from Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The identity of one of the three bodies found inside barrels in front of Pre-cast Concrete Industries Ltd at Mehrbari in Mymensingh on Thursday was revealed yesterday.

The identified dead Habib Hawlader, 45, was an iron trader who hailed from Hatkholaipatti of Barisal.

Police had recovered the three bodies sliced into 18 pieces and stashed inside barrels in front of the factory gate.

Following news published in various national dailies, Masud nephew of Habib, went to Bhaluka and identified Habib as his uncle.

Masud said Habib came to Dhaka from Barisal on July 7 and resided at his [Masud's] home. He went outside on July 9 for business purposes and the next day he contacted his family in Barisal and asked them to send Tk 2 lakh. That was the last time anyone heard from Habib, he added.

The other two bodies of men aged between 35 and 40 are yet to be identified. The bodies were sent to Mymensingh Medical College

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LONG WAIT FOR AUTOPSY REPORT Nayan's family smells a rat

JU CORRESPONDENT

The autopsy report of Nayan Banu, who was murdered allegedly by police in Savar on July 2, was not published as of yesterday -- 12 days into the killing.

The delay in publication of the report makes it clear that a certain quarter wants to hinder the legal procedures to save the accused police officer, alleged the victim's family members.

As police refused to record a murder case against the accused police officer, the family filed a general diary (GD) accusing seven including four policemen on July 4. The list of accused includes Sub-

Inspector (SI) Mukhlesur Rahman and constables Motu Miah, Faruque and Shakil.

The family earlier wanted to file a murder case with the court but they are now waiting for the autopsy report.

"As the killing took place before our eyes, we know the post mortem examination will also find it and make it documented. And then the GD will be turned into a murder case. So we are waiting for the report," said Nayan Banu's son Badsha Mia.

"Can you help me anyway get the report? My son is running for the report. I do not understand how publication of the autopsy report of such a sensational case could take so long time," he added.

"The report is likely to be published by next Sunday. We can hardly rely on the date as it has been deferred since the beginning. We hope to file a case on having the report," said Foyzal, son of Badsha.

In a bid to prevent the family members from filing a murder case, police in a hurried move recorded the killing as an unnatural death case (UD) case on July 3 as two cases cannot be filed on a single incident, family members said.

After preliminary investigation by police found SI Mukhlesur Rahman guilty of murdering Nayan

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Malaysia plans fresh crackdown on illegal immigrants

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia on Friday announced plans to arrest up to one million people in its latest crackdown on illegal immigrants.

Hundreds of officials will be involved in the operation, which follows last year's controversial push to round up, whip and deport hundreds of thousands of illegal workers.

"We have made early preparations related to the detention centres and other needs. We will decide the date of the crackdown later," Home Affairs Minister Mohamad Radzi Sheikh Ahmad was quoted as saying by Bernama news agency.

Mohamad Radzi said enforcement officials from the immigration and police departments would target factories hiring immigrants and foreigners conducting business illegally.

"If we do not conduct such operations from time to time, the illegals will feel that they can do as they wish in this country," he said.

Mohamad Radzi said some 400,000 illegals had been deported so far, adding that some 500,000 to one million illegal workers are still in the country.

There are about 1.8 million legal

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Fresh violence kills 26 in Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

At least 26 people were killed across Iraq yesterday, including 13 Iraqi soldiers in an attack on their checkpoint near the northern oil hub of Kirkuk, security officials said.

Gunmen "came in many vehicles and opened fire on the soldiers who were guarding the checkpoint and killed all the 13, including an officer," colonel Mahmud Abdullah said.

He said the attack took place south of the ethnically divided city of Kirkuk.

In Baghdad, where a massive security crackdown is on since last month, at least seven worshippers were killed after Friday prayers in a bombing outside a Sunni mosque, a security official said.

Five people were also wounded in the bomb attack against the Ismail al-Qubaisy mosque in Al-Qahira, a mixed neighbourhood that lies between the Sunni stronghold of Adhamiyah and the Shia radical bastion of Sadr City.

A civilian was killed and nine others were wounded in a mortar attack in Baghdad's Zafaraniyah neighbourhood.

In the confessionally mixed province of Diyala, northeast of the capital, two people were killed and four wounded when several mortar rounds struck a house next to a Shia mosque in the town of Balad Ruz.

Not far from Balad Ruz, the bodies of two brothers and a cousin

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Freedom fighter commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kalandiar Kabir, 54, freedom fighter and brother of noted journalist Shahriar Kabir, committed suicide at his house in city's Mohakhali area sometime around midnight Thursday.

After dinner, the family members were looking for Kalandiar and found him hanging from the ceiling in the stair room.

Lately, he has been deeply troubled over a financial transaction, family members said.

He acted as a guarantor when his friend Mobarak Hossain Tusher borrowed Tk 38 lakh from Ibrahim a few months ago.

Kalandiar's wife Suraiya said after Tusher failed to repay the amount in time, Ibrahim had been putting excessive pressure on his husband.

The family members alleged that Ibrahim had been unjustly pressing Kalandiar for the money because he wanted to force him into giving away the house to him.

Kalandiar, Director (international relations) of Bangladesh-China Chamber of Commerce and Industries, left a suicide note where he held Tusher responsible for his death.

He was buried at the Mirpur Intellectual graveyard with state honour after Jum'a prayers. Earlier his body was taken to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Police arrested Ibrahim after Suraiya filed a case with Gulshan Police station. Tusher however is on the run.

Besides his wife, Kalandiar left behind two sons and a daughter

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Drain water stagnates in the broken part of a road adjoining the Purana Paltan intersection in the capital.

Pakistani Shia leader killed in suicide attack

AFP, Karachi

A senior Pakistani Shia leader and his young nephew were killed when a suicide bomber blew himself up outside the cleric's house in Karachi yesterday, sparking fears of sectarian revenge attacks.

The attacker hugged Hassan Turabi, Sindh province president of a Shia party Islami Tehrik, before detonating explosives which were hidden under a long black gown, said senior police investigator Manzoor Mughal.

Karachi authorities put the city on red alert and stepped up patrols by police and paramilitary forces, as well as contacting other Shia leaders to prevent clashes with rival Sunni Muslims.

Turabi had been attending an anti-Israel rally in central Karachi and was returning to his home in the Shia-dominated eastern Abbas Town district when he was murdered.

"Three police bodyguards tried to stop the bomber as he embraced Hassan Turabi, then he blew up the explosives which had hundreds of small nails inside," Mughal said. "It was a suicide attack."

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Prayer Timing		
July 15		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation