

India must boost counter-terror ops

Says Indian PM

AFP, New Delhi



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said yesterday that this week's attack in Delhi served to remind everyone that the country urgently needed to boost its intelligence gathering abilities.

"The terrorist attack in Delhi last Wednesday is a stark reminder to us that there can be no let-up in our vigilance," Singh said during an address to a multiparty gathering on national integration, three days after a bomb ripped through a crowd outside the High Court, killing 13 people.

"We must continuously upgrade and strengthen our investigating agencies and our intelligence gathering apparatus to deal more effectively with the newer methods and technologies" adopted by terrorists, he said.

Singh's government has come under fire over India's apparent inability to prevent bombings of high-profile targets in its cities, despite an overhaul of domestic security following the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

The prime minister said his government had done much to bolster intelligence-sharing between state and central agencies and had strengthened coastal security, but admitted that "major challenges still remain".

Experts say Indian security agencies, and in particular the police, suffer from underfunding, a lack of training and poor intelligence gathering and sharing.

As part of the investigation into Wednesday's attack, police in Indian Kashmir detained a man suspected of sending an email claiming responsibility for the court bombing.

Fierce clashes erupt for Gaddafi bastion

Surrender deadline expires for former regime loyalists

AFP, Misrata

The deadline expired yesterday for forces loyal to ousted Libyan strongman Muammar Gaddafi to surrender, with fighters of the country's new leadership poised to attack hold-out strongholds.

After fierce clashes on Friday in Bani Walid, a Gaddafi bastion southeast of Tripoli, an AFP reporter on the town's eastern front at Sedata some 60 kilometres south of Misrata could hear distant artillery fire.

Nato aircraft could also be heard overhead, he said.

The National Transitional Council (NTC) set Saturday as the deadline for towns still loyal to Gaddafi to surrender, and on-off talks have been going on for days over Bani Walid.

A number of former regime officials, including Gaddafi's spokesman Mussa Ibrahim, are believed to be held up there.

NTC chief Mustafa Abdel Jalil arrived in the port city of Misrata while en route for his first visit to Tripoli since the fighters of the new leadership captured the capital.

Abdel Jalil told AFP his visit to Tripoli from NTC headquarters in Benghazi was "temporary," and that the council he heads would move to Tripoli "after the (full) liberation" of Libya.

An AFP correspondent said Abdel Jalil was due to give a news conference in Misrata, a city which suffered a lengthy siege by pro-Gaddafi forces that was lifted only in August.

Fighters returning from the front reported clashes between NTC "sleeper cells" and pro-Gaddafi forces in and near Bani Walid overnight, and said they were reinforcing advance positions amid "fierce resistance" from diehards.

According to chief NTC negotiator Abdullah Kenschil, "the attack will take

place, but its timing will be decided by military leaders on the ground."

On Friday, a top NTC commander said "decisive military action" was imminent. On Friday ahead of the deadline, fighting erupted in Bani Walid as pro-NTC elements inside the town clashed with Gaddafi forces.

Reports said one "revolutionary" fighter was killed and four wounded, and there were three deaths among pro-Gaddafi forces.

Columns of smoke and the crump of shelling could be heard by journalists outside Bani Walid as convoys carrying fighters and ammunition headed for the town 170 kilometres (105 miles) from Tripoli.

Meanwhile, on the road to Gaddafi's hometown of Sirte, rebels who had captured Red Valley, 60 kilometres to the east on Thursday, were under counter-attack, an AFP correspondent reported.

Gaddafi was loved by his people

Says Italian PM

AFP, Rome

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said Friday that ousted Libyan leader Gaddafi was loved by his people and that the rebellion that toppled him was not a popular uprising.

"This wasn't a popular uprising," like in other north African countries "where the wind of freedom begins to blow," he told young supporters of his People of Freedom party gathered in Rome.

"Powerful men decided to give life to a new era by putting out Gaddafi," he said.

"This wasn't a popular uprising because Gaddafi was loved by his people, as I was able to see when I went to Libya."

G8 renew promises to help 'Arab Spring'

AFP, Marseille

G8 finance ministers outlined plans yesterday to support the Arab Spring amid claims their previous promises to help the region's transition from dictatorship to democracy did not materialise.

The Group of Eight finance chiefs meeting in Marseille reaffirmed their pledges for \$40 billion (29 billion euros) in financing to Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco and Jordan over the next two years, officials said.

The money is earmarked to support reform and help new governments weather short-term economic instability in the wake of popular uprisings that began in Tunisia and toppled its strongman leader before spreading to Egypt and Libya.

The ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States on Saturday turned their attention to the Arab Spring.

They had invited Libya's new rulers to Marseille in a follow-up to the economic support for post-revolutionary governments announced at a G8 meeting in Deauville, northern France, in May.

The fledgling Libyan administration's officials on Saturday joined Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia to explain how they planned to relaunch their economies and hear what help they can expect from the world's major economic powers.

Mass grave unearthed in Iraq

AFP, Samarra

Iraqi security forces on Friday found a mass grave in Dujail north of Baghdad that contained the bodies of 40 men who were killed during the past two years, police said.

The victims were mostly taxi drivers, an interior ministry official said, adding three men have been arrested and confessed to the murders, which he believes were carried out by a gang.

The source said the bodies were buried in a mass grave. All were male, and all died from gunshot wounds.

"The earliest victim was killed two years ago, and the latest 10 days ago," said a police official.



Indian school children hold candles as they pay tribute to those killed in the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York's World Trade Centre twin towers, at a public school in Amritsar yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Musharraf vows return to Pakistan

BBC ONLINE

Former Pakis-tani President Gen Pervez Musharraf said on Fri-day that he is determined to return to Pakistan by March 2012, even if he is arrested.

"Let them arrest me... I'll [still] go back," he told the BBC. Gen Musharraf is wanted by an anti-terrorist court in Pakistan over accusations he failed to protect Benazir Bhutto assassination in December 2007.

He describes the case against him as "baseless".

Last month, the court ordered the seizure of his properties and freezing of his bank accounts after his continued refusal to respond to the accusations.

Master of all trades

FROM PAGE 1

What does he make? Well, what not? He redecorated his entire home and made it a living showroom. The drawing room, dining, bedrooms, kitchen, even the balconies were neatly displayed.

As we were entering his house, a letterbox, hanging to the left of the door, drew our attention with a flying pigeon painted on it. "Have we forgotten pigeons were once the means of communications!" was 35-year-old Anwar's explanation for the work.

And he has this tendency to inscribe proverbs or lines he thinks people should remember. Like the age-old saying "Time and tide wait for none", on a clock, or "For god's sake, don't indulge in corruption using me", on a penholder. In another penholder, he wrote: "Let's plant more trees" in green ink on a picture of black smoke coming out of a factory.

The living room seemed

quite like one you would see in any middle class family. Couch, tea table, a divan, several plant pots, several wall-clocks and a huge showcase for the entertainment units, which doubles as the place for small showpieces.

Knowing that every little thing there in the room was designed by him, the first question that pops up is how did he learn to do these things?

"It started with a curved nail," recalls Anwar's mother. "He was barely a kid when he noticed the nail and started analysing the material."

Like most other parents, the Khans wanted their eldest son among four children to be a doctor, but he became "what he was meant to be".

"We did not forbid him to do his stuff as he was not doing badly in school," Anwar's mother told The Daily Star. "If we had given him Tk 1,000 for Eid, he would get a shirt for Tk 100

from street vendors and spend the rest on tools or equipment," she explained.

Anwar did his post graduation in geography, but continued his work on the side. Later, he finished a one-year course on interior and exterior design at a private firm in the capital, which helped him to be technically sound.

One of the fascinating features about his work is his attention to the details. He spends a good amount of time thinking about the end-users' point of view: how to make it handy, safe and functional.

He then puts a lot of efforts into making the piece of furniture without compromising aesthetics. Sometimes it takes several months to design and troubleshoot, like a steel water-filter stand took four and a half months.

For instance, he believes screws are ugly to look at. Solution: "do not use screws and if you have to, make sure

they are not visible."

Maybe the most fascinating room in his house is the kitchen, which he totally renovated for his mother. Over the cookers, he set up a steel-frame to which he attached a handle so that one can have support of the handle with one hand while stirring with the other.

"Sometimes the heat in the kitchen can make some people dizzy and shaky, and this handle would lend support so that they don't fall on hot utensils," he explained. He, however, also put a mini-fan on the frame and a spotlight for better visibility.

He even designed an innovative frame for both-traditional kitchen knife that requires one to sit to chop things--so that one can use it while standing.

Anyone doing cooking would love this boti, which has its own safety feature to prevent accidents.

He also devised two interesting tools--one for

cutting green-coconuts and the other for dry pickles. The one for cutting coconuts seemed quite heavy and expensive with a fitted drill machine and a machete, but a lot of thought went into it. He made the entire process of having coconut milk an event and a lot safer.

The pickle dryer would be quite handy for housewives. As city homes do not get much sunlight these days, he made the pickle dryer, which can stick out of any balcony.

Trays can be added to the dryer that has ventilation for the pickle and plastic cover to protect it from birds and insects.

He also loves drawing which at one point prompted him to go for designing logos for different organisations.

"I got tonnes of ideas, thousands of concepts to implement and hundreds of glitches to fix, but I don't have a laboratory, tools or machinery to implement those," Anwar grumbled. "I wish some

Flyover not faulty

FROM PAGE 1

The committee comprised of representatives from Buet, DCC, LGED and the army, recommended constant monitoring of the 1.9km flyover and said a thorough investigation would be done if the problem arises again.

"We examined whether there is any loss or deflection of the foundation. If there was any problem in it then structural faults must be evident," Prof Munaz Ahmed Noor of Buet civil engineering department told a press conference at Nagar Bhaban in the city yesterday.

Asked why the shuttering plates subsided, he said it might have been there since construction. "It was not noticed then as we have little experience in precision construction," said Munaz.

"We have little experience in precision engineering. So, two girders could not be set on same level due to the fault in construction," said Munaz, adding, "If we are wrong, then the problem will worsen. If we are right, then the committee believes there is no need for repairs."

He, however, said there is no major fault in the construction. "As an expert, I will not term it subsidence. It is a construction error which occurred during finishing. So there is no danger at all."

The Tk 81 crore flyover was designed and constructed by the local engineers. The flyover has been maintained by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) since six months after it was opened to public on March 23, 2005.

The flyover was closed around 7:00pm Friday. Khilgaon level crossing and its surrounding roads witnessed heavy congestion yesterday before the flyover was opened around 1:00pm.

MONITORING Sources said the DCC hardly monitors or maintains the flyover. The DCC zone office-4 is responsible for the flyover but sources say that the office is least bothered about it.

"Some people in the DCC are pocketing the maintenance fund," a DCC official told The Daily Star seeking anonymity.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, however, said, "We are doing everything regarding flyover maintenance." Khoka and the DCC chief engineer could not give any idea of the size of the maintenance fund.

Asked why the DCC failed to notice the sinking earlier, Khoka said unlike journalists DCC engineers do not move around as frequently.

The mayor said they did not consider the sinking a fault.

THE POLITICS Khilgaon flyover was planned and designed by the former Awami League government between 1998 and 2000. Groundwork began at the fag end of its tenure.

But the BNP-Jamaat government stopped construction for about a year and changed the design following influence of then public works minister Mirza Abbas.

There were two loops in the original design so that people living in Rajarbagh, Malibagh, Shahjahanpur, Khilgaon, Goran, Bashabo and Sabujbagh of the capital could move smoothly avoiding the Khilgaon Level Crossing that caused regular congestion.

One of the loops was omitted from the design. The result was people coming from Khilgaon and Rampura could not easily go

towards Motijheel and Kamalapur Railway Station.

Mirza Abbas at a press conference in 2005 said the loop could not be constructed due to scarcity of land.

The other loop that started from north Shahjahanpur and then went towards Sayedabad to facilitate easy movement of people from Rajarbagh is also faulty, experts said.

"The loop suddenly takes a 90-degree left turn which is very risky," said a Buet expert. He said the flyover failed to yield full benefits due to the design change.

investors back me up to make those real."

He said he is in huge debt. Sloan Kulper, an architect and professional in product design, thinks Anwar deserves the attention of entrepreneurs.

An MIT graduate and now a Fulbright Fellow at the architecture department in Brac University, Kulper says, "Anwar is a unique self-trained designer whose passion for craft and problem-solving deserves the attention of clients and manufacturers. Bangladesh

should focus on supporting this type of home-grown talent, which Anwar possesses in abundance, for the nation to be competitive in the global marketplace of ideas."

So far, his parents have been supporting him. They have sold off pieces of land bit by bit for him and they have never complained. Well, his mother did have one complaint. He is 35, but he has yet to get married.

Freelancer Bishawjit Das contributed to this report.

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

TENDER NOTICE

INVITATION FOR SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF BOUNDARY WALL LIGHTS
For the IUB Campus at Bashundhara

- Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bonafide contractors for **Supply & Installation of Boundary Wall Lights** for Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) campus at Bashundhara, Dhaka. The bidders will be required to submit a complete offer including the item-wise break down of cost with detail design, drawing and specification.
- The bidders shall apply in their official letterheads with the registered address to the undersigned along with the following documents:
 - Experience certificates from the past employers in similar kind of exterior lighting works.
 - Copies of the latest Trade License, Income Tax, VAT Registration Certificates and the bank solvency certificates.
- The bidders shall furnish as part of the bid, an earnest money of 2.5% of the bid amount in favour of Independent University, Bangladesh in the form of a bank draft/pay order from a scheduled bank of Bangladesh.
- Interested bidders are requested to collect the Tender Schedule from the office of the undersigned between 9:30 am to 4:00 pm from 12 September 2011 to 18 September 2011 on payment of Taka 500/- only in cash (non-refundable) for each schedule.
- The bids in the sealed envelope shall be received at the office of the undersigned up to 1:30 pm on 3 October 2011 and shall be opened at 2:00 pm on the same day at the same place in presence of the bidders who may like to attend the tender opening.
- IUB reserves the right to accept any tender without any consideration of the lowest bid and shall have the right to reject any tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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