

The Hindu, 7 March 2007

'Help track down Samjhauta suspect'

Islamabad: India has asked Pakistan for help to track down a suspect in the Samjhauta train bombing, allegedly a Pakistani national whose photograph was handed over on the first day of the joint anti-terror mechanism meeting here. According to officials associated with Tuesday's proceedings of the two-day meeting, Pakistan gave "solid" evidence "with photographs" of the alleged "interference" by Indian consulates on the Afghan border inside Pakistan, and of alleged Indian involvement in incidents in Balochistan. The view on the Pakistani side was that incidents in Balochistan should "come down" if India were "sincere." There was disappointment that India shared no information about the Samjhauta blast except providing the a photograph of a "Pakistani who disappeared in 2006."

The Hindu, 15 March 2007

Samjhauta blasts: two salesmen held in Indore

New Delhi: In a major breakthrough, the Haryana police have identified the shops in Indore from where materials used for configuring the bombs planted on board the Samjhauta Express were bought. Two salesmen, who purportedly sold suitcases to the perpetrators, have been arrested and brought to Panipat on transit remand. Huzefa Halim Ali and Pooran Thakur, employed in a shop in Kothari market, are reported to have told the police that they sold six suitcases to some persons who visited the shop early February. They also got the covers for the suitcases stitched for the "customers."

The Hindu, 17 March 2007

Headway in Samjhauta investigations

New Delhi: The five shopkeepers from Indore in Madhya Pradesh summoned by the Haryana police joined the investigations in the Samjhauta Express blasts case at Panipat on Friday. According to the police, the shopkeepers would be questioned for any valuable information they might have about the persons who bought the materials used to assemble the bombs. On the basis of description provided by Huzefa Halim Ali and Pooran Thakur, who allegedly sold the suitcases that were used to plant the bombs in the train, the police are trying to prepare sketches of the suspects.

The Hindu, 27 March 2007

Samjhauta fire caused by blasts

New Delhi: An inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety of Northern Circle, Bhupinder Singh, into the fire on the Samjhauta Express on February 18 has concluded that bomb explosions caused the blaze. The explosions and the subsequent fire killed 68 people and injured 12 at the Diwana station near Panipat on the Delhi-Ambala double line. The incident took place around 23.49 hours. Mr. Singh has urged the Railway Ministry to make a thorough review of the coaches' design so as to facilitate quick emergency exit of passengers during fire. The police have not made any breakthrough in the probe and nobody has been arrested so far. After examining all evidence collected at the site and from inspection of the burnt coaches and obtaining forensic proof, Mr. Singh has come to a conclusion that it was a well-planned attack.