

Daily Excelsior, 7 May 2007

**Terrorism no longer confined to J&K**

New Delhi: Pakistan-based terror groups, particularly Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), are increasingly depending on "surrogate bases" in Bangladesh, Nepal and the Middle East for movement of trained cadres and finances for their operations. A Home Ministry document, based on intelligence inputs, said Bangladesh-based HUJI, linked to the JeM and LeT, is recruiting Indian youths, sending them to Pakistan for training and re-inducting them via Bangladesh to carry out terrorist attacks. "This is evident from the Mumbai local train serial bomb blasts in which 11 Pakistanis infiltrated through the Indo-Nepal border in Bihar, Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal and Indo-Pakistan border in Gujarat," the secret report said. Noting that cross-border terror was no longer Jammu and Kashmir-centric, the document said it has spread its tentacles to the hinterland.

Daily Excelsior, 15 May 2007

**LeT threat to Kalam, Sonia**

Meerut: A letter, purportedly written by a Lashker-e-Toiba militant, threatening to eliminate Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and President APJ Abdul Kalam, was left at a ticket window of a local theatre by an unidentified person. The letter, written by Karim Ansari, claiming to be a LeT militant, threatened to "eliminate soon Gandhi and Kalam and to blow up on May 24 Meerut Railway Station, Apsara Cinema and several other cinemas in the city besides the Delhi Railway Station, India Gate and Palampur (IGIA) Airport". The letter was addressed to Apsara Cinema Manager Shamel Kumar Dey on an inland envelope which also bore a postal seal. Dey said that it was thrown in through the ticket window by a stranger at 1230 hrs, who escaped soon after. The letter was handed over to District Magistrate Meerut, SP Meerut City and other departments concerned, he said. The letter was written in Hindi but its date could not be deciphered, he added.

The Indian Express, 19 May 2007

**Terror hits prayers at Hyderabad mosque**

Hyderabad: A powerful bomb exploded during the busy Friday afternoon prayer at the historic Mecca mosque in Hyderabad's old city, killing 13 people and injuring dozens. The explosion occurred at 1.20 pm when nearly 15,000 people were offering namaz in the mosque's sprawling courtyard, killing five people, including two children on the spot. Two other bombs were also found at the mosque but were defused by the police moments after the first explosion. Top state officials said the bomb was "very sophisticated" and triggered remotely by a cellphone, and RDX was used in making them. The blast triggered tension in the old city and police had to deploy heavy forces armed with teargas, rubber bullets and water cannons to tame rioting crowds. Some locals alleged that the police firing caused four of the 13 deaths, when police were trying to control a mob that set a petrol pump ablaze. State DGP MA Basith denied this claim, saying, "Only rubber bullets were used, which cannot cause deaths."

The Indian Express, 19 May 2007

**2 blasts, cellphone circuit: Focus on Bangla group HUJI**

New Delhi: The recovery of live bombs after the blast at the Mecca mosque in

Hyderabad has revealed the use of a cellular phone to complete the circuit in the explosive. This has led the investigators to take a close look at the explosion at the Special Task Force (STF) headquarters in Hyderabad in October 2005 in which a similar circuit was used. The circuit is completed once the mobile phone starts ringing. The STF headquarters blast was traced to the Bangladesh-based Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islami (HUJI) after the Delhi police caught three militants from the group in December 2005. They reportedly admitted to ferrying the three people responsible for the blasts. The similarities in the circuit of the explosive device in both the blasts have brought HUJI under the scanner again. The focus now is on HUJ's Shahid Bilal whose group was apparently behind the STF blast. Friday's blast bears the stamp of a recent trend to target mosques with IEDs made mostly from locally available material with an aim to stoke communal passions. The new modus operandi of the terrorists involves elements from outside India and local recruits who are trained to make low-intensity explosives. The blasts at Delhi's Jama Masjid, Malegaon and on the Samjhauta Express are some of the recent ones in which investigations have yet to yield any convincing result. The fear is that the Mecca mosque blast will also join this list of unsolved cases.

The Hindu, 20 May 2007

#### **Needle of suspicion points to HuJI, Jaish**

New Delhi: Intelligence agencies at the Centre are examining the possible involvement of two terror groups : the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and the Harkat ul-Jihad Islami (HuJI), in Friday's bomb blast in Hyderabad's Mecca Masjid. The Jaish is based in the Pakistan-controlled territory, while HuJI operates out of Bangladesh. According to informed sources, the Central agencies had inputs, dating back to March/April, that the Jaish operatives were under pressure from their handlers across the Line of Control to "do something." Nor were the handlers, according to the sources, averse to planting bombs in mosques. The objective was and is to create communal disturbances in the country. However, the sources did admit that there was no concrete proof, and any suggestion of Jaish involvement was "just a conjecture."

The Hindu, 21 May 2007

#### **'Blast suspect was trained at Jaish camp'**

New Delhi: Shahid Bilal, the Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islami (HuJI) militant, suspected to be involved in the Mecca mosque blast in Hyderabad on Friday, had undergone training at a Jaish-e-Mohammad camp, according to police sources here. Though he is now believed to be in Pakistan, modules operating under him are based in Bangladesh. Bilal operates under several aliases such as Akbar and Shahbaz. However, his real name is said to be Abdul Rehman and he is a cousin of Mohammed Abdul Rauf, arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation in 2003 on charges of involvement in the assassination of senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Hiren Pandya in Gujarat. Rauf was also allegedly involved in the murder of a local Hyderabad politician way back in 1999 Intelligence reports revealed that in mid-2005, Bilal's focus shifted to the southern States. He sneaked in and stayed for about three months conducting reconnaissance of prominent information technology companies in Bangalore and of vital installations in Hyderabad. "In Bangladesh, Jaish, Lashkar-e-Taiba and HuJI seem to be working in-tandem to carry out

terrorist activities in India. On several occasions, they have been found conducting joint operations at various levels," said a senior police officer.

The Hindu, 23 May 2007

### **3 blasts rock Gorakhpur**

Lucknow: Six persons were injured as three serial bomb blasts rocked Gorakhpur in eastern Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday. The blasts in a row occurred around 7 p.m. in and around the busy Golghar area of the town. The State Government has sounded a high alert. A Home Department spokesman said security around vital installations and religious places was tightened. Vigil along the Indo-Nepal border, about 100 km from Gorakhpur, has been intensified. Principal Secretary (Home), K. Chandramouli said the blasts were being investigated. The bombs were kept in tiffin boxes attached to two cycles and a motorcycle. The blasts occurred within a span of five minutes, sending the people in the busy commercial area into a panic.