

LTTE suicide bomber attacks Milad Festival - Akurassa [Updated]

Daily News, 10 March 2009

The latest updates on brutal terrorist attack at the national Milad Festival in Sri Lanka, indicates that 10 civilians were killed and at least 20 others, including a government minister were injured. An LTTE suicide bomber attacked the Jumma mosque at Godapitiya, in Akurassa, in the Matara district around 10.30, this morning (Mar 10). According to the defence sources, the LTTE terrorist has targeted the Islam devotees attending the national Milad-Un-Nabi celebration, held at the mosque. The Milad-un-Nabi, the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed is celebrated as a national festival in Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, hospital sources say Minister Mahinda Wijesekara who was also attending the celebration has suffered injuries, in the explosion. The sources add that another 15 people with injuries have been admitted to the government hospital Matara.

14 killed in LTTE suicide attack

Hindu, 11 March 2009

COLOMBO: Fourteen civilians were killed and 46 others, including a Minister, injured when a suspected cadre of the LTTE blew himself up at a mosque at Akurassa in Matara district in the Southern Province, 160 km from the Sri Lankan capital. Minister for Posts and Telecommunications Mahinda Wijesekara and the former Chief Minister of the Southern Province, H.G. Sirisena, were seriously injured. They were flown to Colombo. The Defence Ministry said here the suicide bomber targeted a procession, held to mark the birthday of Prophet Mohammad, as it approached the mosque. Three other Ministers, who were part of the procession, escaped unhurt. The condition of several of those injured is said to be serious.

CID takes over inquiry

Daily News, 12 March 2009

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) inquiry into the Godapitiya suicide blast is in progress. The male suicide bomber is believed to have been residing in the Godapitiya area before carrying out the suicide mission, Police spokesman SSP Ranjith Gunaskera said. "It is an estate area and we suspect that the LTTE cadre might have been residing in the Godapitiya area while carefully planning out the suicide mission", SSP Gunaskera added. Fifteen people were killed and another 46 sustained injuries during the attack, which targeted the National Milad-Un-Nabi festivities, held at the Godapitiya Mosque in Akurassa on Tuesday. According to Police, the suicide kit worn by the LTTE cadre weighing 05 Kg had contained 2.5kg of C4 explosives and another 2.5 Kg of steel balls.

Taliban suicide bomber kills 11 in Pakistan

Christian Science Monitor, 26 March 2009

A Taliban suicide bomber in Pakistan's restive northwest killed at least 11 members of a rival, pro-government militant group on Thursday. The attack highlights the complicated divisions among militant groups operating in Pakistan, some of which receive support from the government or the powerful intelligence agency. The Press Trust of India reports that the bomber targeted a roadside restaurant at a hotel in the busy bazaar area in the town of Jandola, in the Tank district just outside South Waziristan

Death toll in Jamrud mosque suicide attack reaches 50

News, 27 March 2009

Friday, March 26 JAMRUD: A suicide bomber killed at least 50 people when he blew himself up in a crowded mosque near a security check post in Jamrud town of Khyber Agency on Friday. The attack came hours before U.S. President Barack Obama was scheduled to announce a new strategy for the Afghan war, an approach U.S. officials said would also recognise Pakistan as a key part of the conflict. Police, paramilitary forces and government officials were among the congregation in the mosque, about 30 km (20 miles) from the Afghan border. The bomber set off his explosives as a cleric began prayers. "So far we have counted 50 bodies," Tariq Hayat Khan, the top administrator in the Khyber region, told Geo news, adding the toll could rise.

70 killed, 125 injured in Jamrud mosque attack

Daily Times, 28 March 2009

JAMRUD: At least 70 people were killed – according to various TV channels – and 125 injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up at a mosque during Friday prayers near Baghiari checkpost area in Jamrud tehsil of Khyber Agency, said political administration officials. Jamrud Assistant Political Agent Fida Bangash told Daily Times that 10 security personnel were also among the dead. He said that 25 of those injured were in critical condition, and expressed fear that the death toll could rise. The official said that 115 Khasadaars were positioned at a nearby checkpost, three had been deployed outside the mosque and several were inside.

Suicide Bomber in Kandahar Kills 8

New York Times, 30 March 2009

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber wearing a police uniform blew himself up in a government building on the southern outskirts of the city of Kandahar on Monday, killing eight people, including five police officers and three civilians, and wounding six others, officials said. The attack took place a few minutes before noon on the second floor of the building, in an area where Afghan identification cards are issued, said Gen. Ghulam Ali Wahdat, the regional head of police.

Editorial: Death by bombing

News, 30 March 2009

Once again the image of us, our faith and our country that goes around the world is one of violence and intolerance. Between 48 and over 70 people were killed on Friday as they prayed at a mosque – and more than 170 injured according to most reports. The explosion was probably caused by a suicide bomber and he struck just as the Imam began to recite the opening prayer. The mosque was a popular stopping point for people travelling between Afghanistan and Pakistan and was always crowded on a Friday – the softest of soft targets. Tariq Hayat Khan the administrator of Khyber Agency opined that the blast was the work of the supposedly-defunct Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan. Who knows? There are very rarely arrests subsequent to the bombing of a mosque or imambargah and it is almost as if the agencies of law enforcement have given up even trying to prevent them, never mind catching those responsible for the planning and logistics of such an attack. This is unlikely to be something which can have the label ‘hidden hand’ attached to it. This butchery is entirely home-grown

and springs from either the internal denominational conflicts or a local dispute, a struggle for power, by one group or another in the area where the blast happened.