

# World and Nation

## Blast in Hindu market kills 24; Sikhs blamed

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — A bomb blamed on Sikh extremists exploded in a crowded Hindu cloth market near the Golden Temple on Tuesday evening, killing 24 people, a police official said.

The latest bombing was the fourth attack attributed to Sikh separatists since Sunday. At least 52 people, most of them Hindu, have died in the attacks and many more have been wounded.

Crowds of Hindus angered by continuing Sikh militant violence in Punjab state threw stones at police as they tried to cordon off the area struck by the bomb. Doctors said they had problems operating because of agitated crowds that filled the hospitals, where about three dozen of the injured were taken.

The blast ignited a fire that burned two shops in the market and

10 motor scooters. Merchant Tilak Raj said the flames engulfed many people who were trying to flee the scene.

Suresh Arora, the city's senior police superintendent, called the situation "very tense" and officials clamped a curfew in the area.

The bomb was hidden inside a plastic bag in the front part of a motor scooter parked at the market, Arora quoted witnesses as saying. Hindu merchants, industrialists and cloth retailers gather at the wholesale market, which is about 200 yards from the Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine. Security forces last month besieged the temple to flush out Sikh militants there.

Serbjee Singh, deputy commissioner of Amritsar, blamed neighboring Pakistan for the bombing. He

said he expected more attacks in Punjab state by "Pakistani agents."

India blames rival Pakistan for causing trouble in Punjab by training and sheltering Sikh extremists. Pakistan denies the charge.

Bundles of woolen shawls and bags lay strewn around the market after the explosion. Sweaters and a nearby shop were scattered with dusty, blood-spattered road.

On Monday, Sikh militants had a grenade into an outdoor vegetable market in New Delhi, killing 10 Hindus and injuring 40 others in neighboring Haryana state. Gunmen opened fire at a crowd during a movie theater Monday night and killed six people.

No arrests have yet been reported in the latest attacks. Police are placed on alert in six north Indian states and in New Delhi.

## U.S., Mexico cooperation eases tension

MEXICO CITY (AP) — U.S. and Mexican officials must cooperate more to prevent sporadic incidents of violence and death along the border, Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner Alan C. Nelson said Tuesday.

"There is a greater need for joint border cooperation between authorities of the two countries . . . to avoid tragedies like last year's boxcar incidents," Nelson said.

Most of the incidents involved rock-throwing by youths. In March, however, at San Ysidro, Calif., U.S. law enforcement officers killed one man and wounded three, part of a group of five Hispanic men apparently intent on robbery.

One of the incidents Nelson mentioned occurred in Texas, when 18 Mexican undocumented workers suffocated to death, locked in a boxcar, in July 1987.

Nelson is in Mexico City to brief Mexican authorities on the application of the new Simpson-Rodino law that provided amnesty for undocumented people living in the United States and penalizes employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens.

Nelson said "there is a good relationship and dialogue (between American authorities) and with Mexican counterparts" on the application of the law.

## National Briefs

### Veterans' convoy arrives in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP) — Members of the Veterans Peace Convoy vowed to deliver 30 tons of food, clothing and medicine to Nicaragua, despite opposition from U.S. authorities.

"We know we are doing the right thing and the government is wrong," Stephen Somerstein said Monday as the convoy passed through Atlanta.

The group, including about 90 people and 38 trucks, was stopped at the border by customs

officials in Laredo before it could complete its mission.

Authorities said that allowing the convoy to continue would violate the U.S. trade embargo if the veterans left behind their trucks after delivering their cargo. Convoy leaders have filed suit against the order.

The convoy left Laredo and headed north. Members camped out near Austin before deciding to head for Washington. The convoy was expected to arrive on Thursday in Washington.

### Companies form plastics plant venture

MIDLAND, Mich. (AP) — Dow U.S.A. and Exxon Chemical Co. said Tuesday they have formed a joint venture to manufacture material for adhesives and sealants.

The group will build a \$20 million plant in Plaquemine, La., where Dow has a manufacturing facility.

The companies will share equally in the capital investment and expenses of building the plant and in profits from marketing the styrenic thermoplastic elastomers it will produce, said L.

Dennis McKeever, Dow vice president for polyolefins and elastomers.

McKeever said some current Dow employees at Plaquemine will be involved in operating the plant, but it has not been determined how many new jobs will be created.

Applications for the material include pressure-sensitive adhesive tapes and hot-melt adhesives, said McKeever, who made the announcement jointly with Jean Pierre L'Hermitte, Exxon Chemical vice president for adhesive products.

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