



## Giant killer

Scottish teenager Andy Murray ousts Roger Federer in Cincinnati P17



## Scanner on FDI

Govt plans new law to restrict FDI proposals if they threaten national security P19

# UK terror suspects' faith made in India

Key figures belong to Tablighi Jamaat

VIJAY Dutt  
London, August 17

AMONG THOSE arrested in connection with the recent terror plot to blow up transatlantic airliners, the key figures seem to be linked to the Tablighi Jamaat, an orthodox Islamic movement that was formed in India in 1927. Its headquarters was in Nizamuddin, Delhi.

The followers of the Tablighi Jamaat have to adhere to strict tenets of Islam. However, now security agencies - not just in Britain but across Europe and in the US - are concerned that the missionary movement has become a sleeper or active cell of militants and has links to Al Qaeda.

Assad Sarwar, a suspect arrested in High Wycombe, is said to be a follower of the sect. His brother Amjad was quoted as saying that Assad, who dropped out of university, attended weekend study groups of the Tablighi Jamaat. On Channel Four, Amjad said, "He was at Tablighi Jamaat, which is a sect in Islam which encourages the youth to grow beard, pray five times a day... He thought religion was more important than study."

It is not just Assad. The relatives and friends of some of the 23 people arrested last week told the police that the detainees were followers of the Tablighi Jamaat, which is believed to control several mosques in Britain.

Another suspect arrested in Walthamstow, Waheed Zaman, is also believed to be a follower. This is not the first time that a terror plot has been linked to the Tablighi Jamaat. One of the 7/7 suicide bombers, Mohammad Sidique Khan, was a follower. Another, Shehzad Tanweer, had visited a mosque controlled by the Tablighi Jamaat in Leeds.

The British headquarters of the sect in Dewsbury has denied any link to terrorism. But the police are watching its travelling preachers. (The followers are supposed to undertake journeys - usually for a specified period of 4 months, 40 days, 10 days or 3 days - in which members of each group learn the tenets of Islam from each other.)

These preachers had frequented a mosque in East London where the majority of the 23 detainees had gone to pray.

The Jamaat's links to Al Qaeda became known when some of the operatives of the latter confessed in the US that they had attended the group's camp in Pakistan before going to Afghanistan.

### TOUGH SECT

The Tablighi Jamaat is a movement founded in 1927 by Muhammad Ilyas in Mewat province in India. Its main headquarters, known as 'markaz', was in Delhi's Nizamuddin

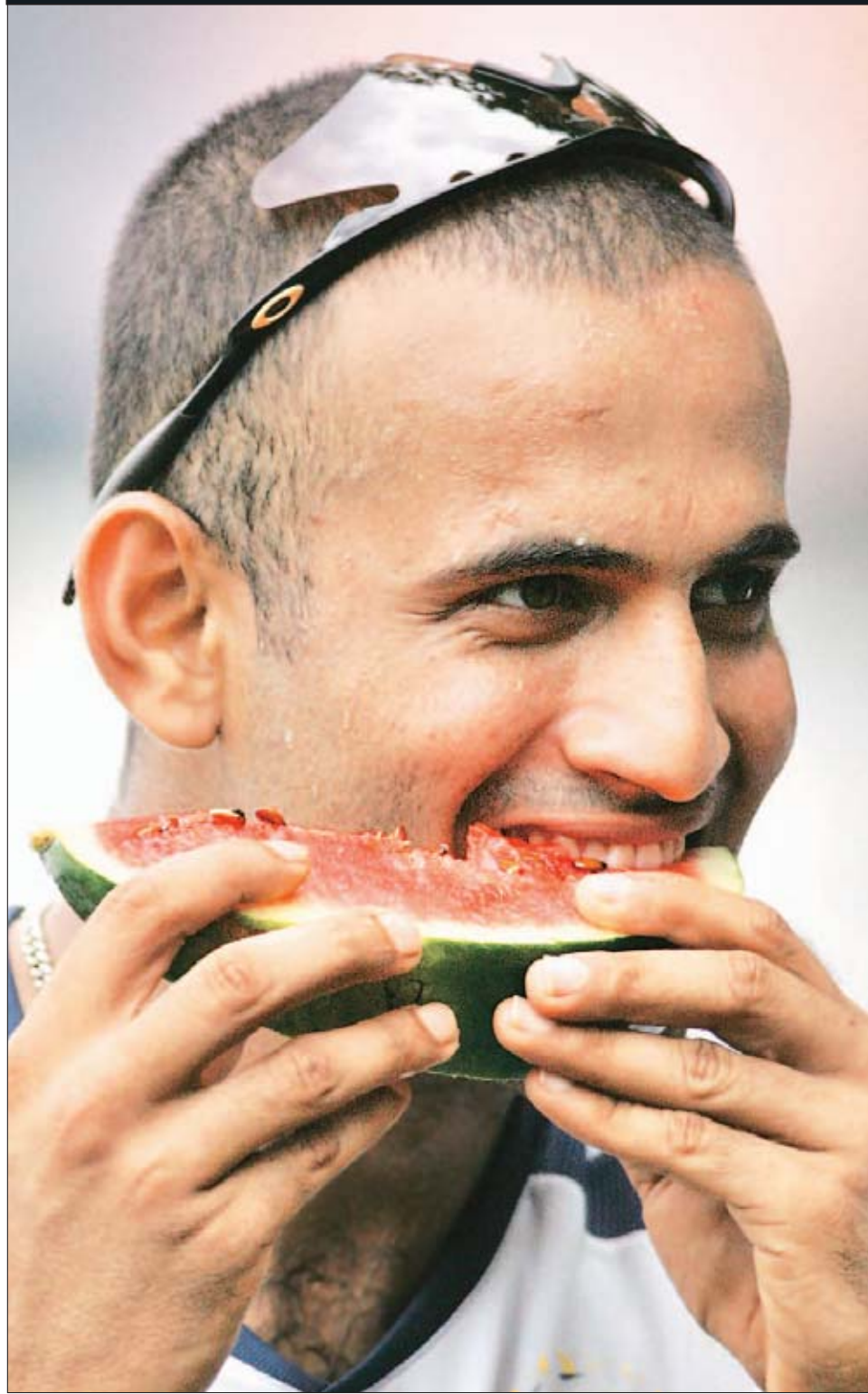
Originally, the movement was intended to transform those who converted from Hinduism into 'complete Muslims'.

Its followers adhere to strict codes of Islamic law. They travel, teaching the tenets of Islam

Some of the 23 suspects arrested in connection with the recent terror plot in Britain are believed to be followers of the Tablighi Jamaat

The police suspect the sect has links with Al Qaeda

### NICE AND JUICY



Irfan Pathan bites into a watermelon after a practice session in Colombo on Thursday. India plays Sri Lanka in their first match on Friday in a truncated three-match contest.

# PM pitches right, sells nuclear deal

Allays fears raised by Left, BJP and scientists

HT Correspondent  
New Delhi, August 17

WITH AN impassioned defence of the Indo-US nuclear deal, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday largely swung the Rajya Sabha in his favour on the issue that had, at one stage, threatened a combined Left-BJP campaign against the government.

By the time he was through, the PM had secured the CPM's Sitaram Yechury's open approval and the BJP's Yashwant Sinha's grudging acceptance that he was 60 per cent satisfied with Singh's response, though some key questions he had raised remained unanswered.

However, Sinha's qualified support lost meaning with top scientists - who had earlier raised doubts about the deal - also welcoming the PM's assurances.

On his feet for over an hour, the PM began his speech by recalling that he was similarly accused of compromising the national interest while initiating economic reforms as finance minister in the

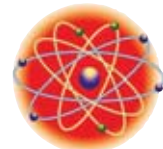
early 1990s on being handed over a bankrupt economy by Sinha, who initiated the nuclear debate on behalf of the BJP.

"Today the nation stands tall, strong and fast-growing because of the decisions then taken," he said. "So I speak with some experience, though I may be a novice in comparison with the skills of Jaswant Singh, Sinha and Arun Shourie (of the BJP). I'll discharge my duties for the country to the last ounce of my blood."

The PM said he was not in a position to predict with certainty the final form the US legislation would take, but he was hopeful that it would lead to "lifting all restrictions" that have been there for decades on India's nuclear programme and long-term cooperation.

He said the path identified by the government was the right path. "I'm aware of the risks involved. But for the sake of India, I am willing to take those risks," he said, quoting from Machiavelli's *Prince*.

Continued on P12



INDIA FIRST

"We will not accept any condition that goes beyond the parameters of the Joint Statement and the Separation Plan agreed between India and the US"

"If something is enforced on us, government will draw the necessary conclusion consistent with India's national interests"

# RTI file notings may stay

SAROJ Nagi  
New Delhi, August 17

THE GOVERNMENT, it seems, is not keen on introducing the controversial bill to amend the Right to Information Act. Sources say it's unlikely to come up in the final week of the monsoon session of Parliament.

This comes in the wake of highly vocal opposition to the government's move to keep file notings out of the public domain. In fact, there is a section in the UPA that believes that the amendment bill should be junked.

Since the cabinet had taken the decision to

introduce the bill - that, if passed, will bring only file notings on social and development projects under the purview of the RTI Act - the government cannot officially say that it will not pursue it.

But some Congress leaders have unofficially said that the bill may not see the light of the day. They bolster this argument by claiming that Congress president Sonia Gandhi is opposed to the idea of the dilution of the RTI Act.

Other UPA leaders, too, persuaded by the Left parties' logic, are believed to have changed their stance - in favour of not tinkering with the Act.

# Who in Bengal cleared colas?

SUBHENDU Maiti  
Kolkata, August 17

LEFT FRONT Chairman Biman Bose may like his Coke or Pepsi desperately enough to hurry through the clearance. But the state government and the party are wondering what test results is he talking about. Officially, results are still awaited.

Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on Thursday told the media that the government was yet to receive any test reports on the cola adulteration. Prominent Left Front partner Forward Bloc leader and Consumers' Affairs minister Naren De informed that cola samples had been sent to the National Test House, a central government lab, which would send its report by August 21.

Meanwhile, incensed at not getting an endorsement of its government's ban on colas in Kerala. Front

partner CPI state secretary Manju Kumar Majumdar said: "It's a test report of Bimanbabu. We have no idea how he got it."

Officially, the health department agency has to do the tests. But department officials said they had not been entrusted with any. Moreover Food and Supplies minister Paresh Adhikari disclosed they did not have well-equipped labs for the tests.

So far, the West Bengal Pollution Control Board alone has tested the cola samples in the state at its lab at Paribesh Bhaban in Salt Lake.

The PCB report has found pesticide content, but not approaching "alarming levels", a senior board official said. But the Board's report "has no official recognition. We have done the tests for our research. We can not give the report to any department if they do not want it," he said.

### BOTTLED PUZZLE

Officially no state agency has tested soft drink samples for adulteration in West Bengal. Officials say the departments concerned do not have the facilities for the tests.

The West Bengal Pollution Control Board alone has done a test, which is not recognised by other state departments

### SHORT TAKES

Fine Print will be back tomorrow  
HindustanTimes.com poll: p2

### MARKETS

BSE Sensex	11477.48	+29.17
NSE Nifty	3353.90	-2.15
Gold	9675	Nil
Silver	18,750	+400
Dollar (Buy/Sell)	46.43	46.44
Pound (Buy/Sell)	88.02	88.04
Euro (Buy/Sell)	59.76	59.78

(Interbank forex rates, PTI)

### WEATHER

FRIDAY  
Cool morning, muggy day.  
Light rain likely during evening. High 38°C, low 29°C.  
Max R.H. 83%  
Detailed report on p4

TODAY: 44 pages, including 12 pages of HT City and six pages of HT Commercial.  
Vol. LXXXII No. 196

### ELEVATOR PITCH

# New words show what we are

SAMRAT  
New Delhi, August 17

PERHAPS IT is a sign of the times that 'war' is 49th on the list of the 100 commonest words in English, but 'peace' is nowhere in sight.

'Problems' enters the chart at No. 24; 'solution' is not on the list. 'Work' is 16th, but 'play' and 'rest' do not figure in the top 100, according to the new revised eleventh edition of the Concise Oxford English Dictionary that will be published on August 21.

The concern with work - and problems - also shows in some of the new words and phrases that enter the Concise Oxford Dictionary (first published in 1911) this year. There is 'elevator pitch', a short sales pitch intended to impress a senior manager during a ride in a lift.

There is 'pig in the python', an expression used to describe the



demographic bulge caused by the bimbo boom in 1945-65. Marketers find this lot an attractive but difficult target, which may explain the less than complimentary imagery. This is, however, an improvement on the acronym used for this group in the 1990s: Dumpies,

short for Destitute, Unprepared, Mature People.

Even the new tech-related words relate to trouble. Caught any 'shoulder-surfer' lately? That will be someone trying to peer over your shoulder as you enter your password on your computer or your PIN at the ATM.

In the end, it is left to Paris Hilton and Bikram Choudhury to bring us some cheer. Hilton is not in the dictionary yet, but there is a word to describe someone that sounds very much like her - a 'celebutante', a person who is rich and famous, and famous only for being famous.

Of course, it helps Hilton's fame that she has an aerobicised (meaning a body part toned by aerobics) bahookie (backside), maintained, it is said, by yoga - though not the Bikram yoga, which also enters the Concise Oxford Dictionary this year.



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