

Sialkot carnage — 40th sectarian attack in five years

By Shahnawaz Khan

LAHORE: The Sialkot imambargah bombing was the 40th sectarian assault and the fifth suicide attack in Punjab in the last five years.

The province has seen a spate of violent incidents since November 4, 1999, when a bomb exploded at the Muridke Main Bazaar, a few yards away from a congregation of the Lashkar-e-Taiba. In the attack 17-year-old Muhammad Nadeem was killed and four passers-by were injured.

Within 10 minutes of the bombing there was another explosion a few hundred yards away which narrowly missed the Quetta Express train.

On November 20, 1999, a bomb exploded inside the Lohari Gate at a bicycle repair shop, killing seven and injuring another 25.

On December 18, 1999, a bomb exploded at Nigtoo Market in Sialkot, claiming the lives of six.

On February 6, 2000 a bomb exploded at Regal Chowk in Jhang, killing 12.

On February 8, 2000, a motorcycle was rigged to explode in Rawalpindi. In the attack a 38-year-old man was killed and six others badly injured.

On February 27, 2000 at a bomb exploded on Abid Majeed Shaheed Road in Pasroor at 3:10pm in which one passer-by died and 10 others were injured.

On March 9, 2000, a bomb exploded near the residence of former Pakistani president, Muhammad Rafique Tarar, at 11:30am, killing Muhammad and Muhammad Ashraf.

On April 17, 2000, a bomb exploded at Raja Bazaar in Rawalpindi at 8:00am, claiming the life of one and injuring seven others. That same afternoon in Lahore a bomb exploded at Madina Chowk, injuring 17 people. After few hours of the second incident, another bomb exploded in Kasur, killing one and injuring five people.

On April 18, 2000, a bomb exploded at Gulistan Colony, Mustafabad, in which 20 people were injured.

On April 20, 2000 there was a bomb explosion near Mansoor at 4:10pm, in

which two people were injured.

On May 05, 2000, a bomb exploded in the north cantt in Lahore at 8:15pm, taking the lives of two passers-by while maiming five others.

On June 21, 2000, a bomb exploded at the General Bus Stand in Rawalpindi at 3:45, killing a young Afghan and injured 10 people.

On July 07, 2000, a bomb exploded at the Gujrat Bus Stand in Badamibagh, in which Muhammad Anwar of Sheikhpura lost his life and three others were injured. After few hours of the incident, another bomb exploded at the Climax Colony in Gujranwala in which two minors lost their lives and seven others were injured.

On July 13, 2000, a bomb exploded at Chungi Amersiddhu in Lahore, injuring six.

On September 3, 2000, a bomb exploded at the General Bus Stand in Lahore, claiming the lives of Khalid Rasheed and Muhammad Qadir and injuring 12 others.

On September 7, 2000, a bomb

exploded at the main bazaar of Dharampura at 5:33pm, killing six people and injuring 24.

On November 2, 2000 a bomb blast at the Fawara Chowk in Rawalpindi injured 20 people.

On November 27, 2000, a bomb blast at the bus Lahore bus stand injured seven people. After a few minutes of the first incident, another bomb exploded a few yards away that killed one and injured another 15 people. After 15 minutes of the second incident a third blast at the Rail Bazaar in Muridke claimed a life of six-year-old Muhammad Irshad while badly injuring 20 others.

On December 25, 2000, a bomb blast at the Landa Bazaar in Lahore at 1:20pm injured 37 people. After 25 minutes of the first blast, another blast in Kharian injured two people. A few hours later a third blast at the platform of Faisalabad Railway Station injured four passers-by.

On May 30, 2001, a bomb exploded at 12:00am in the Bajwat village's

Government Boys High School, injuring no one. After 30 seconds of the first incident, another bomb exploded at the bus stand in Pirwadhai, Rawalpindi, in which 13 people were injured.

On June 06, 2001 a bomb explosion in Naseerabad in Lahore at 1:45pm killed two minors, Shahid Mehmood and Abid Mehmood.

On July 27, 2001, a bomb exploded on Montgomery Road, Lahore, injuring five people.

On August 11, 2001, a bomb exploded on Link Abdali Road in Gujrat that claimed the lives of eight people.

On August 20, 2001, an explosion at the Rang Mehal Chowk in Lahore injured 15.

On August 09, 2002, a bomb blast at Christian Hospital in Wah Cantt claimed three lives.

On August 16, 2002, a bomb exploded at the under-construction Madrasa Al-Noor in Sahiwal took the life of a mason while injuring a minor.

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Rawalpindi at 4:00pm resulted in the deaths of 20 people.

On February 04, 2003 a blast at Samberyal Dry Port killed 18 people and injured another 50.

On December 14, 2003 President General Pervez Musharraf was the target of a failed assassination attempt near the Chaklala Bridge that resulted in heavy damage to the area.

On December 26, 2003, General Musharraf was targeted twice by suicide bombers at the GPO Chowk in Rawalpindi, the first suicide attacks recorded in the province.

On February 28, 2004, another suicide bomber blew himself in a mosque adjacent to an imambargah at Satellite Town in Rawalpindi at 5:58pm. The attack claimed the life of the bomber while injuring four.

On July 30, 2004, the fourth suicide attack in the province occurred in Fatehjang in which Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz was the target. Seven people were killed in the explosion and 46 others were injured.