

THE VANCOUVER SUN

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2000

www.vancouversun.com



CHRIS ISAAK ON CHRIS ISAAK

When we asked readers to review the singer's weekend gig, we heard from the man himself.

ENTERTAINMENT C3

EVE HAD TO WAIT FOR ADAM

A new study suggests women were the finished article long before men.

NEWS A12



SUPPORT FOR FATHER: Sons of accused Ripudaman Singh Malik, Hardeep Singh Malik (left), Darshan Singh Malik and Jaspreet Singh Malik, arrive at court.

GLENN BAGLO/Vancouver Sun

Police free Air India suspect as two accused appear in court

Released man is identified as Vancouver school board employee

By KIM BOLAN

A third man arrested in connection with the 1985 bombing of an Air India jet was released from custody late Monday, although police are still calling him a suspect in the mass murder.

Constable Cate Galliford said "suspect number three has been released with no charges."

She refused to comment further, except to say: "We are still anticipating more arrests."

While police did not identify the third suspect, his own employer, the Vancouver school board, confirmed Monday it was Hardial Singh Johal, a building engineer for the board since 1974.

"Mr. Johal has been arrested and is the subject of a criminal investigation by the RCMP concerning the 1985 Air India bombing," the board's Deborah Carty said in a news release.

Johal was released just hours after two Sikh separatists charged with

murdering 329 people in the 1985 Air India bombing made their first appearance in Vancouver provincial court.

Undercover police, extra sheriffs and journalists were joined by about two-dozen supporters of Ripudaman Singh Malik, 53, and Ajaib Singh Bagri, 51, in courtroom 101 at 222 Main St.

Sikh spectators were required to hand over their kirpans — ceremonial daggers — before entering court.

The two accused were remanded in custody for 30 days, but a bail hearing has been scheduled for Friday in B.C. Supreme Court.

Malik and Bagri, who are both charged with eight counts of murder and attempted murder related to the 1985 Air India bombing and another one in Japan in which two men died, were scheduled to appear at 9:30 a.m.

But they made their appearances two hours late after Judge Jane Godfrey urged Crown prosecutors to proceed so her courtroom could return to normal.

Malik was led into the courtroom first, wearing a white plastic shower cap pulled down close around his face and a beige, long-sleeved T-shirt, and without his glasses.

SEE ACCUSED, A6

PM slams Alliance's 'intolerance'

PM goes on attack as polls deliver bad news

BARRIE, Ont. — Prime Minister Jean Chretien accused the Canadian Alliance on Monday of being a far-right party and suggested a Stockwell Day government would not treat cultural minorities equally.

Chretien also mocked the premiers of Ontario, Quebec and Alberta in order to ridicule Day's call for a smaller central government, and hinted that Day as prime minister would try to impose his anti-abortion views on Canadians.

Chretien's sharpened attack came after a series of polls showing the Alliance is gaining momentum, and follows a speech Saturday in which the prime minister suggested that Canadians must keep vigilant "because we never know when there will not be a force that will come and appeal to the dark side that exists in human beings."

In the same speech, to the 50th Congress of Liberal International, he recalled that that first meeting of the group was held after the Second World War, and added:

"The war was the terrible price paid by all of humanity for extreme nationalism and for building walls of isolation rather than bridges of understanding."

He also portrayed Liberals as always appealing "to the good side of people."

The prime minister's weekend remarks drew an immediate reaction from Jason Kenney of the Alliance, who said all the political parties were focusing on mainstream issues and for Chretien "to turn around and demonize one of those parties as a force of darkness breaks the convention of civilized political discourse."

Chretien raised the issue of tolerance at several appearances Monday — including a warning that Canadians have to make sure that their idea of being "equal is not destroyed by anybody" — prompting reporters to ask if he believed the Alliance is intolerant and whether the equality rights of linguistic, cultural and religious groups



Peter O'Neil

SEE CHRETIEN, A6

ASSESSING THE PARTIES' WEB SITES, A4

LAWRENCE MARTIN, A5