

WITNESS WHO SAW TERRORISTS ARRIVE IN DINGHY DEPOSES IN 26/11 TRIAL

Mumbai Mirror | May 28, 2009, 02.33 AM IST

The prosecution's first independent witness who saw the 10 terrorists, including Mohammed Ajmal Qasab arrive in the rubber dinghy on the night of November 26, 2008 near Badhwar Park's fishermen's colony, deposed in the 26/11 trial on Wednesday.

A resident of the fishermen's colony, Bharat Tamore, who works in Hotel Taj Mahal, was deputed on night shift, and had left home for work at about 9.15 pm. "I saw a dinghy coming towards Badhwar Park. There were 10 people in the dinghy, all wearing saffron-coloured life jackets. When the boat reached the shore, eight of them got off and wore their haversacks. Two others went towards Nariman Point," Tamore deposed.

Tamore said as they began walking towards the main road, he stopped two of them and asked them, "Where have you come from?" One of them - short, fair and about 22 years of age - 'glared' at Tamore and said, "Hum log students hain." The other man, taller and darker, about 25 years old, said to him, "Tum ko kya karna hai?" The eight who got off, left in pairs, said Tamore. He then identified Qasab as the person who glared at him, and the second one as Qasab's accomplice, Abu Ismail, whose photographs were shown to him.

Tamore then left for work, and was in the basement of the Taj when he heard firing. He said he was rescued the next day around 4 am, and after he reached home, he narrated the incident to the police. Tamore also identified the rubber dinghy (black with a yellow streak) which was brought to court.

During his cross-examination, when the defence lawyer contended there was no such boat as described, an irate Tamore shot back, "Toh phir woh boat kya aasmaan se gira kya?"

Another witness, Prashant Dhanu, a fisherman, told the court that while he was out fishing with some people on 26/11, he saw a dinghy drifting near Nariman Point around 9.45 pm. He dragged the dinghy to Badhwar Park and handed it over to the police. A marine engineer, G Rajkumar who works with Yamaha said he verified with his head office in Chennai, that the Yamaha out-boat engine attached to the rubber dinghy used by the terrorists, was not imported or sold in India.

GALLERIES





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