

Pakistan, India ties risk chill after attacks

AP, Islamabad

The Mumbai terror attacks threaten to chill improving ties between nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan just as the West is trying to get Islamabad to focus on al-Qaeda and Taliban close to the Afghan border.

India has not singled out Pakistan as being linked to the strikes, but Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday said militants based outside his country carried them out.

That was widely understood in Pakistan to be an accusation of its involvement.

Defence Minister Ahmed Mukhtar said Pakistan "should not be blamed like in the past."

"This will destroy all the goodwill we created together after years of bitterness," he told The Associated Press. "I will say in very categorical terms that Pakistan is not

involved in these gory incidents."

Deteriorating relations between Pakistan and India, which have fought three wars since 1947, would greatly complicate US foreign policy in the region.

Coming President-elect Barack Obama has said normalising ties between the two South Asian neighbours will be a major plank of his broader campaign to stabilise Afghanistan and beat al-Qaeda in the region.

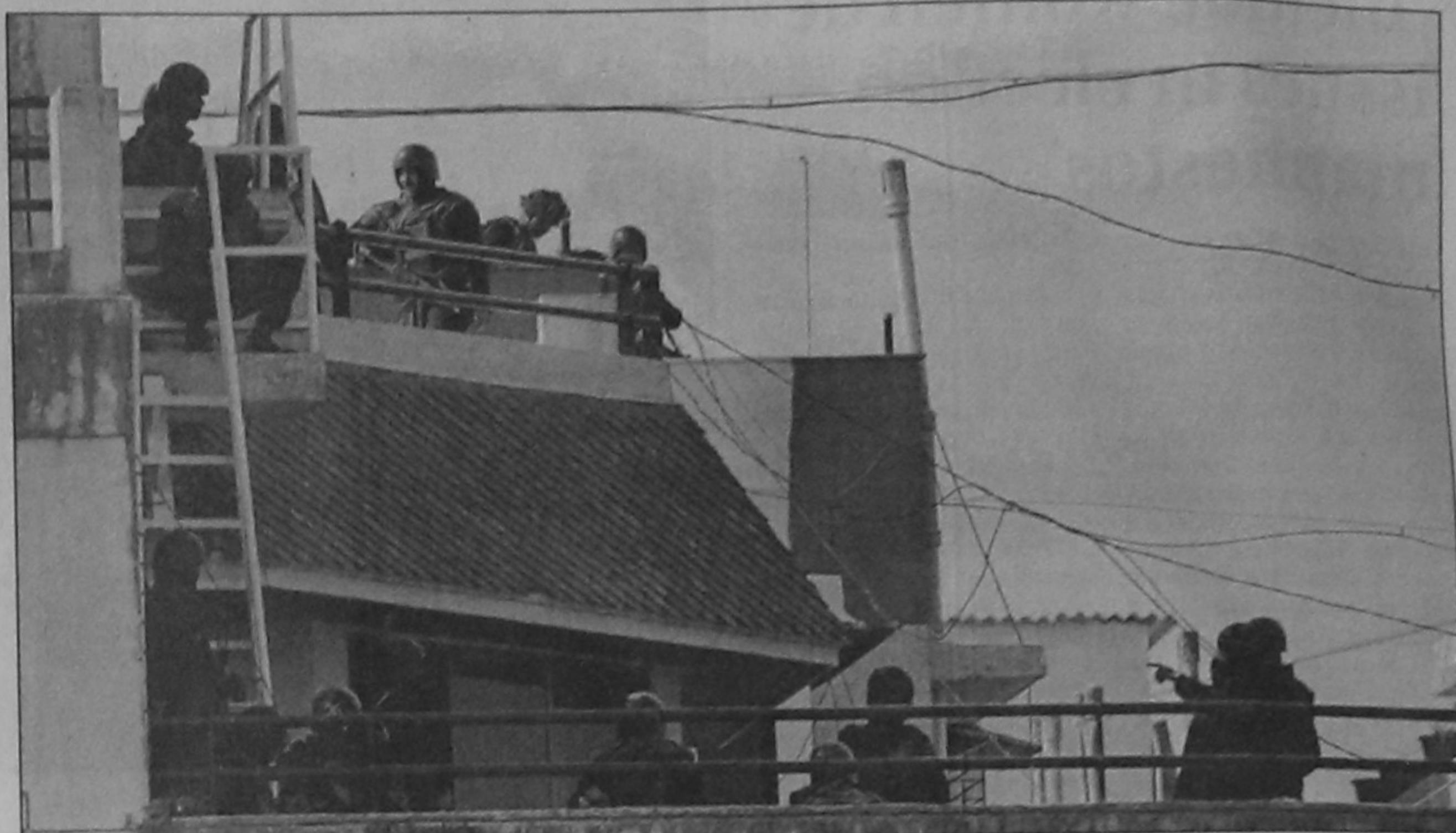
"You can't cozy up to a country that is accusing you of complicity in terrorism," said Shaun Gregory, an expert on South Asian terrorism at the University of Bradford in Britain. "Any sign of Pakistani involvement would be extraordinarily damaging."

On Friday, Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani called his Indian counterpart and pledged his government's "full support to jointly combat extremism and

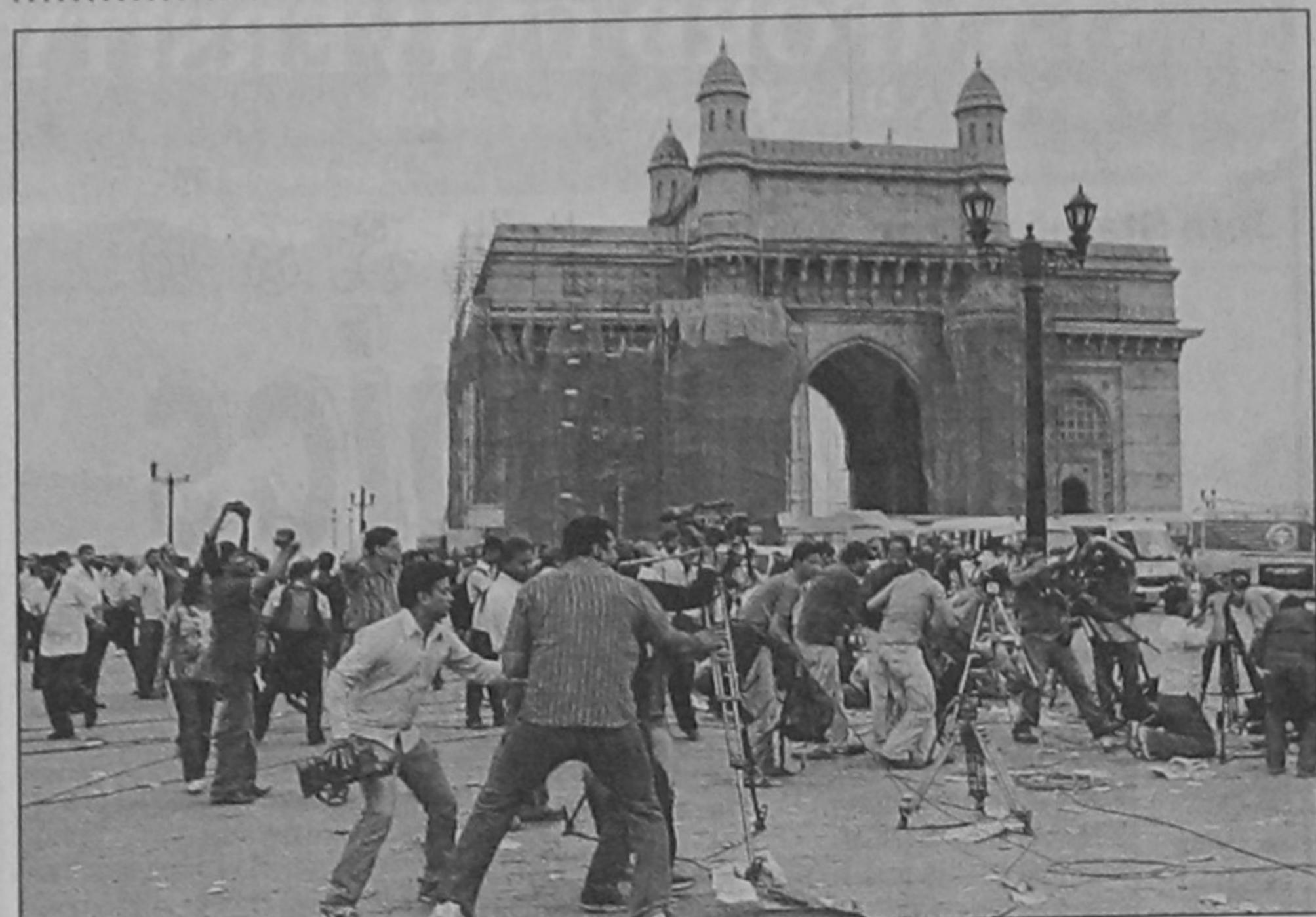
terrorism," Gilani's office said. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice telephoned Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari late Thursday to discuss ties and the regional situation, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

In 2001, militants fighting Indian rule in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir attacked Parliament in New Delhi, helping push the countries to the brink of war a year later.

It is widely believed that Pakistan used to provide material and tactical support to militants fighting Indian rule in divided Kashmir, but there has been less cross-border infiltration in recent years amid US pressure after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. India accused Pakistan's intelligence services of helping Taliban militants bomb its embassy in the Afghan capital in July, killing 58 people. Pakistani officials say there is no evidence to support the allegation.



Indian commandos assemble on the terrace of the Nariman Bhavan as they prepare an assault in Mumbai yesterday. Indian newspapers have slammed the government and intelligence agencies for failing to prevent the Mumbai attacks, saying the country's anti-terrorism forces were ill-prepared for attacks.



Journalists react in front of the historic Gateway of India monument as an unseen gunman fires shots towards them from inside the Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai yesterday.

Media points to Indian intelligence failures

AFP, Hong Kong

The carnage wreaked by Islamic militants in Mumbai has cemented South Asia's status as the most dangerous place on earth, the world's media said yesterday, urging India not to rush to blame Pakistan.

While domestic newspapers lashed the government over the intelligence lapses, which led to the attacks, the international press cautioned that any response must not further destabilise the region.

"The Terrorist Escalation," said the front-page headline of France's left-leaning Liberation, whose editorial spoke of "an arc of crisis that stretches across South Asia, the most dangerous region in the world."

Spain's El País daily said while it was tempting for India to blame its arch-rival Pakistan for

"its worst nightmare", the attacks appeared to be symptomatic of a wider malaise in the region.

"Everything suggests that India, which is used to fighting local separatists and guerrillas, is facing its own Islamic terrorism," said the top-selling daily.

India's Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Friday that preliminary information pointed to "some elements in Pakistan" being responsible for the attacks which have left at least 130 people dead.

However Britain's left-leaning Guardian newspaper said the attacks must not derail recent moves to put troubled Indian-Pakistani ties back on track.

India, naturally shaken by the slaughter of its civilians, must not allow the rapprochement with Pakistan to be derailed, for this is exactly what the militants want, it said.

Clues point to domestic terrors in attack

AP, London

The attack on India's financial capital bears all the trademarks of al-Qaeda simultaneous assaults meant to kill scores of Westerners in iconic buildings but clues so far point to homegrown Indian terrorists, global intelligence officials said Thursday.

Spy agencies around the world were caught off guard by the deadly attack, in which gunmen sprayed crowds with bullets, torched landmark hotels and took dozens of hostages.

"We have been actively monitoring plots in Britain and abroad and there was nothing to indicate something like this was about to happen,"

a British security official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of his work.

Britain is the former colonial power in India and Pakistan and closely monitors terrorist suspects in those countries.

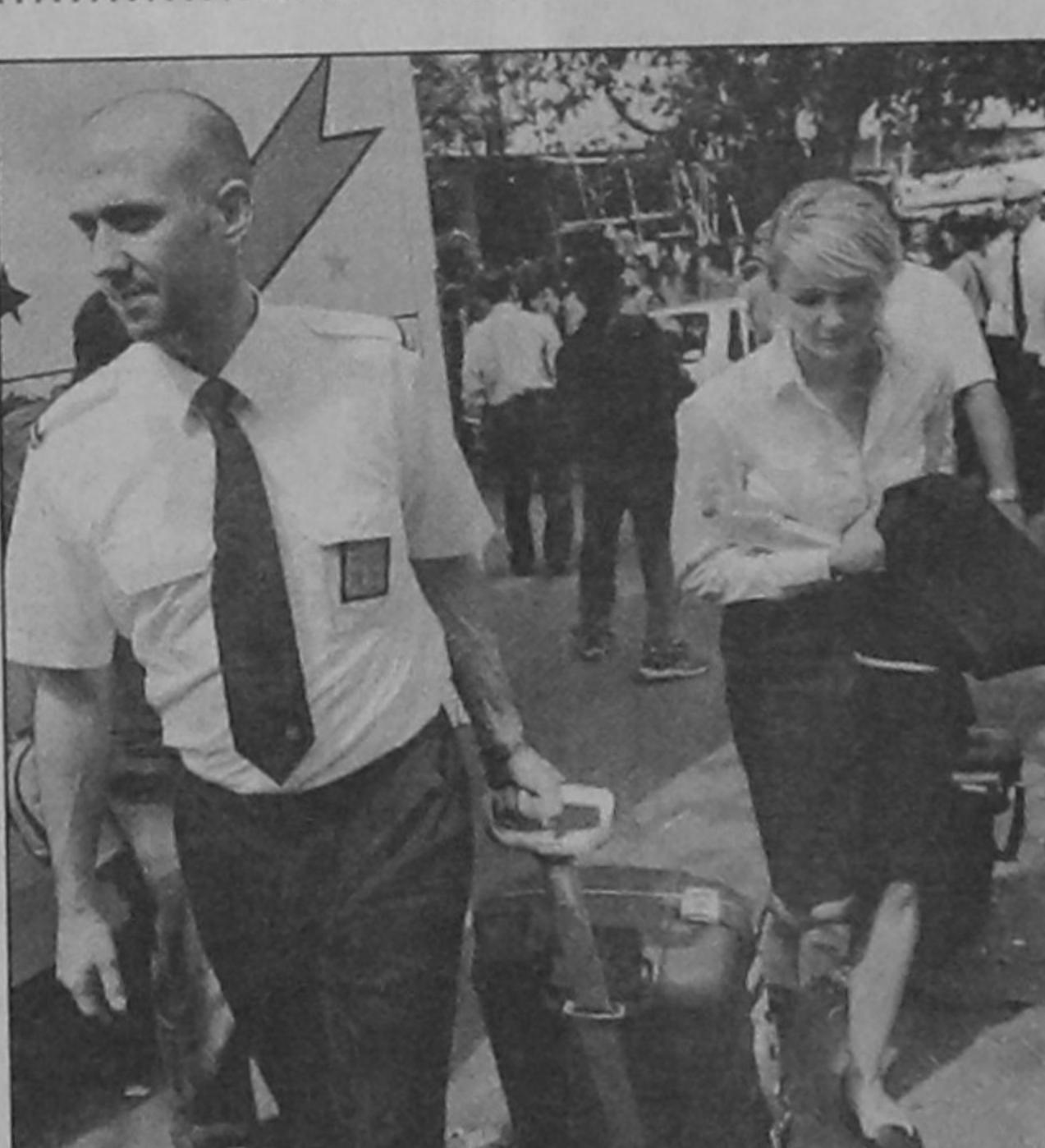
In some ways, the attack illustrated just how fluid terror tactics have become since Sept. 11 and how the threat has become more global. al-Qaeda's leaders on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border still provide inspiration but groups are becoming increasingly local.

The group that claimed responsibility, Deccan Mujahideen, was unknown to global security officials. The name suggested the group was

Indian. One of the suspects reportedly called an Indian television station, speaking the main Pakistani language of Urdu, to demand the return of Muslim lands. That was a reference to Kashmir, territory claimed by both India and Pakistan.

But Ajai Sahni, head of the New Delhi-based Institute for Conflict Management who has close ties to India's police and intelligence, said the attack was a departure from past assaults waged over Kashmir. Other such attacks had targeted Indian legislators, not Westerners.

Security officials said it was too soon to make a connection to Pakistan.



Flight attendants wheel their luggage as they walk outside the Trident Hotel in Mumbai yesterday after their release.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Mumbai attack shows new sophisticated face of terror

AFP, New Delhi

The brazen attacks in Mumbai signal a sea-change in the Islamist militant violence that has beset India, showing sophisticated planning and an "anti-Western agenda," analysts say.

Militants stormed a series of high-profile targets late Wednesday in India's financial capital, including the iconic Taj Mahal Palace hotel, a landmark restaurant, the main train station and a charitable hospital for women and children.

They killed more than 125 people and seized scores of hostages, targeting specifically Britons and Americans.

"The sheer scale and planning involved is markedly different from previous attacks -- it's a watershed attack," Singapore-based security

analyst Rohan Gunaratna, author of the book "Inside al-Qaeda" told AFP.

Previous assaults in India have involved planting bombs in public places such as busy restaurants or trains as in 2006 when Islamist militants staged serial attacks on Mumbai's congested rail network, killing 186 people.

The attacks targeted civilians "with the intention to foment unrest between Hindu and Muslim communities," said Jane's Country Risk analyst Urmila Venugopalan.

India, an officially secular country of more than 1.1 billion people, is majority Hindu and has a population of 113 million Muslims.

But "the apparent focus on killing or capturing foreign businesspeople, specifically US and UK nationals, has never occurred (in India) before, suggesting a wider global anti-Western agenda," said Venugopalan.

Tycoon described hotel drama before his death

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

A British tycoon killed in the attacks on Mumbai had gone to the Taj Mahal hotel for dinner because he heard they served the best food in the city.

Andreas Liveras, 73, whose fortune is estimated at £315m, owned Liveras Yachts, which charters "superyachts" and boasts of offering "the finest luxury yachts afloat".

The businessman, who was in Mumbai for a boat show, had just sat down when he and his party heard machine gun fire in the corridor.

Liveras described the chaos at the hotel to a journalist shortly before he died. He told the BBC: "We hid ourselves under the table and then they switched all the lights off. But the machine guns kept going, and they took us into the kitchen, and from there into a basement, before we came up into a salon where we are now."

"There must be more than 1,000 people here. There are residents and tourists and locals. We are not hiding, we are locked in here - nobody tells us anything, the doors are locked and we are inside."

Hotel staff were providing water and sandwiches but people were too frightened to eat much, Liveras said.

Blood, bodies and darkness hampered hunt for gunmen

AFP, Mumbai

Ruthless gunmen, terrified guests, pitch darkness and a fear of harming hostages posed huge challenges to commandos charged with ending Mumbai's hostage crisis, their commanders said Friday.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani pledged in a Friday telephone call to his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh that he would send the chief of the country's powerful intelligence service to India to help investigate the attacks.

Gilani also reminded Singh his country has been a victim of terrorism, while his defence minister told AFP he was "positive" that Pakistan had no involvement in Wednesday's attacks, which have killed more than 143 people.

"Initially, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh made a request to our prime minister that he should send the ISI chief to India to help in ongoing investigations and further intelligence sharing," said the Pakistani premier's spokesman, Zahid Bashir.

"The prime minister of Pakistan responded positively and said both governments need to work out modalities for the early arrival of the ISI chief in India."

Asked to give some details about casualty numbers, he said it had often been impossible to differentiate between dead bodies, the injured and people simply pressing themselves to the floor in terror.

"When an exchange of fire takes place in darkness and there are bodies strewn all over, and blood all over, you're actually not looking who is injured or killed."

"You're just looking for someone with lots of weapons on him," he said.

Security officials said the men -- described by eyewitnesses as "just like boys" dressed in cargo pants and T-shirts with rucksacks across their shoulders -- were a highly motivated and determined group.

Split into small groups, they created panic Wednesday night by attacking locations across Mumbai before focusing their assault on the two five-star hotels and a separate office-residential building housing a Jewish centre.

"They were the kind of people with no remorse," the masked commandos said. "Anybody and whomsoever came in front of them they fired."

Mumbai attacks expose coastline threats

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The revelation of the fact that perpetrators of the terror attacks in Mumbai came by boats once again brought to limelight the threat posed to India's 7,516km coastline, covering nine states and four federally-administered territories, security analysts said yesterday.

In a joint operation, Indian Navy, Coast and the water wing of Border Security Force apprehended two Pakistani merchant ships MV Alpha and MV Al Kabir, which were suspected to have ferried the terrorists, off the coast of Gujarat on Wednesday when the vessels were going to Karachi, Indian Home Ministry officials said.

Chief Minister of Maharashtra Vilasrao Deshmukh has said about 20 terrorists reached Mumbai on Tuesday night by boats and security officials said the indications they came from Karachi.

Security sources said the terrorists boarded small boats after disembarking from a "mother ship" in the Arabian Sea and then got into Indian fishing trawlers to avoid detection.

Once they reached near Mumbai, they switched back to smaller inflatable rubber boats arranged for them locally and then broke up into two groups for carrying out the attacks. The inflatable boats were found abandoned near Budhwar Park coastal area of Mumbai.

The sources said one boat named "Kuber", a private Indian shipping trawler, was found abandoned some five nautical miles off the Mumbai coast.

Two warships of Indian Navy are scouring the waters of Arabian Sea off the coast of Mumbai and Gujarat state to look for the mother ship from where the terrorists disembarked into smaller boats.

DAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)

Invitation for Local Tender

1	Agency	Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC).		
2	Procuring Entity Name	Deputy General Manager (MIS), ICT Circle, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited.		
3	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
4	Invitation for	Invitation of sealed bid for Maintenance Services of Two Line Matrix Printers.		
5	Invitation Ref No.	DPDC/ICT Circle/2/02/2008/156		
6	Date	16-11-2008		
7	Procuring Method	Open Tendering Method (Single Stage - Single Envelop).		
8	Budget & source of Funds	DPDC's own fund (Revenue Budget).		
9	Tender Name	Maintenance of Two Line Matrix Printer.		
10	Last Selling Date of Tender, with Bid Submission and Bid Opening Date, Time	Last Selling Date	Bid Submission & Opening Date	Bid Submission Deadline
		22-12-2008	23-12-2008	12.00 noon
11	Name & Address of the office for selling, receiving and opening of Tender Document	Selling Deputy General Manager (MIS), ICT Circle, DPDC, House # 47 (3 rd floor), Road # 135, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Phone No. 8817749.		
		Receiving & Opening Deputy General Manager (MIS), ICT Circle, DPDC, House # 47 (3 rd floor), Road # 135, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Phone No. 8817749.		
12	Eligibility of Tender	Tenderer should be Bonafide Authorized distributor / dealer and 3 (three) Years Experience for Maintenance Services of Line Matrix Printer.		
13	Price of Tender Document for each Lot (Taka)	Taka 500/- (Five hundred) only, non-refundable in the form of Pay order/Bank draft issued any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favor of Deputy General Manager (MIS), ICT Circle, DPDC, Dhaka.		
14	Item	Tender Security Amount (Taka)	Location of Maintenance	
	Maintenance Services of Two Line Matrix Printer.	Taka. 14,000/- (Fourteen thousand) only in the form of Pay order/Bank draft issued any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favor of Deputy General Manager (MIS), ICT Circle, DPDC, Dhaka.	Deputy General Manager (MIS), ICT Circle, DPDC, House # 47 (3 rd floor), Road # 135, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Phone No. 8817749.	
15	Contract Period	Two years from the date of contract signing.		
16	Procuring Entity Details:			
17	Name of official Inviting Tender	Md. Rabiu Hasan.		
18	Designation of official Inviting Tender	Deputy General Manager (MIS), ICT Circle, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC).		
19	Address of official Inviting Tender	House # 47 (3 rd floor), Road # 135, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212.		
20	Contact Details of official Inviting Tender	Phone No. 8817749.		
	The Procuring Entity reserve the right to accept or reject any/all Tender (s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.			

Deputy General Manager (MIS)
ICT Circle, DPDC, Dhaka.