

# Fears of sectarian violence after Mumbai carnage

AFP, Mumbai

The Islamist militant attacks on Mumbai have led to fears that India could see a sectarian backlash as Hindu and Muslim groups exploit mutual suspicion for political and religious ends.

Underlying tensions between Muslims and Hindus that have simmered for decades could flare, if not in Mumbai then elsewhere in the country, in reaction to three days of carnage that officials have blamed on Islamist extremists aligned with Pakistan, members of both communities told AFP.

The majority of people from both sides of the sectarian divide wish to live in peace, said commentators, writers and ordinary Indians.

Right-wing Hindu groups could be expected to use Islamists' involvement in the attacks to garner support before next

year's national elections, said writer Javed Anand.

But he added that both Hindu and Muslim communities were "in denial about terrorism in their own midst," which he said was "a nationwide issue."

Heavily-armed Islamist youths struck at a dozen sites late Wednesday, including luxury hotels, a hospital and a Jewish centre, taking hostages as they seized some of the city's iconic buildings, including the Taj Mahal hotel.

The Taj was finally cleared early Saturday with at least 172 people reported dead and nearly 300 others wounded.

Officials including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh have fingered "elements" in Pakistan as being behind the attacks, and Indian media have said one assailant taken alive was Pakistani.

Singh's Congress-led government has been labelled weak by the Hindu nation-

alist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the main opposition group, which says the government is soft on terror -- an issue Anand said will be a pivot of the party's platform for elections that must be held by next May.

Anand, secretary general of activist group Muslims for a Secular Democracy, said the BJP was likely to use the Mumbai attacks to exploit a Hindu prejudice that "all terrorists are Muslims and all Muslims are loyal to Pakistan."

"On the Muslim side there is a belief that Muslims never do anything wrong, so they never get to the point of dealing with it within their own community," he said.

Referring to a government report released in late 2006, he said Muslims trailed majority Hindus, and even other minorities, in everything from literacy and child mortality to bank loans received and bus stops in their villages.

## Owners get back control of Taj hotel

AFP, Mumbai

Indian security officials have handed control of Mumbai's landmark Taj Mahal hotel back to its owners, the company said yesterday.

The majestic seafront hotel was the scene of three nights of fierce fighting between Indian commandos and militants who seized the building in a daring raid Wednesday, part of a spate of attacks across the city that killed 172.

"In the early hours of December 1, the security authorities handed control of the Taj Mahal Palace and Towers back to the Taj Group," a statement read.



An un-identified Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) member leaves State police headquarters in Mumbai yesterday. A 16-member Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) team arrived in the city to help investigate the coordinated Mumbai attacks.

# Muslims condemn Mumbai attacks, worry about image

AP, Ramallah

Muslims from the Middle East to Britain and Austria condemned Sunday the Mumbai shooting rampage by suspected Islamic militants as senseless terrorism, but also found themselves on the defensive once again about bloodshed linked to their religion.

Intellectuals and community leaders called for greater efforts to combat religious fanaticism.

Indian police said Sunday that the only surviving militant told them he belongs to the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba. The group is seen as a creation of Pakistani intelligence to help fight India in the disputed Kashmir region. Another group, Jaish-e-Mohammed, has also operated in Kashmir. Both are reported to be linked to al-Qaeda.

Ten gunmen attacked 10 targets in the three-day assault including a Jewish community centre and luxury hotels in India's commercial hub. More than 170 people were killed.

Many Muslims said they are worried such carnage is besmirching their religion.

"The occupation of the synagogue and killing people in hotels tarnishes the Muslim faith," said Kazim al-Muqaddi, a political sci-

ence lecturer at Baghdad University. "Anyone who slaughters people and screams 'Allahu Akbar' (God is Great) is sick and ignorant."

In Britain, home to nearly two million Muslims, a spokesman for the Muslim Council of Britain, Inayat Bunglawala, said that "a handful of terrorists like this bring the entire faith into disrepute."

A previously unknown Muslim group, Deccan Mujahideen, claimed responsibility for the attacks. The name suggests origins in India.

Pakistan has denied involvement and demanding that India provide proof. In Pakistan, Jamaat-ud Dawa, an Islamist group believed to have ties to Lashkar-e-Taiba, denounced the killing of civilians.

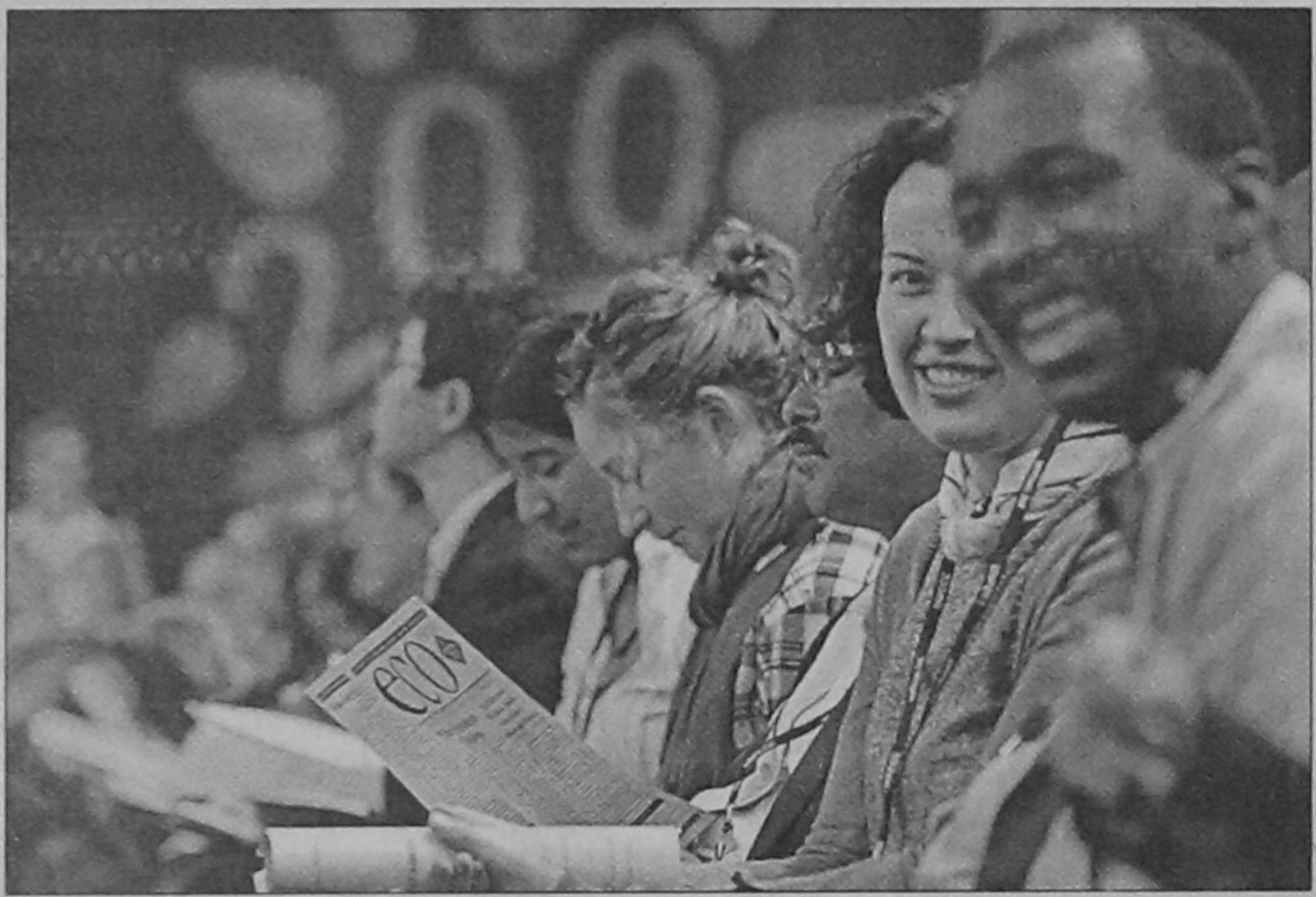
In Islamic extremist Web forums, some praised the Mumbai attacks, including the targeting of Jews.

A man identified as Sheikh Youssef al-Ayeri said the killings are in line with Islam.

"It's all right for Muslims to set the infidels' castles on fire, throw them with water ... and take some of them as prisoners, whether young or old, women or men, because it is one of many ways to beat them," he wrote in the al-Fallujah forum.



India's newly-appointed Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram addresses a press conference in New Delhi yesterday. India's government reassured the nation the economy was in safe hands after Premier Manmohan Singh took over the top finance job following the deadly assault on Mumbai's financial capital.



Participants attend an opening session of the United Nations climate change conference in Poznan, Poland yesterday. A 12-day UN conference on climate change began in Poznan amid warnings that the impacts of global warming could wreak a dark toll of human misery and conflict.

# Lankan military seizes key rebel-held town

AP, Colombo

Sri Lankan soldiers captured a key town on the main highway to the headquarters of the country's Tamil rebels, 18 years after the insurgents seized the area by overrunning an army camp, the military said yesterday.

Troops seized Kokavil town, some 20km south of the insurgents' de facto capital of Kilinochchi on Sunday, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said. He did not give casualty details.

The capture was the latest sign of the government's current dominance in the island's decades-old civil war. The rebels have been forced to abandon vast areas of land while retreating to territory in the northeast during months of heavy battles.

Sri Lankan security forces have resumed their offensive to capture the political capital of Tamil Tiger rebels after heavy monsoon rains began subsiding, the defence ministry said Sunday.

"The air sorties were made in support of the advancing 57th division infantry battalions," the ministry said.

Flooding had stalled the military push on Kilinochchi and also left nearly half a million people homeless in the island's north.

Tiger rebels have admitted that their mini-state has shrunk under the ongoing military onslaught but their leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, has vowed to fight on.

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Manger HR & Administration  
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Head Office: G4S Dhaka House  
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রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা

### আবাসিক প্লট বরাদ্দের স্পষ্টিকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের পূর্বাচল নতুন শহর প্রকল্প এবং উত্তরা ৩য় পর্ব প্রকল্পের আবাসিক প্লট বরাদ্দের জন্য ২৫/১১/২০০৮ ও ২৬/১১/২০০৮ তারিখ প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি ও রাজউকের ওয়েব সাইটে প্রদত্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তির অতিরিক্ত স্পষ্টিকরণ নিম্নে প্রদত্ত হ'লঃ

- ১। রাজউক ভবনস্থিত সোনালী/জনতা/অগ্রণী ব্যাংক এবং মহাখালী ও উত্তরায় অবস্থিত জনতা ব্যাংক এর শাখা ছাড়াও স্ট্যান্ডার্ড চার্টার্ড ব্যাংক প্রধান কার্যালয়, গুলশান এবং সিটি ব্যাংক এন.এ-এর প্রধান কার্যালয়, গুলশান হতে আবেদনপত্রের ফরম ও প্রসপেক্টাস সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।
- ২। এছাড়া রাজউক ওয়েবসাইট ([www.rajukdhaka.gov.bd](http://www.rajukdhaka.gov.bd)) হতেও আবেদনপত্রের ফরম ও প্রসপেক্টাস ডাউনলোড করে প্রসপেক্টাসে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী পূরণপূর্বক নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে জামানতের অর্থ চেয়ারম্যান, রাজউকের অনুকূলে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে ১নং অনুচ্ছেদে বর্ণিত ব্যাংকের শাখাসমূহে আবেদনপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে পারবেন। তবে এক্ষেত্রে আবেদনপত্র ও প্রসপেক্টাসের মূল্য বাবদ নগদ ১০০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা আবেদনপত্র জমাদানকালে সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যাংকে জমা করতে হবে।
- ৩। বিদেশে বসবাসরত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকগণের ক্ষেত্রেঃ
  - ক) বর্তমানে যারা স্বল্প সময়ের জন্য দেশে অবস্থান করছেন তাঁরা তাঁদের নিজস্ব এফ.সি. একাউন্ট হতে নির্ধারিত ডলার প্রদানপূর্বক আবেদন করতে পারবেন। সেক্ষেত্রে ১৫০/- টাকার নন-জুডিশিয়াল স্ট্যাম্প নমুনা মোতাবেক হলফনামা ও পাসপোর্টের সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
  - খ) নমুনা মোতাবেক হলফনামা, আবেদনকারীর ছবি ও পাসপোর্টের কপি সংশ্লিষ্ট দেশে অবস্থিত বাংলাদেশ মিশন অথবা নোটারী পাবলিক দ্বারা সম্পাদন/সত্যায়িত করা যাবে সেক্ষেত্রে ১৫০/- টাকার নন-জুডিশিয়াল স্ট্যাম্প প্রযোজ্য হবে না।
  - গ) জামানতের অর্থ পূর্বাচল প্রকল্পের ক্ষেত্রে সোনালী ব্যাংক বৈদেশিক বাণিজ্য শাখা দিলকুশা ঢাকায় রাজউকের FC account 161012-তে প্রেরণ করতে হবে।
  - ঘ) সম্প্রসারিত উত্তরা ৩য় পর্ব প্রকল্পের ক্ষেত্রে অগ্রণী ব্যাংক বৈদেশিক বাণিজ্য শাখা, মতিঝিল ঢাকায় FC account 002-তে প্রেরণ করতে হবে।
  - ঙ) আবেদনপত্রসহ সকল কাগজপত্র স্ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে ই-মেইল-এর মাধ্যমে রাজউকে প্রেরণ করা যাবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখের পর কোন ই-মেইল গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। তবে এক্ষেত্রে FDD-র পেছনে আবেদনকারীর নাম ও পিতার নাম অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে। প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ মূল আবেদনপত্র অবশ্যই চেয়ারম্যান, রাজউকের অনুকূলে ডাকযোগে প্রেরণ করতে হবে।
  - চ) আবেদনপত্রের ১২ ও ১৪ নং ত্রমিক প্রবাসীদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য হবে না।
  - ছ) প্রসপেক্টাসের ১২(গ) ত্রমিকের ক্ষেত্রে প্রবাসীদের পাসপোর্ট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে।

প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য সকল শর্ত অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

চেয়ারম্যান  
রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, ঢাকা

জিডি-৫৬৬৪