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# 'Women in burqa led to plan change'

S Ahmed Ali, TNN | Jan 9, 2009, 12.06 AM IST

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Article by Gauri

MUMBAI: If all ten Pakistani terrorists were asked by their handlers to go to the highest floor of their given targets and take hostages, then why did the two terrorists-Ajmal Kasab and module leader Ismail Khan-not take hostages at [the Cama](#) and [Albless Hospital](#) and instead preferred to flee?

Sources said that when asked, [Kasab](#) replied that on the fateful night of 26/11 after their failed attempt to climb up to the CST railway station office due to retaliatory fire from railway cops, they saw another stair towards the north of platform no 1 at CST.

He said they climbed up and realised it was a footover bridge which took them out of the station. After this, they tried to force their entry into cars parked outside the TOI office, but when they did not succeed, they barged into Cama hospital from the back door.

The duo had decided to take patients hostage at Cama but Kasab said they saw a lot of Muslim women and children at the hospital and they had clear instructions from their handlers in Pakistan to avoid Muslim casualties as much as possible.

[State-run Cama hospital](#) has many lower [middle class Muslim patients](#) from nearby areas such as Bhandi Bazaar, Mohammed Ali Road, Dongri, Pydhonie, Byculla and to some extent even Sewri and Wadala, as the hospital is at a walking distance from CST railway station.

Senior officers said after the duo escaped from Cama through the narrow bylanes, they hid behind the bushes near Rang Sharda and opened fire at the police vehicle in which three senior officers including Hemant Karkare were killed.

The police also believe this theory because Kasab told them the original plan was to attack Mumbai in September during the holy month of Ramzan. "Their plan was to strike the city late in the evening when almost all Muslims would be indoors breaking their fasts and thus there would be less Muslim casualties."

However, sources said their plans flopped after the Mumbai crime branch busted the Indian Mujahedeen (IM) module and security was beefed up all over the city. Police sources said even during the 1993 serial blasts, the Dawood Ibrahim gang ensured that the blasts took place during Friday prayers when all Muslims would be praying in mosques.

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