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World News

ISI chief to help probe

Posted on » Saturday, November 29, 2008

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan scrambled yesterday to avoid a dangerous crisis with India over the terror attacks in Mumbai, sending its spy chief to share intelligence and countering Indian charges that "elements in Pakistan" were behind the carnage.

Clear Pakistani fingerprints on the attacks would endanger fragile peace talks between the nuclear-armed rivals.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani insisted that such evidence would not be found. "I am saying it clearly that Pakistan has nothing to do with this incident. Pakistan has no link with this act," Gilani said. "We condemn it. The whole nation condemns it."

Gilani said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told him in a telephone call that there were "some indications" linking the Mumbai attack to Karachi.

He said he had granted Singh's wish that the ISI chief, Lt Gen Ahmed Shujaa Pasha, hurry to India in person to share intelligence.

Pakistan's foreign minister appealed to India not to get "sucked" into a blame game over the attacks and put the nuclear-armed neighbours on the path to confrontation.

Speaking in New Delhi, where he was on an official visit, Shah Mehmood Qureshi condemned the multiple Islamist assaults, calling the militants "barbaric animals."

But he said India had spoken too swiftly earlier in blaming "elements in Pakistan" for the attacks and should avoid a "knee-jerk"


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response.

"Let us build a new relationship or we could get sucked back into a situation that we have been living in for 60 years and that will be a tragedy as large as this one," he said.

Militants who attacked Mumbai had pre-stocked weapons and explosives inside one of the hotels they targeted, Indian intelligence sources said.

The Intelligence Bureau said it had detained a Muslim militant, Abu Islami, who was found to have checked into the five-star Oberoi/Trident hotel four days before the attackers landed.

"He used the room to store explosives" including 40 hand grenades "and weapons for a prolonged operation," a top official said.

"We are asking him who supplied the weapons, the explosives, the Chinese-made grenades."

The Intelligence Bureau also said credit cards and one identity card from the Indian Ocean nation of Mauritius were recovered from the militant's room.



A row of social sharing and utility icons. From left to right: the 'Daily News' logo, an 'Email' icon with the text 'Email this Story', a 'Write Comments' icon with a pencil, a 'BOOKMARK' icon with browser logos, a Twitter bird icon, and a Facebook 'f' icon.



A banner for the game 'Forge of Empires'. It shows a medieval village scene with a 'NEU' (New) badge in the top left. The text reads 'Durchschreite die EPOCHEN!' (Cross the epochs!). The game title 'FORGE OF EMPIRES' is in the center, and 'Jetzt kostenlos registrieren!' (Register now for free!) is in a box on the right. The 'InnoGames' logo is in the top right corner.

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