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FBI launches massive drive to locate 26/11 boat

AI Husseini, a Pakistani vessel, which was allegedly used by Qasab and other terrorists on their way to Mumbai, went missing after attacks

2009-02-23
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AI Husseini, a Pakistani vessel, which was allegedly used by Qasab and other terrorists on their way to Mumbai, went missing after attacks

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the premier US investigative agency, has launched a massive search for MV AI Husseini, the sea vessel, which was allegedly used by ten 26/11 terrorists to sail towards Mumbai.

Coast Guard officials, who launched a search off the Mumbai-Gujarat coast for the vessel, say MV AI Husseini and MV Mashaallah, the boat on which Pakistan says the plot to attack Mumbai was hatched, could be the same vessel, as Mashaallah is also missing. Investigators fear the vessel may have been sunk by the Pakistani navy following the Mumbai attacks. The change of name, authorities say, could merely be a ploy to mislead investigators.



VITAL EVIDENCE: Important details pertaining to the Gemini (small boat) and the extra engine cover were found on M V Kuber. file pic

These startling facts come to light after Additional Commissioner of Police (crime) Deven Bharti returned from the US after meeting senior FBI officials on Friday.

"The FBI has launched a hunt for M V Husseini, which is a little bigger than a fishing trawler, with help of their overseas contacts to crack the case," Bharti told MID DAY.

The FBI probe is expected to throw fresh light on the vessel, which went missing soon after the 10 terrorists landed in Mumbai on 26/11.

Suspicious sighting

Meanwhile, residents of a fishing village off Tarapore Coast, some 100 km from Mumbai, reported the sighting of a speedboat with some suspicious-looking strangers on board heading towards Mumbai.

Superintendent of Police (Thane Rural) Shashikant Mahavarkar said a hunt was on to locate the vessel and the Coast Guard and Navy have been informed about the sighting as well.

Coast Guard Inspector General Rajendra Singh also confirmed that the local police had informed them of the mysterious boat. Tarapore has a nuclear research centre and also has a heavy water project. Both are, therefore, sensitive areas.

26/11 evidence given by the US to India

- >>Vital telephonic conversations linking Mumbai attackers to their counterparts in Pakistan
- >>GPS records of M V Kuber in which the 10 terrorists were transferred from the Husseini before heading for Mumbai on November 23, last year
- >>Important details pertaining to the Gemini (small boat) and the extra engine cover found on fishing vessel M V Kuber, which is part of the key evidence in the case
- >>Forensic report of bullets used by attackers



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