



Top Stories

Mumbai sieges come to an end



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Police forces in India have ended the hostage sieges which followed the Mumbai attacks, which began on Wednesday in Mumbai, the financial capital of India. 155 people were killed and over 300 injured when militants attacked six sites.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Brazilian officials declare a state of emergency as flooding in the Southern state of Santa Catarina causes at least 109 deaths and forces the evacuation of over 78,000 people.
- The PAIGC wins a majority of seats in the National People's Assembly after legislative elections in Guinea-Bissau.
- The eruption of Nevado del Huila, a volcano in southern Colombia, causes at least 10 deaths and the evacuation of 12,000 people.

Mumbai sieges come to an end

Police forces in India have ended the hostage sieges which followed the Mumbai attacks, which began on Wednesday in Mumbai, the financial capital of India.

It ended when commandos finally caught up with a lone gunman, who had played a cat-and-mouse game in the Taj Mahal Palace & Tower, nearly 56 hours after the attacks began.

According to Indian television and radio, 155 people have been killed and 327 others wounded. Local media have described the attacks as "India's 9/11." CNN is reporting over 160 dead and 370 injured. Eleven gunmen killed are not counted in these totals.

Police say that they are in control of both the Taj Mahal and Oberoi Trident hotels. Nearly 300 people have been freed.

The siege of Nariman House, a

outreach post of the orthodox-Jewish sect Chabad-Lubavitch, ended when at least eight Black Cats commandos entered the building by rope from a helicopter. No hostages or attackers survived the assault, though details are still unclear.

"These people were very, very familiar with the hotel layouts and it appears they had carried out a survey before," said an unidentified commander of MARCOS, India's elite marine commandos. The commandos were hampered because they feared injuring hotel guests if they used overwhelming force.

"Bodies were strewn all over the place, and there was blood everywhere," he said.

The commander also noted that his unit found a backpack belonging to one of the gunmen. Inside they found dried fruit, 400 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, four grenades, Indian rupees and American dollars, and seven credit cards from some of the world's leading banks and a national ID card for the island nation of Mauritius.

"Once the bodies are collected, the number of deaths might go up to 200," said India's Minister of Home Affairs Sri Prakash Jaiswal.

"We came up against highly motivated terrorists," said Vice-Admiral J.S. Bedi, whose commandos led the assault against the militants.

Wikipedia Current Events

Rioting after a contested election in Jos, Nigeria kills over 381 and injures hundreds.

•Terrorist attacks at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel (pictured), the Nariman House and several other locations in Mumbai, India, kill at least 195 people and injure hundreds.

•The people of Greenland pass a referendum regarding greater autonomy from Denmark.

•The Thai political crisis deepens as protesters seize two Bangkok airports.

India's foreign minister, Pranab Mukherjee, said, "Preliminary evidence indicates that elements with links to Pakistan are involved," stirring a diplomatic row between India and Pakistan. Observers have said that the attacks bear the hallmarks of Lashkar-e-Toiba or Jaish-e-Mohammed, both of which are considered to be based in Pakistan and responsible for previous attacks on India.

However, Prime Minister of Pakistan Yousaf Raza Gillani said that Pakistan had "nothing to do with the attacks."

"It is unfair to blame Pakistan or Pakistanis for these acts of terrorism even before an investigation is undertaken," Husain Haqqani, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, said in a statement. "Instead of scoring political points at the expense of a neighboring country that is itself a victim of terrorism, it is time for India's leaders to work together with Pakistan's elected leaders in putting up a joint front against terrorism."

Ethiopian troops will leave Somalia

A foreign ministry spokesperson has announced that all Ethiopian troops will withdraw from Somalia by the end of this year.

Two years ago, Ethiopia sent out thousands of soldiers to Somalia in an effort to help the government oust Islamists from the Somali capital of Mogadishu.

Under the deal, African Union troops will replace Ethiopian troops withdrawing from the cities of Mogadishu and Beledweyne, while the Somali government and ARS will create a police force 10,000-

strong.

Poll results spark riots in Nigerian city

According to aid workers, at least twenty people, including a policeman, have been killed in riots in the Nigerian city of Jos after local elections. Muslim opposition supporters started rioting when they heard that their candidate to head the council had been defeated.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been imposed by the authorities, and soldiers have been deployed to the streets when rival gangs started burning churches and mosques.

According to the Red Cross, no less than twenty people have been killed and about 300 wounded as a result of the unrest, and at least ten thousand more have been forced from their homes. About 100 homes have been burnt.

Suicide bomber in Iraqi mosque kills 12

A suicide bomber blew himself up in an Iraqi mosque on Friday, killing twelve people and injuring a further sixteen. The attack happened at a Shiite mosque in the Musayyib district in Babil, located 100 kilometres south of Iraq's capital Baghdad.

This comes a day after the Iraqi parliament approved a deal with the United States to start withdrawing US troops from the country. Under the timetable, soldiers will start leaving Iraqi streets in June of 2009 and leave the country completely by the end of 2011.

British trainee police arrested for suspected drugs offences

Two British trainee police officers have been arrested for suspected possession of Class A drugs.

One of the two women involved were arrested after being taken to hospital at the start of this month, while the other was arrested on charges of possession with intention to supply. Both have been released on bail.

Before their arrest, the women were training in Hendon, London, in a centre run by the Metropolitan Police.

Today in History

1718 - Swedish king Charles XII dies during a siege of the fortress Fredriksten in Norway.

1803 - In New Orleans, Louisiana, Spanish representatives officially transfer Louisiana Territory to a French representative. Just 20 days later, France transfers the same land to the United States as the Louisiana Purchase. 1940 - Lucille Ball marries Desi Arnaz in Greenwich, Connecticut.

1971 - Iran seizes the Greater and Lesser Tunbs from the United Arab Emirates.

1995 - Official end of Operation Desert Storm.

Quote of the Day

The one thing that unifies men in a given age is not their individual philosophies but the dominant problem that these philosophies are designed to solve. ~ Jacques Barzun

Word of the Day

ineluctable adj

1. Impossible to avoid or escape; inescapable, irresistible.

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