

# N-plants target of militants

## Says Indian defence minister

REUTERS, New Delhi

India has stepped up security at its nuclear installations fearing an attack by a Pakistan-based militant group, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the defence minister told parliament yesterday.

Pranab Mukherjee said a series of "special security measures" had been taken and more were under consideration as officials took the possibility of an attack "very seriously".  
"The information that is available with the security agencies is that LeT

modules are planning on carrying out some strikes against critical infrastructure items, military targets and religious places," he said.  
"Regarding items of critical infrastructure, reports indicate a possibility of nuclear installations being considered," he said. India has 15 operating nuclear power plants.

Lashkar has long been active in Indian Kashmir, where more than 45,000 people have been killed in an anti-India insurgency since 1989. But the group has also been blamed for attacks in other parts of India.

Security agencies say the recent Mumbai bombings, where 186 people were killed in a series of blasts on commuter trains and platforms, were carried out by local Muslims who may have had links with Lashkar.

Lashkar has denied a role in the blasts.  
Mukherjee said the group was becoming more active and was being "continuously and carefully monitored".



PHOTO: STAR  
Lyricist Shafat Khaiyam speaks at a memorial meeting to pay tribute to Awami League leader and commissioner Joly Kabir at the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city on Sunday. Joy Bangla Sangskritik Jote organised the meeting.

## HC rules

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seekers' date of birth during their enrolment in colleges. The senior ones will get priority if the number of admission seekers securing same GPA in SSC exam is higher than the number of seats available in a college.

The order issued by an HC division bench after hearing the writ petition will be sent to the respondents by special messenger.

Respondents of the rule are -- education secretary, the chairmen of all Boards of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, chairman of Madrasa Education Board, chairman of Technical Education Board, director general of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education and director of the Directorate of Inspection and Audit.

Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru moved for the petitioner while advocate Motaheer Hossain Sajuj and advocate Selina Akter Chowdhury assisted him.

The education ministry introduced the new policy for college admission on July 6 last.

The petitioner alleged that the respondents have imposed discriminatory rules regarding the admission of the student in colleges on the basis of seniority according to their date of birth.

She said the policy creates contradiction and discrimination between the students having same results in SSC, that goes against Articles 26 and 27 of the constitution.

The petitioner also said most of the brilliant students achieving the highest grade, GPA-5, in this year's SSC examinations are likely to be denied admission in the renowned colleges due to shortage of seats at HSC level as there will be no admission test.

Giving priority to the seniors among the students with same GPA is illegal, she said adding that age of the students can never be the main qualification for admission in the college.

The petitioner said admission test is the universal method to determine the merit of the students but the government rules do not provide for such test.