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# Pakistan moves troops toward Indian border

Manmohan summons military chiefs for talks

AP, AFP, Islamabad/New Delhi

Pakistan began moving thousands of troops away from the Afghan border toward India yesterday amid tensions following the Mumbai attacks, intelligence officials said.

The move represents a sharp escalation in the standoff between the nuclear-armed neighbours and will hurt Pakistan's US-backed campaign against al-Qaeda and Taliban taking place near Afghanistan's border.

Two intelligence officials said the army's 14th Division was being redeployed to Kasur and Sialkot, close to the Indian border. They said some 20,000

troops were on the move. Earlier Friday, a security official said that all troop leave had been cancelled. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

Indian officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met Friday with the chiefs of the army, navy and air force to discuss "the prevailing security situation," according to an official statement.

India on Friday advised its citizens not to visit Pakistan amid tensions between the two countries over last month's attacks in Mumbai which New Delhi blames on Pakistan-based militants.

A foreign ministry spokesman said reports in the Pakistani media linking a bomb attack in the Pakistani city of Lahore to the alleged arrests of several Indians in Pakistan made it unsafe for Indians to visit to that country.

"Indian citizens are therefore advised that it would be unsafe for them to travel or be in Pakistan," ministry spokesman Vishnu Prakash told reporters in New Delhi.

An Associated Press reporter in Dera Ismail Khan, a district that borders the Afghan-frontier province of South Waziristan, said he saw around 40 trucks loaded with soldiers heading away from the Afghan border.

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## Elect honest men for effective JS

Dr Kamal urges voters

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called upon people to cast their votes for honest and competent candidates in the December 29 national election for constituting an effective parliament that would work for healthy democracy in the country.

"People are now looking for a corruption-free society, an active parliament and rule of law. So, all have to exercise their voting right judiciously. A wrong decision once again would be disastrous," he said.

The eminent jurist was addressing the last election rally of Jatiya Jukta Front, an

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# 37 bombs seized; 3 more JMB men held

Gaibandha JMB operatives remanded after explosives haul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 37 bombs were recovered from various places in Rajshahi, Naogaon, Jessore and Meherpur while three suspected JMB members were detained in Panchagarh yesterday.

Meanwhile, the eight JMB operatives, arrested in Gaibandha with a big cache of explosives on Thursday, were placed on a five-day police remand.

SM Moniruzzaman, superintendent of police in Gaibandha, told The Daily Star that the detained operatives of outlawed Islamist outfit JMB were being interrogated.

Col Gulzaruddin Ahmed, additional director general of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), said they were making preparation to interrogate the eight JMB men under the Taskforce Intelligence (TFI).

Gaibandha police arrested the eight JMB men in Sadar and Gobindganj upazilas with 50 casings of grenade, grenade-making materials, huge explosives and books on jihad.

The JMB members are Rezaul Karim Reji alias Hasan alias Shihab, Manjurul Islam Manju, Al Amin, Mostafizur Rahman, Nannu Mia, Rowshan Ali, Amzad Hosain and Obaidur Rahman.

Of them, Obaidur and Amzad are madrasa teachers while Reji is the regional commander of the banned militant outfit.

Meanwhile, two other JMB men, arrested with five grenades and a 10kg bomb at Nadiabi village in Comilla, were brought to Dhaka for interrogation by the TFI. They had been placed on an eight-day remand on Thursday.

Our Rajshahi University correspondent

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## Trains collide head-on at Gazipur

25 hurt; rail link snapped for 8 hours; 3 staff suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 25 people were injured and train services on different routes disrupted for about eight hours as two passenger trains collided head-on at Rajendrapur in Gazipur yesterday morning.

Sources said the collision took place at about 6:50am when Mohanganj-bound Brahmaputra Express coming from Dhaka violated the signal and crashed into Dhaka-bound Mohua Express from Mymensingh.

Two bogies of the Brahmaputra derailed and train links on different routes, including Dhaka-Mymensingh, Dhaka-Mohanganj, Dhaka-Jamalpur and Dhaka-Sherpur, remained suspended till 2:30pm, said Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kamalapur Railway Police Station.

Of the injured, at least 11 were rushed to different hospitals and clinics, including one at Dhaka Medical College and two others at Gazipur Hospital, in a critical condition.

Bangladesh Railway Director General (DG) Belayet Hossain told The Daily Star that rail authorities suspended locomotive master Mohammad Mostofa, assistant locomotive master Nazmul Alam and rail guard Nazrul Islam of Brahmaputra Express after the accident.

He also said two separate committees were formed to investigate the crash.

According to railway sources, the Mohua was supposed to stop at Rajendrapur

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PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

Two compartments of Brahmaputra Express from Dhaka derailed after it rammed into Mohua Express from Mymensingh ignoring a stop signal at Rajendrapur in Gazipur early yesterday.

# Attorney office wings clipped by ordinance

Only lower court lawyers to be recruited by it

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Government Attorney Department will now appoint lawyers only to the lower courts for dealing with cases on behalf of the state.

The department after getting approval from the authorities concerned will recruit 976 attorneys for subordinate courts of the country, sources said.

In May this year, during setting up of the department, it was empowered to recruit lawyers for all courts including the Supreme Court and for performing other duties.

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A new ordinance was recently promulgated and it took away the department's power of recruiting lawyers for the Supreme Court.

The president promulgated the Attorney Service Ordinance, 2008 on December 2 repealing the Government Attorney Service Ordinance, 2008 on which the department was established.

The government decided to reduce the powers of the Government Attorney

Department facing protests from lawyers at the Supreme Court, sources say.

## Non-brand edible oil prices slump

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of non-brand edible oil witnessed a sharp fall in the city markets last week while prices of all brands of soyabean oil are yet to come down.

Market sources said, in a span of a week prices of per kilogram (kg) palm and super palm oil dropped by Tk12 and Tk15 respectively while a Kg non-brand soyabean oil came down by Tk 8-10.

In city's retail markets the prices of palm oil marked the lowest in two years, traders said.

Trader Abdur Rahman, owner of Mizan Store at Karwan Bazar, said they were selling a kg palm oil at Tk 46-48 but only a week ago it was Tk 60-62 while 5 months back it was Tk 105-110.

"Super palm oil (better

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## Indian ships still conduct survey

Claim it's their territory; Dhaka to complain to Delhi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three Indian oil and gas survey ships that entered seven miles into Bangladesh maritime boundary under Deep-sea Block-14 Thursday, continued their survey work yesterday claiming that they were inside their maritime boundary.

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## SL 172 for 6 on first day

Shakib takes 3

SPORTS REPORTER

A fantastic exhibition of left-arm spin from Shakib Al Hasan gave Bangladesh the upper hand on the first day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The visitors who decided to bat first on a slightly grass-laden, two-paced wicket were in big trouble at 172 for six before play was called off due

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# Fresh fighting kills 40 in Sri Lanka

Troops take key Tiger town after battles

AFP, Colombo

Government forces yesterday wrested control of a strategic town after heavy fighting with Tamil Tiger rebels that left at least 40 people dead, the defence ministry said.

Security forces entered the town of Mullyawalai near Mullaitivu, the main military headquarters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the defence ministry said.

"Troops are now engaged in a fierce gun battle with the LTTE in the area," the ministry said in a statement. It said the Tigers had suffered heavy losses but did not give details of the latest fighting.

In an earlier statement, the ministry said troops shot dead at least 40 Tamil Tiger rebels and beat back counter-attacks by the Tigers on Christmas Day.

Those clashes erupted Thursday along at least three fronts outside the town of

Kilinochchi, the besieged political capital of the LTTE, the ministry said.

Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu are the two remaining big towns still under rebel control in the north of the island.

The ministry said snipers killed 28 rebels in two places while another 12 rebels were killed and 18 more wounded in the third clash around Kilinochchi. The military did not say if security forces suffered any casualties.

"The LTTE terrorists have tried several times to recapture the lost areas," the ministry said, referring to running battles with the guerrillas along their Kilinochchi defences.

There was no immediate comment from the Tigers.

The Tigers said Monday they had killed more than 100 soldiers and had taken back territory lost to advancing government forces.

Both sides are known to make exaggerated

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## Qaeda 'emirs' flee in deadly Iraq jailbreak

Shootout kills 13

AFP, Ramadi

A local al-Qaeda chief known as "Imad the killer" escaped in a pre-dawn breakout from an Iraqi police station yesterday, triggering a wild shootout that left 13 militants and Iraqi policemen dead.

Imad Ahmed Farhan, who police say has admitted to murdering at least 100 people, is on the run with two other "emirs" or local leaders of al-Qaeda who broke out of their cells in a police station in the western city of Ramadi.

"During an exchange of fire between prisoners trying to escape and police officers in the station, six policemen and seven prisoners were killed."

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