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ISI hands Mumbai information to India

US Vice President-elect in Islamabad for talks

AP, Islamabad

Pakistan's main spy agency has given India information about the Mumbai terror attacks, the prime minister said yesterday, while denying media speculation of a rift between him and the president.

The comments came as US Vice President-elect Joe Biden arrived in Pakistan for talks with the country's top military and political leaders. The US Embassy confirmed the visit but gave few details.

The US has an interest in the stability of Pakistan's civilian government which is considered weak because of its support of the

American-led war on terror. There are multiple centers of power within the government, and the military and the Inter-Services Intelligence spy agency are believed to have significant independence.

The November attacks in Mumbai that killed 164 people underscored the threat terrorism poses to the whole of South Asia. New Delhi says it has passed on evidence to Islamabad that proves Pakistani militants were behind the slaughter.

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani told reporters the ISI "had given feedback and information sharing that has been passed on to

Top Qaeda operatives killed in Pakistan

AFP, Washington

The head of al-Qaeda in Pakistan and his lieutenant were killed in the past days, a US counterterrorism official told AFP on Thursday, reportedly struck by a missile fired from an unmanned drone.

The men are believed to be Kenyan national Usama al-Kini, described as al-Qaeda's chief of operations in Pakistan, and his lieutenant Sheikh Ahmed Salim Swedan, said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"There is every reason to believe that these two top terrorist figures are dead," said the source, adding that the pair was killed "within the last week."

Officials believe al-Kini was behind the September 2008 truck bombing of Islamabad's Marriott Hotel that killed 60 people, and is linked to a failed assassination attempt on late Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

The counterintelligence source did not say how the



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina places a wreath on the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Tungipara yesterday.

Dec 29- type poll important for S Asia: US

UNB, Dhaka

A spokesman for the US State Department has congratulated Bangladeshi people on the elections held on December 29, saying that it's important for democracy in South Asia.

"We think it's important for democracy in South Asia that you have these types of elections," Robert Wood, deputy spokesman, told a regular press briefing in Washington on Thursday.

Replying to a question on what would be the US role after the elections in Bangladesh, he said the US wants to see this type of thing continue to happen in South Asia, "which, as you know, unfortunately has some problems with stability. So, that's how I'd characterize it."



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses a rally at Sonaimuri High School ground yesterday for four-party alliance candidate barrister Mahub Uddin for the stalled parliamentary polls in Noakhali-1.

BANGABANDHU MURDER

2 judges to be appointed soon to dispose of case

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Two judges may be appointed to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court this week as per the recommendations of the Supreme Judicial Commission, paving the way for the disposal of long pending Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister barrister Shafique Ahmed yesterday told The Daily Star that steps will be taken this week to fill up the two vacant posts of judges in the Appellate Division.

The Supreme Judicial Commission on

October 16 recommended four senior most judges of the High Court Division for the two Appellate Division posts that have been lying vacant since July 2 last year. The recommended judges are Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman, Justice Md Abdul Quddus, Justice Md Abdul Aziz and Justice Bijan Kumar Das.

The president will appoint two of them as the Appellate Division judges.

Barrister Abdullah-al Mamun, a counsel for the convicts in Bangabandhu murder case, said as per rules a bench of at least three judges of the Appellate Division is required for hearing

TRI-NATION CUP

Tigers open against Zim today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh take on Zimbabwe in the opening match of the Grameenphone Tri-Nation Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Mirpur today.

The match will be telecast live on Bangladesh Television from 9.00am.

The Tigers' team management have decided to leave out rookie paceman Rubel Hossain, left-arm spinner Enamul Haque while naming Mahmudullah Riyad as the likely twelfth man. This would mean Bangladesh will be going with three paceman including Nazmul Hossain, who last played in a one-day in Australia last year.

Shakib Al Hasan, Mehrib Hossain and Nayeem Islam will make up the spin trio on a wicket expected to offer assist

Stolen cars sold between Tk 1-2 lakh each in city

KAILASH SARKAR

Stolen cars are sold between Tk 1 and 2 lakh each while a stolen motorbike costs Tk 25,000 to 35,000 on the black market in and around the capital.

The car thieves with the help of a section of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) officials even provide the buyer with fake papers and duplicate number plates.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) sources said over 1,000 motor vehicles including car, motorbike and CNG-run auto-rickshaws were stolen in the last one year.

During the period, the DMP recovered over 250 stolen vehicles while over 300 people were arrested in connection with the thefts across



Arrested persons along with smuggled motorbikes and cars.

More world leaders greet Hasina

STAR REPORT

More world leaders have congratulated Sheikh Hasina on her assumption of the office of prime minister.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, in a message on Thursday, extended his greeting to Sheikh Hasina for taking over as Bangladesh prime minister.

The UN chief also hailed the people of Bangladesh for holding the national election in a peaceful manner for democratic transition.

He appreciated the initiatives of Hasina for working

Prayer Timing		
January 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Ashura observed

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Ashura, commemorating the Karbala tragedy, was observed across the country as elsewhere in the Muslim world on Thursday with due religious fervour.

On this day in Hijri year 61, Hazrat Imam Hossain, grandson of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), made supreme sacrifice to uphold the true teachings of Islam.

Hazrat Imam Hossain along with his family members and some close associates embraced martyrdom in the hands of Yazid's forces in the desert of Karbala.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion.

Different organisations held various programmes in observance of the day. The day



Shias bring out a mourning procession in older part of the capital yesterday on the occasion of holy Ashura.

Strike sparks fuel crisis in India

AFP, New Delhi

Petrol stations in cities across India ran dry today as a strike for better pay by state oil employees entered a third day and talks with the government broke down.

"We had some discussions but we are yet to reach a conclusion," Sarthak Behuria, the chairman of Indian Oil Corporation told reporters after overnight talks with the petroleum minister.

More than 45,000 employees at government-run oil companies halted work Wednesday to press for higher pay.

Petrol stations in many cities put up signs saying they had run out of stock, while motorists formed huge queues outside other filling stations.

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61 Bangladeshis rescued from boat in Bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Indian Coast Guard on Thursday rescued and apprehended 61 Bangladeshi nationals allegedly trying to enter illegally into Thailand in a mechanised boat through the Bay of Bengal.

"We rescued and apprehended 61 Bangladeshi nationals in the Bay of Bengal yesterday while they were going to immigrate illegally into Thailand," Coast Guard Andaman and Nicobar region spokesperson Commandant Akshay Jain said.

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