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India, US tighten screw on Pakistan over Mumbai

Islamabad urged to act effectively against terrorist groups

AFP, New Delhi

India and the United States urged Pakistan yesterday to dismantle radical Islamist groups and punish plotters of the Mumbai attacks after Islamabad admitted the assault was planned partly on its soil.

Washington and New Delhi, which blamed the 60-hour siege on Pakistan's banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) group, welcomed the arrest of six suspects, including the alleged mastermind, but insisted Islamabad still had work to do.

"Further steps will be required," Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said, insisting that Pakistan

should move to "dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism" on its territory.

In a statement to parliament describing the threat emanating from Pakistan as a "global cancer," Mukherjee said the primary responsibility for eradicating this threat lay with the government in Islamabad.

"It is imperative that it... act effectively against the licence that terrorist groups enjoy in its territory," he said.

While labelling Thursday's admission a "positive step," the minister was scathing about the months of "prevarication, denial and diversionary tactics" that preceded it.

"We hope that the matter will now be

taken to its logical conclusion and the perpetrators are penalised," he said.

Pakistan has thrown the ball back to India, submitting a list of 30 questions for more information from New Delhi, stressing that convictions in court will need "tenable evidence" and insisting it "means business".

"There is no time frame. We have sent questions to India and once we get something concrete from them, the trial will start," said a government official on condition of anonymity.

Two of those in Pakistani custody are senior LeT leaders.

US Director of National Intelligence

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Festive mood, huge sale at book fair

Rakib AHAMMED

Hundreds of people of all ages gathered at the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela on Bangla Academy premises in a festive mood yesterday, as it was Puhela Falgun, the first day of spring.

Scores of book lovers in colourful traditional clothes thronged the bookstalls while many were seen waiting in long queues for hours to enter the fair venue.

The Bangla Academy premises and adjoining roads became overcrowded in the evening prompting the law

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This photo of a smiling Language Movement hero Gaziul Haque with bouquets was taken on Puhela Falgun last year, his 81st birthday. This year on his birthday the ailing leader is being treated at the ICU of Square Hospital.

Condition of Gaziul better

The language hero turns 82

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of ailing language veteran Gaziul Haque improved significantly on his 82nd birthday yesterday, according to his family members.

"The external life support of my father was removed as he no longer needs it. He feels much better now," said his daughter Sujata Haque while talking to The Daily Star.

Doctors also told them about improvement of health condition of her father, she said, adding that she was happy as her father feels better on his 82nd birthday on Friday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Zillur pays homage to '71 martyrs

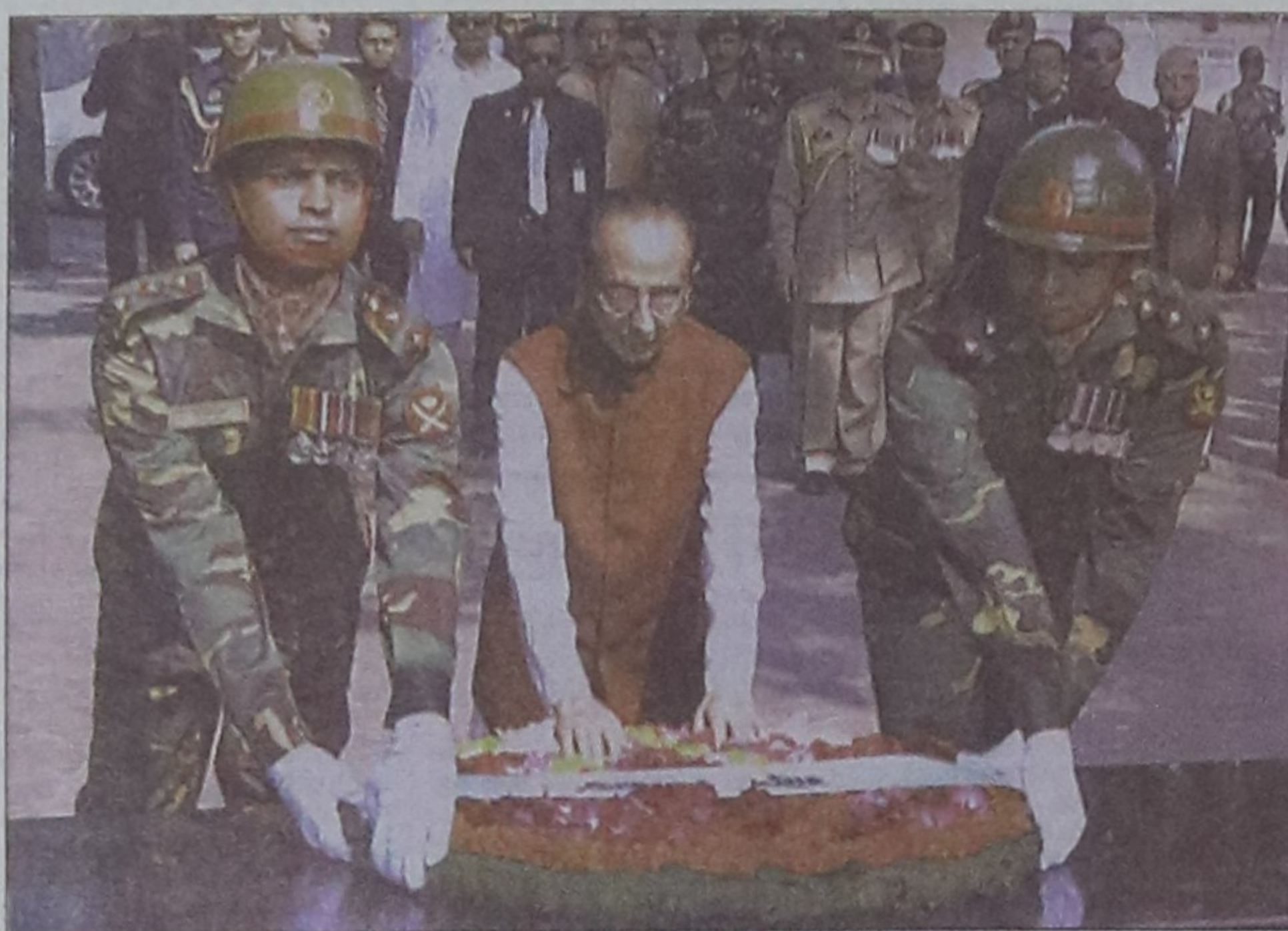
BSS, Savar

President Zillur Rahman placed wreaths yesterday morning at the National Mausoleum in Savar, paying rich tributes to the martyrs of the country's War of Liberation in 1971.

He stood in solemn silence for sometime when bugles played the last post. A smartly turned out contingent of the three services presented the state salute.

On his arrival at 11:25am on the mausoleum premises, the newly elected president was received by State Minister for Liberation War Affairs ABM Tajul Islam.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



President Zillur Rahman places wreath at the National Memorial in Savar yesterday, a day after he was sworn in, paying homage to the Liberation War martyrs.

PHOTO: PID

Yunus for more stress on IT for prosperity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noble laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said Bangladesh needs more motivation in information technology for achieving swift prosperity.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the BUET Alumnae Association reunion programme at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, president of the association, chaired the inaugural session of the programme.

Prof Yunus urged the existing and former students to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Rohingya migrants set adrift in sea

Thai PM finally admits

AFP, Bangkok

Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has admitted that the kingdom's authorities towed boat people from Myanmar out to sea, following weeks of allegations of cruelty against the migrants.

Abhisit told CNN in an interview broadcast on Friday that it was not yet clear who had approved the practice of setting minority Muslim Rohingya migrants adrift, but added that he was trying to find out.

"All the authorities say that it's not their policy but I have reason to believe that some instances of this have happened," Abhisit told CNN when asked who was behind the policy of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

50 killed in US plane crash

AFP, New York

A commuter plane crashed into a house in New York state unleashing a fireball and killing all 49 passengers and crew and one person on the ground, officials said yesterday.

Flames higher than nearby houses lit up the night sky for hours.

Firefighters from a nearby fire station were quickly at the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Three books on Bangabandhu reintroduced

BSS, Dhaka

The Islamic Foundation has reintroduced three books on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The books--Jatir Janak Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Mohan Neta Bangabandhu and Hridoy Jure Bangabandhu -- were banned by the past four-party alliance government, a press release of the foundation said here yesterday.

It said the books edited by Dr Shahadat Hossain, Nasrin Mustafa and Khaleq Bin Joyen Uddin respectively were withdrawn from all libraries of Islamic Foundation through a letter on March 29, 2003.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

CCTV cameras, traffic display boards by June

Move to curb street crimes, traffic jam

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) will set up 155 closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras by next June at 59 points including all entry and exit ways of the city to check crimes.

Besides, it will install 31 electronic traffic message display boards at different intersections to ease the perennial traffic congestions on the city roads.

Over 90 percent work of installing these sophisticated instruments at a cost of around Tk 61 crore is almost complete, DMP sources said.

With the introduction of such modern devices the police control room will be known as C3S (Command, Control and Communication System).

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed told The Daily Star the existing police control room is

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

CTG BUS CRASH

One student still missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

One student remains missing in Thursday's bus crash at Kasaipara in Bandarban that left several students of Chittagong Government College dead.

The bus carrying students on a picnic plunged into a 600-foot-deep ditch. Parents of one of the students were also among the dead.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4 ANOTHER STORY ON PAGE 2

Prayer Timing		
February 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views. Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents. Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds together.

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