SL troops take

would deal another serious blow to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The fall of Elephant Pass would enable government troops from the south to link up with government forces in Jaffna who have been cut off from the rest of the island by LITE positions.

The advance also further isolates Tamil Tiger rebels in a section of northeastern coastal jungle around Mullaittivu, the last remaining town in the hands of the LTTE.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed since the Tamils launched their struggle for an autonomous homeland in 1972, but the government pulled out of a ceasefire last year and launched a major offensive to crush the Tigers.

An army statement said government troops were now advancing with "high morale" following the fall of Kilinochchi and were causing "heavy damages to the terrorists."

Just a few dozen people were still in Kilinochchi when government soldiers secured the town after months of heavy fighting.

One resident told an AFP reporter who was flown to the town by the military on Sunday that the guerrillas had ordered civilians to shift to Mullaittivu, where the rebels are known to have their main military facilities.

For their part, the pro-rebel Tamilnet website said Tigers were putting up stiff resistance to the military advance on Mullaittivu and said they killed 53 soldiers and wounded another 80.

Tamilnet said the Tigers recovered the bodies of two government soldiers. The claims could not be independently verified.

Military officials denied the rebel figures and said security forces recovered the bodies of

12 Tiger rebels. The military official leading the government assault said his forces were now advancing on Mullaittivu and LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

"We are taking the offensive to the Mullaittivu jungles where Prabhakaran is hiding," Major General Jagath Dias told

reporters. Sri Lanka officially marked on Monday the capture of Kilinochchi by flying the national flag and observing two minutes of silence to honour the security forces, officials said.

Soya bean oil

oil was selling between Tk 692 and Tk 700, a five-litre can between Tk 440 and Tk 445, twolitre ones at Tk 180-185 and 900mlpacks at Tk 88-90.

Two days ago the eight-litre cans were selling for Tk 850, fivelitre cans for Tk 560, two-litre cans for Tk 220 and the 900ml packs for Tk 108.

Karwan Bazar market sources said the prices of soya bean oil of other brands have decreased even more. They said a five-litre can of Fresh soya bean oil was selling for Tk 430 and a five-litre can of Muskan soyabean oil for Tk 425.

A few months ago, especially ahead of Ramadan, a five-litre can of soya bean oil was around Tk 620, market sources said.

A distributor of Rupchanda soya bean oil at Karwan Bazar said some soya bean oil cans still had the old prices inscribed which could lead to consumers being over charged.

The drop in soya bean oil prices in Bangladesh comes after significant reduction of soya bean oil prices in the international market.

even a few AL leaders said it

would be another tough task

for the party to keep the law-

makers under the chain of

command. The ruling coali-

tion, however, has huge oppor-

tunity to re-build the country if

it can engage its lawmakers

and people in the efforts, they

council of ministers will have

significant role to play in the

parliamentary committees by

scrutinising the government's

expenditures and activities to

ensure parliamentary watch

led grand alliance will have to

be allowed unhindered to do

the crucial tasks as the opposi-

tion is not strong enough in

term of number, experts in

lawmakers and their relatives

during both the previous AL

and BNP governments tainted

the governments' images, but

in most cases the then govern-

ments blindly defended their

At the maiden meeting of

the AL parliamentary party

Hasina warned her deputies of

stern actions in case they get

In the past, the govern-

ments with overwhelming

majority in parliament could

not deliver properly; rather a

government with simple

majority has records of doing

well except for a few controver-

When the country was experi-

encing grave political turmoil

President lajuddin Ahmed was

forced to resign from the office

of the chief adviser dissolving

the council of advisers and

declare the state of emergency

Ahmed's caretaker govern-

ment began its journey and

vowed to bring changes to

ensure a free and fair parlia-

mentary election. And except

for the controversies over a few

of its initiatives his government

was able to bag some achieve-

The preparation of the voter

national identity cards is the

biggest of those achievements.

Fakhruddin's government also

met the long cherished

demand for separation of the

around two years without

political violence, hartal, strike

and major social crimes as law

and order was largely con-

trolled. The anti-corruption

drive that began after reconsti-

Commission has also been

-Shaikh Abdur Rahman,

Bangla Bhai and four others--

were executed, which sent a

However, the new govern-

Dreaded militant kingpins-

In addition, people lived

The next day Fakhruddin

END OF A REGIME

on January 11.

judiciary.

appreciated.

involved in any misdeed.

Unethical activities of a few

parliamentary affairs said.

Those belonging to the AL-

on the executive.

misdeeds.

The lawmakers outside the

added.

AL to take reins

FROM PAGE 1

of a free and fair parliamentary election to install a pro-people elected government and it has been appreciated nationally and internationally for holding the election in an unprecedented peaceful manner.

Sheikh Hasina, the primeminister-in-waiting, has already underscored her government's prime tasks of brining down the prices of essentials and controlling law and order.

But there are other pledges like ensuring good governance, continuing the anti-corruption drive and reforms and making parliament effective to bring changes.

Meanwhile, amid widespread speculations about the possible formation of the council of ministers senior AL leader HT Imam yesterday said it would be "a mix of old and young people". He did not give any hints about the probable names but said the cabinet will Pertainly contain technocrats.

"The cabinet will be medium-sized and finalising of the selection of the persons is going on," he told reporters at Sudha Sadan yesterday morn-

TIGHTROPE WALKING FOR HASINA

According to the constitution, as the prime minister Hasina will occupy the central position in the parliamentary form of government: she is the leader of the council of ministers and parliament.

She has to coordinate government policies. She will act in aid of her colleagues in the cabinet and the council of ministers. While she has to depend on them to a great extent she will also have to take responsibility for their acts.

So, picking a good team for the cabinet--the ultimate policy- and decision-making body of the executive--will largely forecast its perfor-

mance in the days to come. And the AL chief has said she would surprise all in this

Along with the enormous responsibility, the new prime minister will, however, enjoy constitutional authority to take action against any member of list with photographs and the council of ministers if they

fail to perform as per her desire

or get involved in controversy. According to the constitution, the ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers will hold offices as per the wish of the prime minister who can ask any of them to resign and request the president to terminate their appointments in case they do not comply with

her asking. tution of the Anti-Corruption Hasina, who will automatically be the leader of the House on her appointment as the prime minister, will also have to take responsibility of the acts of the lawmakers, particularly those of her party who are large in number.

message of the caretaker government's tough stance In the December 29 polls, the AL-led alliance got 262 against militants. seats with the AL securing 230 seats alone. The number of AL ment will have to decide the legality of the interim adminislawmakers will exceed 265 tration in the next parliament when another 36 lawmakers to be elected to the seats reserved since almost the whole tenure for women will join parliaof this caretaker government was beyond of the purview of

Many political analysts and the constitution.

CA happy

FROM PAGE 1 He will remain always ready to extend his cooperation to the new government, it required.

About the achievements of the caretaker government, which took over following the 1/11 changeover, the CA mentioned maintaining law and order, facing disasters like floods and Sidr, and holding a free, fair and credible election as the most successful achievements.

The CA said his govern ment tried its level best to carry on country's economic activities and did some institutional reforms, including the formation of Local Government Commission and Human Rights Commission, and promulgation of the Right to Information Ordinance. All this will be fruitful for the future development of the

county. About expectations from the new government, he said the people expect that the new government will lead the country towards progress. "And as a citizen of the country, I also expect that the prevailing stable law and order situation will be continued and improved fur-

During the meeting, President lajuddin gave his thanks to the CA and his interim cabinet for running the country "efficiently and successfully" through their hard work in the last two years.

Praising the role of the caretaker government, the president noted that it successfully maintained the law and order, carried out rehabilitation work after two devastating floods and cyclone Sidr, prepared a correct voter list and national ID card with photographs and finally held a free, fair and credible election.

The CA expressed his gratitude to the president for giving his all-out support to the caretaker government.

He informed the president that last year, while the world was facing food crisis, country's farmers produced 33 million tonnes of food

And, presently, 1.3 million tonnes of food grains are in government stock, which is "much satisfactory".

After the meeting, the president hosted a lunch for the chief adviser, advisers and special assistants to the chief adviser at Bangabhaban.

Stern action

FROM PAGE 1

The AL joint general secretary said probe would be conducted into the allegations and cases filed against the AL men during the tenure of the BNP-Jamaat coalition government between 2001 and 2006 and steps would be taken accordingly.

"We have urged the caretaker government to arrest whoever violates law and order regardless of the person's political identity," he

Ashraf also alleged that the activists of BNP and Jamaat have resorted to violence across the country after the four-party coalition's debacle in the parliamentary elec-

"On the one hand, they [BNP and Jamaat] are attacking the leaders and workers of Awami League while on the other hand, they are propagating that Awami League activists are carrying out attacks on them," he said, referring to newspaper reports on attacks on AL activists across the country.

Ashraf said nine cases were filed against AL men and eight against supporters of the fourparty alliance in connection with post-polls violence.

Oli wants AL

FROM PAGE 16 "No country except Bangladesh has caretaker government system. The new government under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina should repeal the system. If we politicians do not trust each other now can we expect people to trust us," Oli Ahmed said at a reception, organised to celebrate his victory in Chittagong-13 constituency, at party's Moghbazar office in the capital.

The LDP chief also called upon the next government to hold trial of war criminals, bring down prices of essentials, strengthen the Anticorruption Commission and the Election Commission and provide farmers with loans.

"There is no need for such a system. Political parties and leaders must learn to trust each other," he said adding that the system is the 'brainchild of some political leaders' aimed at destroying the county's political institutions.

Congratulating Hasina on her party's landslide victory in the parliamentary polls, the LDP president hoped that she will form a cabinet with representatives from all components of the grand alliance.

BNP to boycott

FROM PAGE 1 they too had yet to get any official invitation.

Jamaat-e-Islami was not invited to the new cabinet's induction ceremony because numerous senior leaders of the Islamist party had been involved in war crimes and acted against the country's birth.

The interim government's move not to invite Jamaat was prompted by an objection from the new parliament majority party AL and other proiberation forces, sources said.

Officials of Jamaat's central office and several of its leaders vesterday told The Daily Star that they did not know whether any of their other leaders got the invitation. Several BNP leaders and its

MPs-elect said they also were not aware about their party's decision regarding its presence attoday's ceremony. Sector Commanders Forum

(SCF), a platform of the sector commanders in the country's liberation war in 1971, has been running a campaign demanding trials of war criminals since its birth in October 2007. SCF has seen much success in mobilising public support for

its demand through mass rallies and other programmes across the country against Jamaat-e-Islami leaders who were involved in war crimes. It has been demanding that the government does not invite

anti-liberation war forces including Jamaat-e-Islami to any state event. SCF leaders also boycotted several such events protesting

Political analysts are saying

one of the reasons behind BNP's unexpected smashing defeat in the recent general election was its electoral alliance with

Some BNP insiders said their Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, who are invited to the ceremony, will not go because their MPs-elect are yet to be inducted into the parliament.

They also said exclusion of Jamaat from the list of invitee parties, is another reason for BNP's possible absence in the Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP)

Chief Andaliv Rahman Partho,

an MP-elect with a four-party alliance ticket, told The Daily Star last night that he too had yet to get any invitation card. After a debacle in the December 29, 2008 general election, BNP leadership has

been facing pressure both from inside and outside the party to ditch Jamaat. Menwhile, President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday formally invited AL chief Sheikh

ment as the majority leader. The new cabinet led by the AL president will be sworn in by the country's president in Bangabhaban in the evening

Hasina to head the new govern-

today. AL-led grand alliance won a landslide victory in the recent parliamentary election winning 230 seats, while its major allies Jatiya Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, and Worker's Party won 27, 3 and 2 seats respectively. On the other hand the rival BNP-led alliance, which had ruled the presence of Jamaat leaders country between 2001 and 2006, managed to win only 32 seats.

2 political activists

criminals sprayed bullets indiscriminately at about 4:30pm.

Nazrul, who died on the spot as the attackers pumped four bullets into several parts of his body, was the owner of Aqib Bumper, a shop of motor parts, located at 11, Bijoynagar.

Mahiuddin, 25, was undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He received two bullets.

Talking to The Daily Star, Nazrul's brother Igbal Hossain said: "Nazrul might have been killed by local Jubo League cadres as they had been threatening him to hand over an office at Bijoynagar which is controlled Swechchwasebak Dal",

"One Mintu also might be the killer of Nazrul as there had been a feud between Nazrul and Mintu over some shops in the market."

Witnesses said a gang of four to five unidentified criminals riding on two motorbikes came to the spot and sped away after opening fires indiscriminately on Nazrul.

Another youth Mainuddin, who was talking to Nazrul Islam at the time of attack, received bullets when he tried to run away.

Nazrul's brother Iqbal and cousin Robin Hossain, who were present on the spot, narrated the macabre incident saying the criminals fired six bullets from a very close dis-

Over 100 activists of Awami League and Jubo League came to Nazrul in the afternoon on Sunday and asked him to hand over the key of the office. They also threatened Nazrul with dire consequence if it was otherwise.

Local traders said Nazrul 7:00pm.

was one of the close accomplices of detained Ramna thana BNP president Chowdhury Alam, who is also the commissioner of Ward-56 of Dhaka City Corporation.

The traders said they were informed of the feud between Nazrul and Mintu and due to the feud, Nazrul shifted his residence to Kuril from Bijoynagar. Rezaul Karim, officer-in-

charge (OC) of Shahbagh police station, told The Daily Star, "Nazrul might have been killed following the feud over the control of some shops in the market. "We have also been investi-

gating whether he was killed over any political clashes", the OC said, adding that none was arrested in this connection. Our staff correspondent

from Bogra reports: miscreants stabbed a member of Jubo League to death at Nataipara in Bogra town yesterday noon. The deceased was identified as Faruk Bari alias Sabuj, a

student of Azizul Haque College. Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) district unit leaders claimed that Sabuj was killed by BNP and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists.

However, ICD district unit President Khademul Islam denied the allegation.

BCL and Jubo League activists brought out a protest procession in the city in the eve-

Locals said a number of youth called Sabuj up at around 3:00pm while he was playing carom near his home, took him to a nearby place and stabbed him with sharp weapons. Sabui succumbed to his

injury at Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital at

AL cabinet FROM PAGE 1

The AL leaders whose names have been discussed include Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdul Jalil, Matia Chowdhury, Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandaker, Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Abdul Hamid, Obaidul Quader, Syed Ashraful Islam, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Asaduzzaman Noor, Col (retd) Faruk Khan, advocate Abdul Mannan Khan, advocate Shahara Khatun, advocate Abdul Matin Khasru, Dr Abdur Razzak, Dr Hasan Mahmud, Dr Dipu Moni, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Syed Abul Hossain, Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu,

Fazle Noor Taposh. Names of HT Imam, Mostafa Faruk Mohammad, Dr Moshiur Rahman, Dr Mohammad Farashuddin and barrister Shafiq Ahmed were also learnt to have been discussed as one or two technocrat ministers.

Ramesh Chandra Sen, Principal

Matiur Rahman and barrister

Sources also said the AL chief might pick Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu as cabinet colleagues.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad talked to Hasina over phone and sent her a list of seven party leaders for keeping them in the new cabinet. The JP leaders are barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Rowshan Ershad, GM Quader, Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, Ruhul Amin Hawlader and Golam Reza.

But sources said the AL chief might primarily consider only Anisul Islam and GM Quader as

her cabinet colleagues. The sources also said Jatiya Party and Awami League hesaidinthepressrelease.

reached an agreement that Ershad would be made the deputy leader of the House if Zillur Rahman is elected the president of the country.

AL leaders known as "reformist" including Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta, among others, have less possibility to find themselves in the cabinet, the sources added.

TIB clarifies

FROM PAGE 16

[Muzaffer] made in the seminar is his own opinion; it is not TIB's stance," said a TIB's press release yesterday. It said there is no connection between the comment of its

chairman Prof Muzaffer and the organisation. TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, "The people who participated in the elections maintaining proper

process and were elected as

peoples' representatives are fully eligible to be sworn in as the members of the parliament as per the constitution and laws concerned. "Cases of corruption or breaching law would be disposed of as per proper legal and judicial process if they have any

case or allegation against them," he said in the press release. TIB expects that the corruption allegations and other related issues would be settled through neutral judicial process, he said, adding that none can be regarded as guilty until being proved in proper judicial

At the same time it is not rational to deprive someone of constitutional rights on the basis of mere allegation or case,

system.

Govt moves

FROM PAGE 16

Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), Bangladesh Institute of Architect and Centre for Urban Studies at a meeting in the presence of housing and public works advisor Major Genl (Retd) Ghulam Quader on December 23, 2008 last demanded that at least 3 months time is given for a proper review of the proposed DAP

Dr Ishrat Islam who made a presentation on behalf of the five organisations at that meeting had said at the time that the sub-flood flow zone as identified in the structure plan of Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP) had been changed or omitted in the proposed DAP.

Also, DAP had defined agricultural land as 'Agriculture with Rural Homestead land that put the agricultural land under threat of encroachment, she said.

Kumar, however said yesterday that a month's time is enough to review the works given to the committee.

The expert committee will review the proposals of DAP and will them with the two other plans under the DMDP -the Urban Area Plan and Structure Plan, he said.

The committee will also review strategies for the planning standards and their implementation.

The members of the expert committee are Professor Dr Muzaffer Ahmad, president of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, Prof Dr Sarowar Jahana, president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, Prof Dr Rezwan Hossain Bhuiyan of department of geography and environment of Dhaka University, Prof Dr M Mirzahan Miyan of Water Resources Engineering department of BUET, member (planning), Rajuk, chairman of Rajuk, team leader of DAP, project director of DA, one representative of IMED and Abu Saleh Khan, chief of flood management department of

Special courts

FROM PAGE 16 Judge's Court while the rest to

five divisions. In May 2007, the caretaker government set up first, second, third, fourth and fifth special courts on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises to deal with the corruption cases. Later, the government set up five other special courts at the same place as the number of

graft cases increased. Former ministers Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain and Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, who were earlier granted bail for two months by the High Court (HC) in Barapukuria coalmine graft case, did not submit any bail extension order to Special Court-2, even though the bail

period expired yesterday. Eight other accused, including former prime minister Khaleda Zia, Jamaat Amir Motiur Rahman Nizami and its Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, were granted bail in the case by the higher courts on different dates. The courts also stayed the trial proceedings.

Mobile SIM

FROM PAGE 1 VoIP (voice over internet protocol).

The commission also said they seized the SIM cards when people of the call centre were selling them to visitors at

the fair. The BTRC filed a case against three officials of Awal Call Centre with Adabar Police Station. The commission also seized some documents in this connection at a house in Adabar area, says a press

release. BTRC Chairman Manzurul Alam said, "BTRC will take action against any illegal activities in the telecom sector," according to the statement.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1

between Bangladesh and the Muslim countries would be strengthened in the days to

envoys to recruit more workforces from Bangladesh and ensure necessary facilities for Bangladeshis working in their countries. Meanwhile, Foreign

Hasina urged the Arab

Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday expressed his grave concern over the deteriorating situation in Gaza. "Bangladesh's position on

the issue of Palestine is well-

known. But right now our principal worry is the situation in Gaza. The fighting must be stopped forthwith. Further killings of innocent civilian are totally unacceptable", the adviser said in a statement.

No let-up in Gaza

FROM PAGE 1 and tank attacks yesterday,

medics said. Israeli warplanes carried out intensive raids on Hamas targets yesterday as ground troops surrounded Gaza's main city.

The senior Hamas leader in Gaza promised "victory is coming" for the Islamist group, but Israel's defence minister said "we have hit Hamas hard" while insisting the operation to halt Hamas rocket attacks would continue. Israel, under pressure over

the mounting toll on civilians, agreed to let food and fuel into Gaza but about 200 trucks were stuck at the border as the military said no one turned up to receive the supplies. But Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni yesterday rejected calls by

Gaza, saying Israel was aiming to change the "equation in this "We are fighting with terror and we are not reaching an agreement with terror," she said, in reference to the Islamist

visiting EU diplomats for an

immediate truce to the war in

Hamas rulers of the Gaza. Thousands of ground troops intensified their move into the Palestinian enclave of 1.5 million people, battling Hamas fighters in the east of the territory as they tightened their grip

around Gaza City. Israeli jets carried out more than 30 airstrikes. The military said they hit a mosque in the northern town of Jabaliya "where arms were being stored, as well as houses containing arms caches and vehicles that were transporting rocket launchers and armed men."

Naval ships off the coast also bombarded targets to help the ground force advance launched on Saturday night. More than 550 Palestinians

have been killed since Israel launched Operation Cast Lead on December 27 with about 2,700 wounded. Israel says dozens of Hamas fighters have been killed while

one Israeli soldier has been

reported dead and 55 wounded since Saturday. manager of the garden, Abul Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak said the offensive would continue until Israel achieved "peace and tranquillity" for residents of southern The workers alleged that the Israel. Militants, defying the attacks, fired more than two dozen rockets by midday, and Hamas' strongman urged Palestinians to "crush" the invading Israeli forces and

target Israeli civilians. "Gaza City is partially surrounded," Barak told deputies. "We have hit Hamas hard, but we have not yet reached all the goals that we have set for ourselves and the operation con-

tinues," he said. "We are doing everything that a state must do to protect its citizens," he said. "We want that the attacks against our citizens and our soldiers stop."

Three civilians and one soldier have been killed by rockets fired from Gaza since Israel's operation started. More than 10 rocket and missile attacks were reported yesterday.

Hamas remained defiant.

"Victory is coming, God will-

ing," the movement's senior

leader in Gaza, Mahmud Zahar

The European Union and Russia are part of the Middle East diplomatic Quartet, along with the United Nations and the United States. UN Secretary General Ban

Israel faces intense interna-

tional pressure to agree a

ceasefire and ease the suffering

of the Gaza population which

has no power or water supplies

and endures a daily struggle to

get food, according to aid agen-

Ki-moon said Sunday he would be working with key players on ways to end the violence. The Israeli offensive has

sparked spiralling anger in the Muslim world and protests across the globe.

8 killed

FROM PAGE 16

8th founding anniversary scheduled to be held in Dhaka.

Critically injured Harunor- Rashid, 42, and Faizur Rahman, 26, both from Haluaghat, were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

The bodies were sent to MMCH morgue for autopsy. Police seized the truck but

the driver managed to escape. Among others, Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Ziaur Rahman Khan, Additional Police Superintendent Aktaruzzaman, Assistant Superintendent of Police

Raihan Uddin visited the spot. Rubber workers

FROM PAGE 16 Chak, U Thoai Ching, Abul Kalam, Saber Hossain, Nurul

Hasan and Jamal Ahmed. Bachchu Mia suffered head injuries when he was beaten by workers and later succumbed to his injuries at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital at 8:00pm yesterday, police sources

critical, hospital sources said. Demonstrating workers later set the administrative office of the PHP Rubber Garden on fire. Two thatched houses were also

gutted in the fire. Police took the

injured workers were stated to be

The conditions of the six

Hossain, in safe custody. Following the clash police and BDR members were reinforced in the area.

people of the management of the garden also opened fire on them. The firing triggered violent clash and at one stage the workers swooped on the police with sticks: they pelted them with brickbats and set the bamboomade office of the PHP Garden

on fire, locals said. Jafrul Islam Azizi, additional district magistrate of Bandarban, the assistant superintendent of police and UNO of Naikhongchari visited the spot and brought the situation under

control.

Later, as the management of the rubber garden agreed to bear the cost of treatment of those injured in the gunshot and bring the persons responsible for firing to book the workers returned Police said that the manage-

an agreement to work out the problems within the next two To this end a tripartite meeting among the workers, PHP management and police admin-

istration will be held on January 8

at the Deputy Commissioner's

office, police added.

ment and workers had reached

said in a television address. Mumbai evidence

occur without anybody anywhere in the (Pakistan) estab-

lishment knowing," he told reporters. Islamabad confirmed that it had received the dossier, and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani again said he would take action if "credible evi-

dence" was provided.

The material includes details of the interrogation of Mohammed Ajmal Amir Iman -- also known as Mohammed Ajmal Kasab -- who was the lone surviving gunman and who India says is a Pakistani national.

It also details the militants' communications with "elements" in Pakistan during the attack, recovered weapons and other equipment, retrieved global positioning system data and satellite phones. "It is our expectation that

will promptly undertake further investigations in Pakistan and share the results with us so as to bring the perpetrators to justice," Mukherjee said. New Delhi would share the evidence with foreign ministers around the world and

the government of Pakistan

would brief foreign ambassadors in New Delhi, the ministersaid. The November 26-29 assault on India's financial capital left 172 dead, including

nine attackers. Indian officials say the banned Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba said.

trained and equipped the 10 militants who stormed Mumbai.

In Islamabad, a foreign

ministry spokesman said Pakistan's high commissioner to India received the file on Monday and had sent it to authorities back home. "The material has been received in Pakistan now and

is being examined by con-

cerned authorities," the spokesman added. Indian Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram is expected to travel to Washington this week to present the evidence to the United States.

The US ambassador to India, David C. Mulford, told reporters in New Delhi that his country had helped India gather evidence and that the US "will pursue this matter to its conclusion." As tensions simmer

between the nuclear-armed

South Asian rivals, Richard

Boucher, the top US diplomat

for South Asia, arrived in Pakistan for talks on ties between the two countries. Ahead of Boucher's visit, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Sunday that Islamabad would not hand over any

have an extradition treaty. "But the problem is still there. After all an incident has taken place and we have to get to the bottom of it," Qureshi

Pakistani nationals to India,

noting the two sides did not