11 more upazilas

Mymensingh, Atpara of

Netrakona, Pakundia of

Kishoreganj, Madaripur sadar

of Madaripur, Jagannathpur of

Sunamganj, Chandina of

Comilla, Raypura of Laxmipur,

Harinakunda of Jhenidah, and

Chhagalnaiya of Feni will be

man election in some

upazilas, while in others elec-

tion to all three posts-

chairman and two vice chair-

election results in seven

upazilas -- Muradnagar of

Comilla, Banchharampur of

Brahmanbaria, Teknaf of

Cox's Bazar, Araihazar of

Narayanganj, Kaliganj o

Gazipur, Mehendiganj of

Barisal and Raypura of

voter attendance in the

upazila elections was 68.32

mentary elections was 86.34

Turnout in upazila polls

The highest turnout on

January 22 was recorded in

Kalai upazila of Joypurhat.

There, as high as 92.57 percent

of voters showed up to cast

of Joypurhat was 92.14 per-

cent, in Bholahat of

Chapainawabganj 92.01

percent, Durgapur of Rajshahi

90.46 percent, Gomostapur of

Chapainawabganj 89.80

percent, Mohonpur of

Rajshahi 89.64 percent,

Nachol of Chapainawabganj

89.27 percent, Autoary of

Panchagarh 88.96 percent,

Mujib Nagar of Meherpur

88.49 percent and Haripur of

Savar of Dhaka saw the

lowest voter attendance at

39.28 percent. Chhagalnaiya

of Feni saw a turnout of 40.89

percent, Rupganj of

Narayanganj 41.15 percent,

Narayanganj Sadar 42.42

percent, Gazipur Sadar 42.85

percent, and Charfashion of

over two hours. But today it was

a different scenario as students

of several educational institu-

tions, various social organisa-

tions, trade bodies and also a

number of general people put

up barricades at a time at differ-

1,000 traders and employees at

Sundarban Square Market in

Fulbaria in Gulistan put up

barricades on the roads for over

three hours since 10:00am in

protest against burglary at five

hundred Indian visa seekers

blockaded Gulshan-1 road and

staged demonstrations in front

of the High Commission for

over two hours from 12:30pm as

they failed to submit visa

College in Mohammadpur put

up barricades on Satmasjid

Road from 12:00noon and

staged demonstrations for over

one and a half hours in protest

against an exam decision of the

North South University took to

the streets putting barricades

on the busy Gulshan-2 road for

over two hours halting the

traffic from 3:00pm. The stu-

dents demonstrated as the

authorities decided to charge Tk

16,500 for a three-credit course

factions of Muktijoddha

Sangsad Kendriya Command

Council showed off power to

capture the office by organising

separate programmes in and

eral hundred freedom fighters

to show their strength putting

up barricades on the road for

Uddin said, "An ideal city

requires at least 25 percent road

space. But we have only seven

percent and at least 30 percent

of roads is occupied by illegal

paths are not fit for use and

vehicles ply on the city roads. Of

them, 115,180 are motor cars,

46,128 buses, 6,152 minibuses,

12,277 taxis, 8,092 microbuses,

rickshaws, 176,667 motorcycles

89,750 licensed and over two

lakh unregistered rickshaws

Apart from these, there are

motorised vehicles.

plying in the city.

remain occupied by hawkers.

He said most of the foot-

Sources say over five lakh

two hours from 4:00pm.

Each faction gathered sev-

Joint Commissioner Jasim

Elsewhere in Eskaton, both

instead of Tk 12,000.

outside the office.

parking.

The agitating students of

authorities.

Students of Graphic Arts

In another incident, several

The witnesses said over

ent places for hours."

voters cast their vote.

Bhola 44.67 percent.

FROM PAGE 1

City traffic

Turnout in Khetlal upazila

The average countrywide

VOTERTURNOUTS

Narsingdi.

percent

division.

their votes.

Earlier, the EC suspended

men--will be investigated.

The CEC said the probe

under judicial probe.

Reminded of his earlier remarks, the polls chief said those were premature. "Before making the comments, I should have taken into account the overall situation.

"The information that we had at that time came mainly from Savar and Gazipur, where voter turnout was low in would be confined to chairthe national polls as well.

"The peaceful conduct of election elsewhere, particularly in northern districts, did not come up in the media much. Perhaps, that prompted us to make those comments."

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain however said, "I'd still say the turnout was low. I made the observation after visiting some polling centres in Gazipur where the presence of voters was indeed very poor.

The EC yesterday disclosed that total turnout in the polls was 68.32 percent.

Huda said the work on gazettes with election results of 446 upazila parishads is almost complete.

under Rajshahi division was Of the remaining 35 77.67 percent against 90.42 in upazilas, six saw polls susthe parliamentary polls. It was pended before January 22 due 75.50 percent against 90.43 in to violence and irregularities. Khulna, 67.95 percent against On similar grounds, voting at 84.17 in Barisal, 68.38 percent 21 polling stations in nine against 84.61 in Dhaka, 70.44 others was called off on the percent against 84.87 in Sylhet election day. and 65.66 percent against 82.60 percent in Chittagong

The fate of elections in two other upazilas--Ajemeriganj of Habiganj and Daudkandi of Comilla-will be decided by the courts.

The CEC said people did not come out like they did in the December 29 general election because the upazila elections followed shortly.

Queried about 11 allegations of code of conduct violations, he said since the elections are over, the EC can do nothing in that regard.

On 10 complaints of concealing information in the affidavits by those elected chairmen, he said the EC will pursue the issue, and ask the LGRD ministry to remove those who would be found

The EC also received an Thakurgaon 88.08 percent allegation that army personnel played biased role in one upazila. Huda said they have referred the matter to the army headquarters for actions.

Similarly, an allegation against the police was sent to the police headquarters. RESULTS SUSPENDED

According to the EC's decisions, elections to Madarganj of Jamalpur district, Ishwarganj and Gafargaon of

Rwandan rebels go missing

AFP, Kinshasa

Some 150 Rwandan Hutu rebels due to be repatriated from eastern Democratic Republic of Congo have gone missing, the UN said in a statement

The group, ex-fighters of the Hutu Rally for Unity and Democracy of the Rwandan People (RUD) and their families went missing overnight Sunday to Monday -- on the eve of their planned return to Rwanda, the United Nations peacekeeping mission MONUC said.

A UN official said the group left all their belongings in a camp in the eastern village of Kisaki, where they were stay-

The mission offered no explanation for their disappearance, but a UN official suggested the group might have been threatened by members of another Rwandan Hutu rebel group, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR).

Jubok director

Huda was arrested by Kotwali police after he was handed over o the police by the victims.

Yeasmin Alam, area manager of Jubok in the city's Bangshal branch, filed the case against Huda and six others with Kotwali Police Station on January 25 this year on charges of embezzling Tk 12 crore received from different people for the last 12 years.

The others are Mahmuda Khatun, Lutfunnessa, Lokman Hossain, Abu Mohammad Sayeed, Moniruddin Monir and

In his forwarding report, Sub-Inspector (SI) Shyamal Kanti Das, also the investigation officer of the case, mentioned that Rashedul Huda in collusion with others collected members in the name of Jubo Karmasangsthan Society 25,193 trucks, 13,521 auto-

(Jubok). They also collected Tk 12 and over 22,000 are other crore from those members since 1996. But Huda and others fraudulently embezzled the money without depositing it to any bank, the report said.

Qaeda warns FROM PAGE 16

the Bajaur tribal region, said, "The Mujahideen will sunder your armies into the ground, like they did to the Russians in

"They will target your economic centres and raze them to the ground."

Afghanistan.

Yazid denounced the ban on militant groups in Pakistan following the Mumbai attacks and asked the people of Pakistan to rise up and overthrow the government and President Asif Ali Zardari, the BBC reported.

The al-Qaeda leader is said to have been involved in a number of terror attacks, including last year's Danish Embassy bombings, in Pakistan and had claimed the responsibility of assassinating former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

He was last heard in August 2008 when he confirmed the death of al-Qaeda chemicalweapons expert Midhat Mursi al-Sayid Umar.

percent while that in parlia-Fair draws

FROM PAGE 16

The stall has been selling children's songs and rhymes as well as poetry recitations on different themes.

Many of these VCDs have been prepared on the background of 3-D animations and the continuous display of the same has ensured huge crowds around the stall.

A total of 74 new titles arrived at the fair on its tenth day yesterday. The new books include eight story collections, 10 novels, seven essays, 20 poetry collections, seven books on research, seven children's books, one on history, one on religion and six translations.

The titles include --"Golper Bhoot" by S Aslam Liton, "Srampadayikata Theke Mukti" by Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury, "Shopner Shokal" by Rafiq Al Riaz, "Phulbari Coal Project" by Jennifer Khelafat, "Roger Moody, I am in Myself" by Aman Ullah Asru, "The Wor(L)D in Question" by Azfar Hussain, "Kaler Kallol" by Ahmed Kamal and "Bangladesher Ganotantrer Sangram 2003-2006" from Ganosanghati Andolan.

Sajeda

FROM PAGE 1

Zillur, also a presidium member of AL, was chosen the Parliamentary Party when the current government came to power. He will quit this position when he goes to the President's Secretariat tomor-

ALPP is most likely to pick Sajeda as the next deputy leader of the House.

Highly placed sources told The Daily Star that the prime minister has already gave the green signal for Sajeda to be appointed to the post. Sajeda was the forest and environment minister during AL's last regime.

Meanwhile, a case filed against the former minister by the Anti-Corruption Commission on charges of illegal earnings and conceal-

ing wealth is still pending. The ACC had told reporters at the time that in her wealth statement, Sajeda hid information about Tk 13.75 lakh which she earned through illegal means.

BB pushes

FROM PAGE 16 stood at Tk 4076 crore.

And loan for flat purchase increased by 77 per cent to Tk 2,021 crore.

But loan for educational expenses rose by only .30 per cent and stood at Tk 296 crore.

Loan for professional services decreased by 60 per cent to Tk 285 crore and that for different 'Swanirvar' activities fell by 60 per cent and stood at Tk 285 crore. Economic analysis of the

loans showed that of the total Tk 1,91,079 crore loan until September last year, trade loan was 36 per cent, miscellaneous loan 11 per cent, working capital 17 per cent, industrial loan 21 per cent and agricultural loan seven per

The central bank yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over disbursement of loan to unproductive sector, and advised the bank executives to increase loan to productive sectors, cutting that to unproductive sector.

The BB governor asked the bankers to come out of conventional banking.

Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB) President Mahmud Sattar said consumer loan is necessary. Such loans increase economic activities. He however agreed with the central bank that car loan, marriage loan etc should be brought down.

Polytechnic students Jagannath

FROM PAGE 16

At around 11:30am, Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton rushed to spot, asked police to withdraw from the campus and pacified the demonstrators.

The students alleged that police entered Shah Neyamatullah and Shaheed Monayem hostels by breaking the doors and beat up students indiscriminately.

They said that earlier in the morning they had earlier met the principal over their demand but he expressed his inability to do anything in this regard. Then they started demonstrating. But police suddenly began clubbing them, which triggered clashes, they added.

Enraged students threw brickbats at police, leaving 30 cops injured, said witnesses. And police lobbed 22 tear shells to bring the situation under control.

The deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) however told reporters that, "Police attempts to prevent students from coming out of the campus

on streets sparked the clashes.' A report from a correspondent in Comilla said at least 65 students and 15 cops were

and staging demonstrations of

injured in a clash between the Comilla Polytechnic Institute students and police. Witnesses said the clash erupted at about 10:30am when the law enforces attacked

agitating students who went on

the rampage. The students also put up barricade on Dhaka-Chittagong highway disrupting vehicular movement for about three hours.

Police brought the situation under control.

The institute authorities later held a meeting with the students to resolve the crisis. Our Rangpur correspon-

dent reports: At least 50 students of Rangpur Polytechnic Institute were injured in a clashes with police on the Police lobbed 10 tear gas

shells and charged batons on the demonstrators, who ransacked several rooms at the institute and damaged differ-

KUSHUR CUSUTCI, SRIO ASSISIR

ent instruments, witnesses

The students laid siege at Jahaj Company point, first traffic point and court point for around two hours noon, causing sufferings to commuters.

Witnesses said the clash ensued after police chased about 300 students as they were damaging furniture and instruments in classrooms and laboratories.

The students later returned with sticks and brickbats fought with police for about four hours.

Our correspondent in Patuakhali reports: Over 50 people including 10 cops were injured in clashes between police and students of Patuakhali Polytechnic Institute.

Students said they became agitated as police beat up one of their teachers.

They put up barricade on Patuakhali-Kuakata road and ransacked vehicles and roadside shops.

Students of Dinajpur Polytechnic Institute damaged a number of rooms at the institute, hostels and residence of the principal, and vehicles, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

They will submit a fivepoint memorandum to the principal today as part of their agitation to press home their demand.

Moreover, demonstrating students of Gopalgani Polytechnic Institute yesterday vandalised a number of rooms at the institute and barricaded Dhaka-Khulna highway at Chandradigholia for an hour. reports our correspondent in Goplagani

They kept their teachers and staff confined at the institute for some time.

The students also called a strike at the institute for an indefinite period from today.

Violence also erupted at Cox's Bazar Polytechnic Institute. The students barricaded Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway for four hours, causing immense sufferings to commuters.

In Barisal, students of the Polytechnic Institute tried to bring out a procession on the campus.

CNG scam

corruption in importing CNGdeputy leader of the AL | run vehicles. He wanted to know whether the ministers and lawmakers of the BNP-led alliance government were involved in the irregularities.

But in the scripted answer, the communications minister told the House that the question is related to the finance and commerce ministries.

About the number of imported CNG-run autorickshaws, the minister said Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) does not have any exact figure in this regard.

During the rule of last BNP government, the parliamentary standing committee on communications ministry strongly blasted the then communications minister for the financial irregularities in importing the

CNG-run autorickshaws. The committee also found that one had to pay Tk 3 lakh or more for a CNG-run autorickshaw whereas its real price was about Tk 1.5 lakh due to rampant corruption. The then communications minister allowed only one company to

import the vehicles. The then parliamentary standing committee dominated by the BNP lawmakers also formed a subcommittee to

investigate the corruption. Irked by the parliamentary body's move, Nazmul Huda sought protection from the then prime minister to prevent the committee from investigating the scam. The then prime minister also criticised the committee's chairman, also a lawmaker of BNP, for the move.

In the face of severe opposition from the communications ministry, the sub-committee failed to complete the investiga-

In response to lawmakers' queries, the communications minister told the House that a total of 4,605 rail accidents occurred during 2001 to 2008 due to mainly faulty railway tracks, technical glitches in engines, violation of security code, national disaster etc. A total of 230 people were killed in the accidents, the minister.

The communications minister said the government has taken various measures to prevent railway accidents.

In reply to another query, the communications minister unveiled a list of individuals and firms who got the lease of the lands to set up CNG stations during 2001 to 2006. BNP and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders, DCC commissioners, including Mafiqul Hasan Tripti,

Manowar Hossain Dipjal, Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, Ashik Ahmed, Shahabuddin Laltu, Azizul Bari, Rezabuddowla Chowdhury, Salahuddin Ahmed, Alhaj Salahuddin Ahmed, Barkatullah Bulu and Abul Khair Bhuiyan among others were on the list.

In the last parliament, Huda himself raised allegation of anomalies in allocating lands to set up CNG stations. At the meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on communications ministry, Huda demanded formation of a subcommittee to investigate the matter.

The then state minister of communications, Salahuddin Ahmed, handled the allocation of lands to set up CNG stations Following the communications minister's demand, the then parliamentary standing com mittee formed a sub committee to investigate the allegation, but the sub committee failed to come up with its probe report.

BTRC chief FROM PAGE 16

his farewell meeting yesterday afternoon.

It is not yet clear who would replace Manzurul.

Sources in the BTRC said he had been asked to resign a few days after this government assumed power. The telecom industry stakeholders also expected his departure. He was hard on indiscipline in the

Alam was appointed chair man of BTRC on April 22, 2007 Having an army background, Alam came into the limelight by conducting a massive drive against illegal international call terminations conducted by local and foreign operators.

During his around 22month tenure, Alam was a little criticised for his approach to make BTRC a revenue earner rather than a regulator. Introducing too many technologies in a very short time and his intention to make BTRC an extraordinary regulator by amending laws also sparked criticism. Another issue that ques-

tioned the commission as a whole was taking Tk 10 crore reward from the government for the commission's performance in 2007-08 fiscal year. The BTRC later distributed the money among its officials. No other commission in the country took such rewards. A team of Rapid Action

Battalion played a vital role in the drive against illegal inter-Leader Khaleda Zia has not been reopened yet, as she has national calls. However, the members of the law enforceyet to appeal. She also has no ment agency did not get the case against her in relation to reward. the account.

FROM PAGE 1

Besides, the home ministry will take steps to recover Abdur Rahman Hall and Tibbat Hall from the possession of police and hand over the two halls to JNU authorities.

Vice-chancellor Prof Abu Hossain Siddique will also take measures to open the university soon.

The other members of committee are deputy secretary of the home ministry, deputy secretary (university-2) of the education ministry, deputy police commissioner (police headquarters), a representative of JNU VC, and additional deputy commissioner (reve-

Top officials of University Grants Commission, JNU VC and representatives from the home ministry and police headquarters were present at the meeting.

All the 12 dormitories of JNU have long been under the occupation of former lawmakers, leaders of Chhatra League and Chhatra Dal, local criminals and even government organisa tions like the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and police.

Families of policemen have been living in four of these hostels. Many of these illegal occupants have even prepared fake documents of their ownership of these university dorms.

Students of the university have been moving to get back the hostels, which recently ended up in clashes between police and students and closure of the university for indefinite period.

Man kills wife

FROM PAGE 16 his inability to run the family

properly.

Injured neighbour Jahanara said Zillur swooped on her as soon as she opened her door in the morning. She said she came under attack first and eight others were also attacked.

Fahima Begum said Zillur was always suspicious about his wife as she was a fair looking woman. He often asked the neighbours whether his wife went out of home or talked to strangers, she added.

The neighbours also reportedly used to pull his legs saying he's living with a woman who had relations with many men.

The couple who hailed from Peerganj in Rangpur got married 12 years ago.

The Rab personnel handed over Zillur to Adabor police, The injured women received treatment at Suhrawardy Hospital.

Board clarifies

FROM PAGE 16

occurred in different technical institutes for the last couple of days due to a rumour about

the system. According to BTEB, students who will fail in any of their final semester examinations three times will be allowed as 'irregular examinee' in the referred examination, but students took it for cancellation of their studentship and created the trouble.

It also said that any student could appear in the referred examination for two times as regular examinee but will be considered as irregular examinee if appears for the

third time. No one will face problem as irregular examinee in the referred examinations, the

BTEB added. Govt to unfreeze

FROM PAGE 16

evaded numbers of years and a 10 percent fine on only two years' tax are deducted from the accounts.

The sources said taxes and fines for many of the accounts were already assessed, while for the remaining ones the

accountholders must appeal to NBR for reopening of the accounts after getting notices. After the appeals are filed, the accounts will be reopened

on payment of the due taxes

After the assessment, the

and fines. The accounts of those who will be found to have no taxable income, will be reopened without payment of any tax or

The sources said many of the account holders already appealed. The frozen account of

account.

tion," he said. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was reopened before the December 29, 2008 national election, on the basis of an appeal. There was no case against her in relation to the The account of Opposition

> trust built up over the years, so it's not going to happen overnight," he said of a possible thaw in ties.

India blames

FROM PAGE 16

extremely difficult to deal with it," Mukherjee said.

On Monday, Pakistani cabinet ministers and senior army officers in Islamabad said that information provided by India was insufficient.

On Tuesday US President Barack Obama's regional envoy Richard Holbrooke, embarking on a massive US policy review to turn around the war against the Taliban and al-Qaeda, met Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

Pakistan called yesterday for dialogue to "combat terrorism" and expressed concern about military action against Islamist militants in its first talks with Holbrooke.

Holbrooke, considered the architect of peace in Bosnia, heard criticism from a civilian government worried that US missile strikes against militants in Pakistan will exacerbate its domestic problems and unpopularity.

"It's an orientation visit. Pakistan conveyed that military action is not the only solution. We should look for dialogue and development also as a tool to combat terrorism," a foreign

ministry official told AFP. India's Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon last Thursday directly accused Pakistan's military spy agency the ISI, of involvement in the Mumbai attacks -- a charge

Pakistan has come under strong Western pressure to prosecute those suspected of being behind the attacks. Meanwhile, giving a new

Islamabad vigorously denied.

twist to probe into Mumbai attacks, Pakistan is now alleging that there were "elements in India" who helped carry out the strikes and wants its investigators to be provided access to "There is a strong realisation

in Pakistani security agencies that without the help of elements in India, the Mumbai crime could have not been committed," official sources were quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper on Tuesday. In what could further delay

the prosecution of Mumbai attackers, the paper said Pakistan is also seeking DNA samples of the terrorists involved in the strikes and more information about contacts made by them through the internet.

Pakistan's investigation report into the Mumbai attacks, which was reviewed on Monday at a meeting of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, would be sent to New Delhi in a couple of days, the paper quoted these

In its report, Pakistan has sought results of DNA tests on

Ajmal Kasab and the nine other attackers killed by Indian security forces so that these could be matched with their family members, if any, in Pakistan, the

sources said. Pakistan wants information about weapons used by the terrorists and details of mobile phone calls made by them and taped by Indian security agen-

Pakistan also wants information regarding IP addresses from which emails were sent to attackers by the alleged perpe-

trators, the sources said. It wants India to provide details about people who were reportedly killed by the terrorists when they illegally entered the country's territorial waters.

The Pakistan government on

Monday decided to register a

case against the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks to bring them to justice in accordance with Pakistani laws. An FIR would be registered in a "couple of days" and this would also make the contents of

the Pakistani report public, the

paper said quoting sources. The government has described the information provided by India as "insufficient" to reach a logical conclusion and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

An official statement issued on Monday said further queries would soon be sent to India.

Bank service FROM PAGE 16

A paper of Bangladesh Bank

placed in the meeting shows

uniform one. He cautioned that the central bank will be compelled to fix the charge if the foreign and private banks do not do it themselves.

that the state-owned commercial and specialised banks charge Tk 50 annually for running a savings account. However, many private banks charge Tk 300 to Tk 500 for six months. In the same way, the SoBs charge Tk 20 to Tk 100 for clos-

ing a bank account whereas the private banks charge Tk 50 to Tk 200. Some private banks charge as high as Tk300 to Tk500 for the The foreign banks charge Tk 250 to Tk 500 for six months for

running a savings account. For closing the account, they charge Bangladesh Bank report said recently they received numerous complaints from the customers regarding imposing charges in different ways on the savings deposit. Some banks refuse to pay interest on the whole amount of deposit if a specific amount of money does not remain in the account. They also deduct service charge from

the amount if it is less than the specific amount. Bangladesh Bank said many banks are making excess profit by imposing illogical charges,

which is not desirable at all.

Obama looks for Iran talks

AFP, AP, Washington/ Tehran US President Barack Obama on Monday renewed his call for direct US dialogue with Iran, saying he hoped to create the conditions to "start sitting across the table, face to face" in the coming months.

"I think there's the possi-

bility, at least, of a relationship

of mutual respect and prog-

ress," Obama said at the first press conference of his young presidency, but "it's time now for Iran to send some signals that it wants to act differently.' In response to US overtures, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says

States but they must be based on mutual respect. Ahmadinejad spoke Tuesday at celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the

he welcomes talks with United

Iranian Revolution. He says Iran is ready to hold talks with the US so long as it's assessment will be done this | in a "fair atmosphere and with mutual respect.

The US president said his administration was reviewing relations between Washington and Tehran, and looking for a new approach despite concerns over its suspect nuclear programme, support for Hamas and Hezbollah and bellicose remarks aimed at

"My expectation is, in the coming months, we will be looking for openings that can be created where we can start sitting across the table faceto-face with diplomatic overtures that will allow us to move our policy in the new direc-

Obama pledged during the 2008 White House race to break with what he described as predecessor George W. Bush's unproductive and confrontational policy towards Iran, and ordered a review of relations shortly after taking office January 20. "There's been a lot of mis-

"And it's important that, even as we engage in this direct diplomacy, we are very

concerns that we have as a country, that Iran understands that we find the funding of terrorist organisations unacceptable, that we're clear about the fact that a nuclear Iran could set off a nuclear arms race in the region that would be profoundly destabilizing," said Obama. The West suspects Iran of

secretly trying to build an

atomic bomb and fears the

clear about certain deep

technology used to launch a space rocket could be diverted to developing long-range ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads. The White House, which has ordered a review of US policy toward Tehran, recently pledged that the United States will use "all elements of our

Republic said it had launched a satellite into orbit. Market 18 lakh

national power to deal with

Iran" after the Islamic

FROM PAGE 16

in the third phase by tomorrow. The directives came at an emergency meeting between members of the taskforce and publishers. Following pressure and

strong monitoring, publishers

had to market 58 lakh of the required 78 lakh textbooks in the last couple of days. The taskforce was formed on recommendations of the education ministry to solve the persisting crisis of secondary

level textbooks. It comprises members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), police and officials of the National Curriculum and Textbooks Board. "We will continue our round-the-clock monitoring

so that the remaining 18 lakh books are on the market within Thursday," said Col Reza-nur-Rahman Khan, chief of the taskforce and additional director general of Rab.