The Supreme Court yesterday

upheld a chamber judge's

order staying a High Court

order that granted bail to con-

troversial businessman

Police Station against Mamun

on charges of laundering over

January 31 stayed the HC order

for seven days and asked the

government to file the regular

leave to appeal petition with

the apex court against the HC

The stay order was later

Attorney General

Mahbubey Alam appeared for

the government while barrister

Rafique-ul Huq for Mamun.

SHOPS IN CAR PARK

DCC asked to

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

keep status quo

The High Court yesterday

directed Dhaka City

Corporation (DCC) authorities

to maintain the status quo for

three months on construction

of shops at the place fixed for

upon the DCC to explain

within two weeks why con-

structing shops at the site

explain why it should not be

directed to demolish the

illegal structures, if any, at the

place meant for car park to

ease traffic jam in the busy

The DCC mayor, secretary,

chief accounts officer, chief

engineer and executive engi-

neer have been made respon-

An HC bench comprised of

Justice AHM Shamsuddin

Chowdhury Manik and Justice

Md Delwar Hossain passed

the order upon a writ petition

Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

in The Daily Star on April 3.

park site, which would worsen

traffic congestion in and

around the area causing pub-

lic sufferings. Construction of

the shops is almost complete,

petitioner's lawyer Manzill

Murshid said the DCC must

not take any decision to serve

anybody's business interests

to the detriment of public

Indian Border Security Force

(BSF) yesterday shot a

Bangladeshi cattle trader dead

on Wahedpur border under

Sadar upazila of the district,

Bangladesh Rifles sources said.

Habibur Rahman, 30, of village

Kalupur-Suriyanarayanpur in

commanding officer of 39

Rifles Battalion, said BSF

allegedly opened fire on a

group of cattle traders leaving

body and sent it to morgue for

Muggers shoot

11:00pm. They were on their

They shot Sajal's in the

Police later recovered the

BDR strongly protested the

Habibur dead on the spot.

autopsy.

incident.

way home.

Narayanpur Union.

The victim was identified as

Lt Colonel Zaed Hossain,

BSF kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Chapainawabganj

At the hearing yesterday,

the report mentioned.

welfare.

commercial area.

dents to the rule.

should not be declared illegal.

The court also issued a rule

It asked the DCC also to

car parking at Karwan Bazar.

verdict within this period.

On January 28, the HC

Tk20 crore.

extended.

granted him bail.

# Govt to specify

FROM PAGE 1

upazila parishad of Patuakhali, said UNOs are appointed to upazilas for only three years, but elected upazila chairmen who are from the local areas will remain in the areas all through their lives. He alleged upazila chairmen currently have no say on the issue of law and order, as the UNOs are the chiefs of the upazila law and order committees. He also alleged that the UNOs do not respect the elected local government representatives.

"Two parallel administrations are existing in the upazilas now," said Badiuzzaman Badal, chairman of Nalitabari upazila parishad in Sherpur.

He said upazila chairmen have been fighting for their dignity and rights through arranging demonstrations like human chains, demanding their rightful authority as elected local representatives.

"Our struggle is just for establishing our authority, it is not against the government," he said.

Speaking as the special guest, Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives (LGRD) Minister Syed Ashraful Islam claimed the government has taken various steps to strengthen upazila prishads.

Then he said upazila chairmen are being provided with new offices and vehicles. As he said that, some chairmen stood up and started shouting, saying the vehicles and the offices mean nothing without the right to exercise the authority of elected officials. The chairmen demanded

the right to have decision making authorities in local development projects, and the authority to write annual confidential reports (ACR) about government officials appointed to upazila parishads.

The premier told them that steps are being taken to bolster the authority of the elected upazila chairmen, but that will take some time to be implemented. "The LGRD ministry already distributed notifications among you specifying your duties

and tasks," she said.

As some chairmen alleged that they have yet to receive the government notifications, the primer told them to collect and read those.

In reply to upazila chairmen's demand for the authority to write ACRs of government officials, Hasina asked them whether they will be able to carry out the tasks that are now being done by officers appointed by the central government.

"Will you be able to provide salaries and allowances for all officers and employees in your local government? Will you be able to chalk out budget plans for your areas?" asked the premier.

Then she told the upazila chairmen to chalk out fiveyear development plans for their respective upazilas, and to submit those to the authorities concerned.

She said her government believes in decentralisation of power, and it will take every necessary step for strengthening the local government. "Without decentralisation of power, balanced development from the grassroots level up to the centre will not be achieved,' she noted.

Hasina assured the upazila chairmen that the scope of their participation in local development projects will be appropriately delineated.

She also urged them to remain alert against terrorism, and other violent and corrupt elements at the grassroots level. The PM asked the government officials appointed at upazilas, and the upazila chairmen to respect each other. The LGRD ministry,

Access to Information Project run by the Prime Minister's Office, and UNDP jointly organised the workshop. LGRD Secretary Manjur Hossain chaired the inaugural session where UNDP Resident Representative Renata Lok Dessallien, and PM's Private Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan were also present. Deputy Press Secretary to the PM Mahbubul Hoque Shakil moderated the programme.

#### Khaleda tion in the country, Khaleda said no one is secure and in peace

International Conference

Centre in the capital. Teachers' representatives

She alleged that this governin their speeches demanded ment had made governing nationalising all educational institutions getting monthly pay order (MPO) facilities.

They urged the opposition to see that parliament members are not nominated as chairmen of governing bodies of educational institutions.

Selim Bhuiyan, chief coordinator of the Oikya Jote, said teachers and academicians should be made chairmen of the governing bodies.

In response, the former prime minister said if BNP is voted to power again, jobs of all teachers and employees of MPO-listed institutions will be nationalised. She however did not make

the governing bodies. Bitterly criticising the government for the present situa-

any comment on the demand

that lawmakers must not head

petent teachers lost their jobs as a result.

bodies of all educational institutions partisan, and many com-The BNP chief said giving

importance to religious and moral education is the demand of time but the present government is hatching a conspiracy against religious education.

The others who spoke at the conference included BNP leaders Osman Farruk, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Amanullah Aman, Zainul Abdin Farroque, Khairul Kabir Kokhon and teachers' leaders Kazi Adbur Razzak, Chowdhury Mugisuddin Mahmud and Fatema Akhter Hena.

Former energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman inaugurated the conference chaired by Selim Bhuiyan.

Dal opposed them. At one

stage, the groups pelted each

other with brickbats leaving

Welfare Shibendu was report-

edly assaulted when he tried

campus to control the situa-

Director of Students'

Later, police reached the

six persons injured.

to pacify the BCL men.

### BCL, JCD clash

Meanwhile, 16 administration officials of the university submitted their resignations to the VC in protest at the assault on Director of Student Affairs Shibendu Shekhar Sikder allegedly by BCL cad-

On orders of the university authorities, students of all residential halls left the cam-

unruly behaviour on the

campus and assaulting Prof

the campus for the last few

days as the authorities and

BCL leaders were at logger-

heads over the issue of making

arrangements for Pahela

Boishakh on April 14, sources

said. The BCL leaders rejected

the Pahela Baishakh

Celebration Committee

formed by the university

authorities. Instead they

insisted on taking the entire

responsibility for the celebra-

On Sunday, as the BCL men

staged a demonstration on the

campus, Kuet unit of Chhatra

tion on the campus.

Tension was building on

Shibendhu.

The VC confirmed that six pus within 7:00am yesterday. provosts, nine assistant pro-The VC has suspended vosts and the director of stu-Chhatra League president of dent affairs had submitted Kuet unit Ahsanullah Bhuiyan resignation letters, but he did Mehedi and general secretary not accept those yet. Minhaj Mahmud due to their

Director of Student Affairs Shibendu could not be reached over the phone despite several attempts for his comment on Sunday night's incident.

The VC has formed a twomember committee headed by Prof Arif Hossain of mathematics department to probe into the Sunday night's incident, and asked them to sub-

#### mit a report within 10 days. Pahela Baishakh FROM PAGE 1

handed over Khaleda Zia's greeting card to the PM's Private Secretary-2 Selima Khatun at the PM's office around 1:45pm.

### Jamaat men clash with cops: 15 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A clash between police and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir left at least 15 including four policemen injured when police halted their attempt to bring out a procession at Andarkillah in Chittagong vesterday.

Police arrested 11 suspected Jamaat-Shibir activists after they took shelter inside nearby buildings and a mosque. More than 200 activists

tried to bring out a procession from Andarkillah Shahi Jame Mosque immediately after Asar prayers around 5:15pm, police said. When on-duty policemen at the mosque gate tried to

prevent the Jamaat-Shibir

men from bringing out the procession a scuffle broke out resulting in a clash with the law enforcers, said witnesses. Eyewitnesses said the Jamaat activists brandishing sticks came out on to the streets and started pelting

brickbats at police at the busy

intersection creating panic

among pedestrians and com-They damaged four vehicles and broke furniture of two bookshops on the ground floor of Shahi Jame Mosque Market.

Helal Uddin, assistant commissioner of Chittagong Police Station, rushed to the spot and resorted to truncheon charging to disperse the activists. The Jamaat-Shibir men retreated towards Terri Bazar area and Najir Ahmad Chowdhury Road from where they kept on pelting brickbats

Md Mohiuddin, officer-incharge of the police station, said the agitators pelted stones, potted plants, handmade bombs and even fired bullets. The law enforcers lobbed at least 15 teargas shells and 30 rubber bullets in

At least four policemen and 15 others were injured during this battle. Injured policemen Kader, Rafik, Mainuddin and Khorshed were rushed to the police hospital at Dampara Police Lines.

### Pro-AL panels win RU elections

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Awami League and progressive teachers yesterday won all the posts in the elections of Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (Ruta), syndicate, deans' committee, academic council and finance committee.

Pro-BNP and Jamaat teachers from white panel only won the single post of member in the election of planning and development committee while a faction of BNP teachers' golden

panel could not win any post. The elected deans from progressive teacher's yellow panel are Dr Anisur Rahman, Law and Justice Faculty, Dr M Shahidullah, Arts Faculty, Dr Muhammad Tufazzol Hossain Torofdar, Science Faculty, Dr M Sha Nowaz Ali, Business Studies Faculty, Muhammad Mizan Uddin, Social Science Faculty, M Sohrab Ali, Agriculture Faculty and Dr M Rostom Ali,

Engineering Faculty. In the syndicate election, Prof Razaul Karim from yellow panel won in the provost cate gory defeating white pane contestant Dr M Motiar

In the professor category, M Zalal Uddin from yellow panel defeated white panel nominee Dr Sayed Rafikul Alam Rumi. M Shamsuddin Ilias, Abu Sadeque M Kamruzzaman and M Anisuzzaman from yellow panel were elected in the categories of associate professor and assistant professor and lecturer respectively.

Candidates from yellow panel won all the posts in the elections of finance committee and academic council.

In the Ruta election, the vellow panel won all the posts of 15-member executive committee for the year 2010-11. Dr M Azijul Islam of Chemistry Department and Dr Ananda Kumar Saha were elected president and general secretary respectively.

M Ansar Uddin, Dr M Suntan-Ul- Islam, SM Akram Ullah from yellow panel have been elected as vice-president, treasurer and joint secretary respectively.

Other office bearers from the yellow panel are Dr Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan, Dr SM Zahid Hossain, Dr Chittoranjan Misro, Dr ABM Muhosin, Dr Munsi Monjurul Haque, Dr Bithika Banik, Dr Abul Kalam Fazlul Haque, Dr M Ilias Hossain, Dr M Abu Jafar M Touhidul Islam and Dr Shafiqunnabi Samadi.

## Fraud 'pir' held

NEWS

FROM PAGE 1 main accused in each of the cases.

Md Matiur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sirajdikhan Police Station, told The Daily Star the arrests were made around 10:30am following a report published on the Prothom Alo. The arrestees were taken to

the police station for interrogation. Ironically, people are still

crowding the den of Amzad, who claims to have been using different techniques to "heal" his "patients". Additional District Magistrate Hasanul Islam said

everyone involved in the ring would be brought to book. He however said the administration was not aware of the matter so far. Assistant Superintendent of Police Saiduzzaman Faruqui said the arrestees are

being interrogated. He said Amzad has already given some important information and the police are working to capture his other accompli-

Rapid Action Battalion is also working on the activities of the fraud pir.

Rab local camp commander ASP Md Milon Mahmud said he came to know about Amzad's activities about a week ago. He said he was waiting for Thursday as the number of visitors is usually the highest on that day.

Superintendent of Police Md Shafiqul Islam said Amzad is illiterate. He only knows two suras (chapters of the holy Quran) but also makes mistakes while reciting those.

Sakira Begum of Naigaon

rillage in Sirajdikhan said the fraud pir used to beat up his patients" to "heal" them. Sources say several people got the share of money Amzad

collected from his "patients" through his so-called treat-Besides the arrestees, Aslam Matbar, 45, Khaleque

Matbar, 60, Sayeed Matbar, 50, Hossain Mollah, 40, and Ruhul member are also involved in the clique led by Arab Ali, the sources added. They have gone into hiding

since the report published on the Prothom Alo. Surat Ali, 60, Manjil, 35,

Amir, 40, used to collect money on behalf of the fraud pir in the so-called treatment Amzad was an expatriate in

the Middle East for 11 years but failed to change his lot. He returned home about four months ago and started pulling rickshaws and vans. Amzad opened a den at his

own house in Khasnagar about two months ago. When the number of patients increased he opened a 20-bed 'hospital".

He set up a so-called and peculiar hospital at his village home. A scaffold of bamboos and jute sticks with tin roof, the only "doctor" of the hospital was Amzad in black turban, white punjabi and pyjama.

Amzad used drum beats while "treating the patients". People from remote villages rushed to him when they even suffered from fever or cold.

The people say Amzad applied a "dream treatment" on his "patients".

Locals say he turned into a doctor taking advantage of the abject poverty of the villagers.

#### Sania, Shoaib

FROM PAGE 16

originally planned to marry on April 15 but there was speculation that the date would be advanced after the tumultuous build-up.

"The nikah has now completed. Please pray for the couple," Sania's spokesperson Rucha Naik told reporters here.

Decked in a red saree, which her mother Nasima wore in her nikah 25 years ago, Sania thus became the second wife of the Pakistani cricketer, who divorced his first wife Ayesha Siddiqui last week after much mud-slinging.

Shoaib, a former Pakistan captain, wore a black sherwani designed by Shantanu and Nikhil for the nikah ceremony held at hotel Taj Krishna.

The 'Haq Mehr' (dower money) keptin the nikah wasa Association Dr Qazi staggering 61 lakh rupees. Shoaib's brother-in-law

Imran Zafar told this news agency that the ceremony had been a simple one with only 15 relatives of Malik and around 35 members of Sania's family attending the function.

"We kept it a simple affair. We are now relieved that marriage has finally taken place after so many controversies," Imran said.

"We had to obtain the photocopy of Shoaib's passport from the Hyderabad police for the nikah ceremony as his passport is still in the possession of a court," he said.

Stay order on Mamun's HC He charged fees ranging from bail upheld Tk 10 to Tk 100. Those who were unable to pay in cash STAFF CORRESPONDENT gave him vegetables from

Three cases were filed yesterday evening against Amzad. Sixteen people including Amzad have been accused in each of the cases. Enamul Haque, son o

their fields.

Giasuddin Al Mamun in a money laundering case. mental imbalanced Jarina Begum of Nayagaon in Sirajdikhan, filed one case. Puspa Rani Mondol, mother of twin sisters Nipa and Dipa of Bangaon under Dakkhin the government. Keraniganj, filed the second Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Cantonment

Sirajdikhan Police Station OC Motiur Rahman filed the other one.

The three cases accused Amzad and his accomplices of different crimes including fraud and attempt to murder. The arrested accused will

be produced before court today (Tuesday) and police will seek remand for interrogation. Nipa and Dipa, whose pictures were published in

police station by their mother. Jarina Begum also came to

Prothom Alo, are now well.

They were brought to the

the police station. Amzad has four daughters. His elder daughter has been married off while the other three are minors. His wife and daughters has left their house. However, they are not accused in any of the cases, police sources said.

The district administration formed a three-member committee to probe the matter. Additional District Magistrate Hasanul Islam leads the committee.

The other members are ASP Saiduzzaman Faruqui and Munshiganj Sadar Hospital doctor Rujdul Karim.

### Pre-budget

FROM PAGE 16 ADP but the finance minister's

budget speech should spell out which ways the ADP would be implemented. BIDS Research Director

Rushidan Islam suggested formulation of a special scheme for areas affected by climate change and disasters. She said the government could make allocations for coastal employment schemes and disaster insurance schemes in the next budget.

She added before giving any privilege to the readymade garments factory owners, the government should ensure that the workers are given proper wages and other facilities.

Former governor o Bangladesh Bank M Farash Uddin suggested formation of an accreditation council to improve quality of education in the public and private universities. He said the council must be given sufficient independence.

Agricultural economist Mahbub Hossain said the price of agricultural equipment has fallen much in the international market. So, instead of giving countrywide agricultural subsidy, he suggested subsidy for

selected areas. Chartered accountant Mashih Malik Chowdhury said capital gain tax should be imposed on the banks as they are making huge profit by investing in the share market.

He said at present the tax rate on the banks is 42.5 percent, but if their profit on share market is taken into account, the rate of real tax on them goes down to below 20 percent.

Malik suggested imposition of city congestion tax to reduce traffic jam.

CPD researcher Fahmida Khatun said budgetary allocation should be made for rainwater harvesting to combat water

Former finance secretary Mir Mostafizur Rahman recommended stopping scope to whiten black money in the next budget. "For God's sake, stop giving scope to whiten black money by giving some tax on purchasing house and cars," he said. M Motiul Islam, chairman of

Devalso spoke.

present.

and Banking Division Secretary

Shafiqur Rahman Patwari were

Industrial and Infrastructure chest as he refused to give Development Finance Co Ltd, them the money. Doctors at former adviser of the caretaker Dhaka Medical College Hospital declared Sajal dead government Prof Jamilur Reza when he was taken there. Chowdhury, former president Meanwhile, Rapid Action of Bangladesh Economic Battalion personnel last night arrested seven members, Kholiquzzman Ahmed, BIDS including four women, of a Director General MK Mujeri, gang that abducted a business-Prof Khandker Bazlul Haque man at the city's Khilgaon and and Prof Ashrafuddin from demandedTk10lakhransom. Dhaka University, BIDS Officials of Rab-3 informed Research Director Protima Paul, reporters at a press conference Prof Nurul Islam from Buet, and at its Tikatuli office early today. CPD researcher Uttam Kumar

The arrestees are Mithu Chowdhury, 31, Sajib 26, Bangladesh Bank Governor Shafiq, 25, Maya, 17, Parvin 22, Dr Atiur Rahman, Finance Nasima, 23 and Lata, 18. Secretary Dr Mohammad Tareq, Rab members said, a Chairman of the National Board woman of the gang yesterday of Revenue Dr Nasiruddin telephoned Liaqat Hossain, Ahmed, ERD Secretary 41, owner of Sal Aluminum Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan and RSL plastic group, and

asked him to meet her outside

his home. Others kidnapped

him as soon as he came out.

### RMG workers

**FROM PAGE 1** 

home their 15-point demand, including pay hike and house rent, police and locals said.

The unruly workers wounded at least 10 officials and employees of the four factories. Five policemen and 35 attackers were injured during the clash with police between 10:00am and 11:00am.

A five-member bench of the They said Navana workers Appellate Division headed by were demonstrating inside the Chief Justice Mohammad factory when they learnt that Fazlul Karim passed the order machines of this unit were after granting a petition filed by being dismantled and moved to another unit. On October 26 last year, Local said around 100

alleged hired goons of the factory authorities then forced the agitating workers outside the factory. The workers then started demonstration in front of the factory. They brought out a proces-The Appellate Division on

> aged several vehicles and later attacked the four nearby garment factories. Police rushed to the spot and resorted to truncheon charging to disperse the work-

sion, put barricade on CNB-

Ashulia road at Kalma, dam-

ers who retaliated with brickbats forcing law enforcers to fire at least 24 rubber bullets. Chases and counter chases

took place between police and workers. Savar Police Station Officer-in-Charge AKM Nasirullah told The Daily Star

that the employees of Navana

went wild following hesitation

of factory authorities to meet

their demands. He said no case was filed and none was arrested in this connection. Century Design and

Fashion Pvt Ltd General

Manager Meenhazul Islam Khan, also the GM of Synergy Design and Fashion Pvt Ltd, told The Daily Star, "My units were attacked by several hundred workers of Navana Textiles who also looted valuables. I was wounded when I tried to stop them."

He said, "The attackers first demanded that my employees be let out to join their demonstration. When we opened our gate, they stormed in and started looting and vandalis-

Assistant General Manager Nurul Amin of Century Design and Fashion Pvt Ltd said at least 10 of their officials and employees were injured in the attack and they are yet to make

Navana Textiles Deputy General Manager (production) Zamal Uddin denied the allegation of ousting the agitating workers with hired people. He claimed that a section of workers carried out the attack in a planned way to

He said the demands of the workers were illogical and impossible to fulfil.

Union Kendra leaders claimed that goons hired by Navana Textiles Ltd attacked the workers who staged demonstration in favour of their demands. They said the goons ransacked the neighbouring factories.

In a statement, Garments Sramik Trade Union Kendra

## DCC election

FROM PAGE 16 Secretariat premises.

"If the government sends

us a letter clarifying its stance on the poll, we shall consider it and make a decision," he said. The CEC said he will leave Dhaka on April 19 to witness the pre-poll situation in

Bhola-3 parliamentary con-

stituency, where a by-election

is scheduled for April 24. The EC in a letter to the LGRD ministry on Thursday informed it about the decision to hold the DCC poll on May 31.

But policymakers of the

filed by Human Rights and ruling party are against holding of the poll now fearing that The HRPB filed the petition the ongoing power, gas, and as a public interest litigation water crises will go in favour of following a report published opposition-backed candidates. They want the DCC poll The DCC allowed setting up of over 65 shops at the car to be held in winter.

The government however is yet to inform the EC about its stance on the DCC election. Its silence made the EC confused about its next course of action over the DCC poll, EC

officials said. The EC was scheduled to discuss the issue yesterday but

the meeting did not take place under the prevailing circumstances, they added. AL SENDS LETTER TO EC

Awami League sent a letter to

the EC yesterday claiming the party does not interfere in the activities of Bangladesh Chhatra League. An AL delegation led by its

Deputy Office Secretary

Mrinal Kanti Das submitted the letter to the EC. It said BCL is no longer an associate body of AL and the party does not take any deci-

sion regarding BCL. Mentioning some reports and speeches of leaders of AL, BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, the EC on March 18 in separate letters asked the three parties to notify the commission about their affiliation with

BCL, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir. The EC reminded the political parties of section 90B of the Representation of the People Order (Amendment) Act 2009 that prohibits formation of any affiliated or associ-

ted scouting sites in Mumbai

ised not to extradite Headley in

return for his guilty plea, set-

ting off indignation among

Indians who wondered the

reaction if the United States

were denied access to a culprit

Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Obama

administration has welcomed

what it sees as a stronger

response by Pakistan in crack-

ing down in other extremist

groups including home-grown

Indian analyst, said he saw a

growing recognition in the

United States that Lashkar-e-

Taiba posed a threat to US

act on it and get the Pakistani

army to act on it, I'm not so

sure," said Mohan, a visiting

scholar at the Library of

administration could dispel

some lingering distrust in India

Mohan said that the Obama

"But how much the US can

interests and not just to India.

C Raja Mohan, a leading

and Afghan Taliban.

Despite concerns about

of the September 11 attacks.

US prosecutors have prom-

ated body with students.

for the attacks.

## Manmohan, Gilani

anti-Americanism in the country by showing it is seeking cooperation on issues other

than Afghanistan. Obama opened his meeting with Gilani "by noting that he is very fond of Pakistan, having visited the country during college," the White House said in statement.

"Our multi-faceted and long-term strategic relationship goes far beyond security issues," Obama was quoted as saying.

In Obama's earlier meeting with Singh, the Indian and US leaders "vowed to continue to strengthen the robust relationship between the people of their countries," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said.

Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao, who attended the meeting, gave a positive assessment to the meeting with Obama and said the two leaders agreed to cooperate in areas from reducing poverty to rebuilding Afghanistan.

But Rao said that India also wanted the United States to turn up the heat on Pakistan to rein in Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Islamist movement accused of carrying out the grisly siege of Mumbai that left 166 people dead. Singh told Obama "that

unfortunately there was no will on the part of the government of Pakistan to punish those responsible for the terrorist crimes in Mumbai of November 2008," Rao told reporters. "This is where the partner-

ship of India and the United States could make a difference," she said. Addressing one sore point,

finish the old Bush agenda, Mohan said.

February reopened talks cut off after the Mumbai attacks. But India in particular has been cautious about the dialogue and officials said there were no plans for Singh and Gilani to Pakistani diplomat who admit-

by taking up a new project between the two countries. The two nations just last month completed one of the last hurdles to implementing a 2008 agreement on nuclear cooperation -- a hallmark of the former George W. Bush administration's engagement of India. "What we need is to show some big progress on the US-India side. We're still trying to

India and Pakistan in Rao said that Obama was "fully supportive" of India's request for access to David Headley -the US-born son of a former

meet in Washington.

an estimate of the loss.

create unrest.

Garments Sramik Trade

adviser Montu Ghosh, president Idris Ali and general secretary KM Ruhul Amin blamed the factory authorities' behaviour for the vio-