# Govt move faces

FROM PAGE 1 the governments during that period were without lawful

authority. The landmark HC verdict on it was upheld by the Supreme Court early this year. Analysts say the fresh amendment move will generate much heat in the political arena, as it may see religionbased politics banned.

The opposition BNP yesterday said it will launch a movement if the government does not retreat from its plan to amend the constitution.

Addressing a gathering in the capital's Muktangon, the party's Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said there is an "ulterior motive" behind the efforts to

get back to 1972's charter. Earlier on Friday, the prime minister said the government would form an all-party parernment in its move to amend liamentary panel to make necessary changes to the constitution.

She also said changes are a must as the military regimes after 1975 have mutilated the constitution.

Suranjit Sengupta yesterday told The Daily Star that he will first sit with Law Minister Shafique Ahmed to discuss formation of the committee.

The draft will be finalised in consultation with the prime minister, who will unveil it in parliament this week, he

Replying to a query, he said, "Since the opposition lawmakers do not want restoration of 1972's constitution, they may not be included in the committee."

AL insiders said Suranjit may lead the parliamentary

Contacted yesterday, BNP standing committee member and lawmaker Moudud Ahmed said it would not be possible to return to the original constitution, given the present realities.

He however said his party will decide on its stance after examining the terms of reference for the proposed com-

The HC judgment on the fifth amendment came on August 29, 2005.

BNP had filed a petition with the Supreme Court to overturn the watershed verdict. But the apex court on February 2 dismissed the petition.

The fifth amendment legalised all actions including those that destroyed the basic character of the constitution.

A slew of amendments, additions, modifications, substitutions and omissions were made to the constitution by the regimes that came after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.

These actions changed the

## College girl

party at Deja Vu Café opposite to Azad mosque in the area.

The injured were admitted to United Hospital in Gulshan. Abdur Rashid, deputy director of Fire Brigade, said on information they rushed to the spot and found the restaurant on the second floor of a three-

storey building in flames. He said according to witnesses, sparks from illuminations originated the fire around

Ulfa leader

The Rab sources said they

would soon produce Ranjan

and Pradip before a Kishoreganj

Rab Chief Hasan Mahmud

Khandaker said, "We are trying

to find out whether Ulfa has any

link with local militant outfits or

has any military wing here. We

are also trying to ascertain how

many Ulfa leaders and opera-

Wing Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan said,

"Ulfa activities in India are

apparently regulated by its

leaders and operatives who

have taken shelter in

Bangladesh. Among them,

Ranjan is now the chief as the

other top leaders of the separat-

Ziaul Ahsan said in the

preliminary interrogation

Ranjan informed about his

training in firearms and explo-

sives. Rab is also trying to find

out the organisation's arsenal in

Commander Mohammad

Sohail, director of Rab legal and

media wing, said Ranjan mar-

ried a Bangladeshi and started

living at Gazni village of

Chief of Rab Intelligence

tives are living here."

ist group are in jails."

the country, he added.

court with remand prayers.

9:10pm.

ROM PAGE 1

afternoon.

"We managed to rescue the of the worker. girl alive and sent her to United

Hospital where she succumbed driver managed to flee. to her injuries," Rashid added. Fire fighters brought the fire under control around 10:10pm.

constitution's secular nature, allowed religion-based politics and gave political rights to the anti-Liberation War forces. Khandker Mushtaque Ahmed, Abu Sadaat

fundamental principles of

state policy, destroyed the

Mohammad Sayem and Major General Ziaur Rahman led the regimes adjudged unlawful. Before the parliamentary election in 2008, the AL-led grand alliance pledged to

restore the constitution to what it was in 1972. Legal observers say the apex court ruling upholding the HC verdict has in fact

made the job easier for the ruling alliance, which enjoys over three-fourth majority in parliament. AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam yesterday said the party can assist the gov-

the charter by making useful recommendations. He was speaking at an informal meeting at Sheikh Hasina's political office in Dhanmondi, said party

Meanwhile, the SC that upheld the HC verdict has yet to release copies of its judg-

sources.

A court source said the copies are likely to be available this week.

### PM administers

Minister's Office at 10:00am.

Awami League (AL) General Secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraful Islam said this at a press conference held at the party president's Dhanmondi office.

One thousand guests including leader of the opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and leaders of different political parties have been invited to join the swearing-in ceremony.

About inviting Khaleda, Ashraf said they expect the presence of the opposition leader at the programme.

The LGRD minister will administer the oath to 41 ward councillors and 14 female councillors of CCC at the LGED auditorium in the capital at 12:30pm.

BNP-backed candidate M Manjur Alam won the June 17 mayoral race defeating the ruling AL-supported ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury by 95,528 votes.

## RMG worker

**FROM PAGE 16** 

area was crushed under the wheels of a bus in front of his factory at 8:00am.

He was a son of Kutubuddin of Chirirbandar area under Roumari thana in Kurigram

district. Hearing the news, hundreds of workers from different factories took to the street and vandalized at least 25 vehicles, said Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station.

Traffic movements on the road remained halted for nearly two hours. Several hundred vehicles got stranded on both sides of the road.

On information, Ashulia police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under

Pearl Garments authorities announced one day's holiday in the factory following the death

The bus was seized but the

A case was filed with Ashulia police station in this regard.

Jhinaigati upazila in Sherpur

since 1997. He has been making

the country through Kurigram

district in September 1997 to

meet Ulfa military wing chief

Paresh Barua in Dhaka, said

tives under Ranjan's leadership

are active in Sherpur, Kurigram

and Sylhet, the bordering dis-

arrested Ranjan on his way back

to India from Bhutan after his

meeting with Ulfa general

secretary Anup Chetia, who has

been convicted in several cases

and now in jail in Bangladesh

police arrested Ulfa chief

Arabinda Rajkhowa Raju Barua

and eight others of the group

although some foreign media

reported that Arabinda and the

others were handed over to

Indian Border Security Force by

Bangladesh at Dawki in

governments dismissed the

The Bangladesh and Indian

Last December, Assam

In 1995, Indian law enforcers

Rab sources said Ulfa opera-

organisational purposes.

commander Sohail.

tricts of Assam.

since 1997.

Meghalaya.

media claim.

#### divisional traffic officer of Pakshi, is also looking into the matter. So far, primary investi-

#### frequent trips to India on Bangladeshi Ranjan illegally entered into

FROM PAGE 1

formed.

region, sources said. Foreign ministry sources said it is very difficult for the Bangladesh embassy to ge information about the casualties of the fire due to security restrictions and poor telecommunications network.

The regional government in a press statement said 14 Iraqi nationals and 14 foreign nationals were killed in the incident.

Los Angeles Times claimed that the foreign nationals include one from Cambodia, two from Bangladesh, one from Canada, two from Australia, one from Ecuador, one from South Africa, one from the United Kingdom, one from Lebanon and one

Venezuela. They used to work for the oil firm, Asiacell, and other

companies. The Philippine embassy in Baghdad confirmed death of a female Filipino worker.

# Cairn can sell gas

FROM PAGE 16

AL plans rallies

said they want to brace up the

party's grassroots who would

elect three members to be

considered for nomination in

all elections including that for

up intra-party democracy and

He said the move will build

The minister said the party

will hold its councils at all wards,

unions, upazilas and districts

and the task will take at least two

AL district unit leaders

demanded the party chief hold

its long due councils to revitalise

Gono Bhaban with Sheikh

Hasina in the chair formed 11

central sub-committees out of

19 according to AL's constitu-

tion, Ashraf said, adding that the

rest would be formed after

completion of a full-fledged AL

been made chairman of finance

and planning affairs sub-

committee, advocate Rezaur

Rahman for law, Abdur

Razzaque for agriculture and

cooperatives, Tofail Ahmed for

relief and social welfare, HT

Imam for publicity and publica-

tion, Prof Alauddin Ahmed for

science and technology, Maj

Gen (retd) Shafiullah Bir Bikram

for liberation war, Prof AK Azad

Chowdhury for education and

human resource, Kazi Akram

Uddin Ahmed for industry and

commerce, Prof Abdul Khalek

for culture and Prof Abdu

Mannan for health and popula-

AL leaders AFM Bahauddin

Nasim, Faridunnahar Laily,

Mrinal Kanti Das, Aminul Islam

Amin were among others pres-

Banned Tahrir

Tahrir men brought out the

procession carrying banners

written in Bangla, English and

Arabic. They attacked the law

enforcers who tried to stop the

procession, injuring four

to charge baton to bring the

situation under control and

arrested three unruly Tahrir

men from the spot, he said

adding, the police also seized six

banned all kinds of activities of

Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh in

the greater interests of security

of the public since October 22

The injured policemen are -

Assistant Sub-Inspector Zahirul

Islam, Habilder Nazrul Islam

Habilder Anwar Hossain and

cases - - one under Anti-

Terrorism Act and another on

charge of assaulting members

of the police force, against the

arrestees with the Shabagh

entering Parbatipur Railway

been formed to investigate the

accident, said railway sources.

restored on the route at

2:10pm after a rescue opera-

tion by a relief train, they said.

deputy engineer of the railway

station, said they would need

at least eight to ten hours to

said the cause of the accident

cannot be identified without a

A five-member investiga-

tion team led by Sanwar

Hossain, examiner of the

railway station, has been

Another team led by

Habibur Rahman Mollah

gation found four switches of

the track broken, which might

have caused the accident.

Stationmaster Abdul Karim

repair the damaged tracks.

thorough investigation.

Krishna Chandra Basak

Two separate bodies have

Communication was

40 injured

Police Station.

Station.

Police filed two separate

Constable Maruf Hossain.

The government had

banners from the protesters.

Later, the law enforcers had

policemen.

ent at the pess conference.

Dr Moshiur Rahman has

The ALCWC meeting held at

FROM PAGE 1

parliament.

benefit the party.

years to complete.

the organisation.

advisory council.

price offered under the PSC. Whereas the maximum price of gas per thousand cubic metre under the PSC is \$ 2.75, it could go up to \$4-5."

The law ministry had vetted the amendment in recent months and Petrobangla and Cairn were supposed to sign it earlier this month. But, at the last moment, the energy ministry asked Cairn whether it was ready to pay corporate tax on the additional income from the gas sales to a third party.

Cairn or any other PSC operator in the country does not pay any corporate tax under an incentive package. On behalf of them, Petrobangla pays the tax.

Cairn was surprised by the proposal as this issue was never mentioned before. In a letter earlier this month, Cairn said paying the tax will erode the project value and once again make the initial investment less attractive. In addition, it will take three to six months to discuss the tax issue before trying to incorporate it in the amendment.

The British company then said it will not invest further without the contract amended.

Petrobangla sources said the matter was resolved by Thursday, and the amendment is likely to be placed tomorrow (Monday).

"The PSC for Block-6 already has the provision for Cairn to sell gas to a third party. But they still need amendment to the PSC allowing it to negotiate gas price with a third party," said a high official.

Such a third party could be Kafco or a major industrial zone which would be willing to pay more for a steady gas supply for a guaranteed period.

For Petrobangla, this deal will have some extra benefits. If Cairn secures a higher price for gas, the company will be able to recover its investment

higher price, it would also ensure that Petrobangla does not sell its share of gas at a lower price. According to Cairn, if the

at a faster pace. This will also

reveal how much money big

consumers are ready to pay for

Cairn's gas will belong to

PSC gas at a price much lower

than the price we are buying

it," said the official. This

means if Cairn secures a

Under the PSC, a part of

"We are presently selling

gas in this country.

Petrobangla for free.

amendment is signed, it will immediately begin work for drilling a costly deviated well from the offshore Sangu platform. This well is called Sangu 11 well. It would require \$45 million investment.

Cairn will also drill a new well in South Sangu, which is 6 km off the Sangu platform. A pipe will be connected to the main platform to extract gas.

Sangu field's life is set to expire next year. By drilling these two wells, Cairn would tap two small sub-reserves to extend the field's life by a couple of years. This would give Petrobangla some time to allow other new gas ventures come into operation and increase gas supplies.

By winter next, the company plans to drill a well in the shallow zone of Magnama where it spotted a thin geological structure promising gas or

"But unless we drill it, we are not sure what it is. In the past, we found water instead of gas in such zones," said a Cairn official.

Cairn's experience with the Bay of Bengal so far showed that there is no big gas structure in the shallow waters, he said. "The gas structures here are quite different from that in the mainland. But the cost of drilling here is higher than that in the mainland."

This is why the economics of offshore gas fields should be treated differently, the official added.

# PM for ensuring

FROM PAGE 1

including the family members to take extra care of the autistic and physically challenged children so that they could not be the victims of discrimination.

Besides, she said the society has to change its attitude toward the autistic and physically challenged children as they are the integral part of it. The problem of autism is not a disease rather it is a part of human diversity, she added.

She said the autistic children have the every right to live like other normal chil-

dren in society. The PM underscored the need for the establishment of universal human rights and basic rights of the autistic children along with others to ensure a balanced develop-

ment of the nation. Referring to her government's endeavours to ensure the balanced development across the country, Hasina said it is not possible to implement the government's programmes without establishing universal human rights and basic rights of autistic and physically chal-

lenged children. The PM put emphasis on creating a congenial atmosphere, like infrastructure facilities, at the offices of the physically challenged people so that they could do their

duties without any hindrance. In this connection, she asked the authorities concerned to invent computer, internet and cell-phone considering the causes of the

physically challenged people. Referring to the need for enacting a time befitting law for the physically challenged people, Hasina said her government is working on it to ensure rights of the physically challenged and autistic persons properly.

Listing her government's various efforts for the betterment of the autistic and neurologically challenged children, she said a project titled "Promotion of Services and Opportunities to the Disabled Persons in Bangladesh under National Disabled Development Foundation" is being implemented at a cost of Taka 155 crore.

Under this project, massive programmes have been undertaken for the welfare of physically challenged children along with establishing their rights, she added.

Besides, she said her government has started to set up six vocational training centres for the orphan autistic children in six divisional

cities while five centres in five districts are providing medicare services as well as therapy to the physically challenged children free of The PM said her govern-

at the rate of Taka 300 to each economically insolvent physically challenged person. Under the programme, Taka 93.60 crore has been distributed among the beneficiaries Hasina announced that

ment is providing allowances

the government would establish a full-fledged centre for the physically challenged people in Dhaka in order to maintain the self-identity of the physically challenged people.

Recalling the win of 21 gold, nine silver and six bronze medals by the physically challenged Bangladeshi athletes in the Special Olympic in the USA in 1999, Hasina said her government has undertaken an initiative to build a physically challenged sports complex in Dhaka.

The PM also asked the authorities concerned to prepare a list of physically challenged persons in the country by using their own

mechanism and manpower. Later, the PM witnessed a colourful cultural function performed by the autistic children.

Vice-chancellor of Officer-in-Charge of BSMMU Prof Pran Gopal Dutta chaired the function while Health Minister Prof A F M Ruhal Haque, Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haq

AHM Qamruzzaman, addi Mustafa Shahid and PM's Health Adviser Prof Syed Modasser Ali, among others, spoke on the occasion. Garbage trucks

#### FROM PAGE 16 city. There are about 2,000 points, where secondary

collectors dump household waste, Tariq said. The high-up said they are

training drivers to run the new

vehicles. The DCC also submitted a proposal to the LGRD and cooperatives ministry for appointing 50 more drivers on daily payment. The vehicles will be used in

the city's 20 wards, he added. Tariq said nearly 4,000 tonnes of solid waste is gener-

reputed family of the area withated a day in the city. Of that, out investigation as Solaiman 2,208 tonnes are collected and dumped into two DCC dumping grounds -- one at Matuail and the other at Aminbazar. the case.

The rest get dumped into rivers, canals and other water bodies, open spaces and lowfamily members were sued in lying areas, he said. the case.

## JMB man

FROM PAGE 1 the area and the attackers got away, they said.

Azad died from what an autopsy said was a heart attack in Munich on August 12 that year.

Azad was receiving threats from fundamentalists after his book "Pak Saar Jamin Saad Baad" was published in a national Bangla daily's Eid

Meanwhile, a top DB official said they put acting JMB chief Nazmul, the banned outfit's North Bengal chief Shafiqul Islam alias Jamai Rafiq and former acting JMB chief Saidur Rahman face-toface and interrogated them.

The official said they also put detained Jamaat leaders face-to-face with detained JMB leaders and interrogated them yesterday.

A DB official said Jamaat

leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad

Mujahid, Motiur Rahman

Nizami and Delwar Hossain Sayedee claimed that they are not war criminals. They said they just supported Pakistan during the war and it was their political right to do so. The detained JMB leaders used to keep regular contact with Jamaat leaders and some

Jamaat leaders used to provide financial help to JMB operatives, claimed a DB source, adding that JMB high-ups were also trying to forge a unity with Jamaat. Jamaat and Hizb-ut Tahrir

also tried to keep contact with Detained JMB leaders, a DB source said quoting the JMB leaders.

## Nizami

FROM PAGE 1

In the remand prayer, the IC stated that Motiur Rahman Nizami along with his party's top leaders had killed a huge number of people during the country's liberation struggle in 1971.

They had also raped women looted and torched houses at that time. So they need to be remanded to find out reasons behind the killings as well as the whereabouts of their accomplices responsible for committing such offences, the IO stated

Defence lawyer Abdur Razzak submitted a petition seeking Nizami's bail as well as cancellation of the remand prayer saying his client was implicated in the case to politically harass him. The court, however, did not entertain the defence petition. Amir Hossain Mollah, who

identified himself as a freedom

fighter in his submission, filed

the case on January 25, 2008

with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court. Meanwhile, the same court yesterday placed the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Saidur Rahman on a three-day fresh remand in a case filed against

him on charge of subversion. The court sanctioned the remand after Detective Branch (DB) inspector Sheikh Mahbubur Rahman, also the IO of the case, produced Saidur before it with a seven-day remand prayer in the case filed by Kadamtali police on May 23.

Earlier on July 12, the JMB chief was taken on a three-day remand in the same case.

## Trader's death

FROM PAGE 16

yesterday protesting police action that led to Sabed's death.

Seeking anonymity, a local motor parts trader said "We kept the shutters down protesting police action as they recorded the false case without probe, arrested two family members of Sabed and tortured them in custody. We also wore black ribbons and hoisted black flags mourning Saber's death."

Bangshal Police Station Abdul Mannan said an investigation committee was formed in this

tional deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Lalbagh), said they learnt about the death the following day and formed the investigation committee. He added police received no complaint from Sabed's family. The victim's wife placed a complaint with the Bangshal

Panchayet. The panchayet urged police to conduct an impartial investigation into the Sabed died falling from the first floor of his residence while

trying to evade arrest when a team of Bangshal police went to arrest him around 1:00am. Locals alleged police recorded a false case against a

Moyna, incumbent president of Bangladesh Motorcycle Parts Merchants' Association, filed Sabed, former president of the association, and eight of his

# Small industries

FROM PAGE 1

development for upgradation of technologies, improvement in product quality and testing facilities so that local industries attain global standard.

reasons that tariff structure are somehow in favour of importers. Either those who are involved in framing tax structures pretend not to understand it or don't understand it," said Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, president of Bangladesh University of Industries Minister Dilip Engineering and Technology Barua said those who want to (Buet) Alumni Association.

He said importers' lobby is really stronger than small local manufacturers in Bangladesh.

"There might be some

"We want a level playing field and there should be no favour," he said at the discussion on "Light Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Industries in Bangladesh: What Prevents us from a Takeoff".

The Daily Star and BUETAA jointly organised the programme where The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam and Associate Editor Shah Hussain Imam, among others, were present.

The discussants said the light engineering sector involving Tk 20,000 crore by sales employs about 6 lakh people and supplies importsubstitute machinery and spare parts to various industries, growing by more than 5 percent a year in the past one decade.

But the sector, comprising

around 40,000 small-scale light

engineering entities, faces difficulties due to imposition of tax and VAT. Anomalies in duty, tax and tariff structures are hindering the growth of local industries, specially the small enterprises," he said. "In many cases, unneces

sary conditional rules in duty and VAT forced many small industries to quit business, said M Kamal Uddin, head of Institute of Appropriate Technology, Buet. In addition, electrical and electronics industry, with

medium-scale assemblers loses steam due to inconsistency in tariff regime, said K Siddique-e Rabbani, professor and chairperson of Biomedical Physics & Technology, Dhaka University. Before 2002, there were widespread activities for televi-

sion assembly. But tax policy since 2002 killed the small assembly industries, he said. The government should take measures to stop harass-

ing local entrepreneurs and give them enough freedom to create and innovate newer import-substitute items, Prof Rabbani added. Rabiul Alam, managing director of Energy Pac Ltd, said

tariff policy has not been rationalised because of influences of business people, especially traders. Alam, also an engineer, said local manufacturers have to pay taxes to take part in inter-

government. "But duty for

imported products is zero," he

"We don't need any favour. We want a similar baseline," said Alam.

Abdur Razzaque, president of Bangladesh Engineering Industry Owners Association said despite provision of 10 percent incentive, the sector does not get benefit of these

policies in absence of imple-

He added policy support alone would not help domestic industry to grow. "Political commitment to realise the vision is important," Razzaque observed.

"This is like chicken or egg case. If you don't create environment, local industries will not take off," said Habibullah N Karim, former president of Bangladesh Association of Software and Software & Information Services (BASIS).

use Bangladesh as a captive market like to control tariff policies to prevent local industries from growing. "In the past, we had a trad-

ing-based economy. But now it passes a transitional phase and gradually turns into an industry-based economy," said Barua.

"We have to promote local industries; otherwise, our country will become a captive market for others. "The main task of the government is to create a safe-

guard for the industrial capital to help economy grow and create employment opportunities," said Barua. In this regard, the government is going to unveil the

industrial policy soon, he said.

The minister also revealed

the steps to strengthen Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI) and Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC). "These organisations are essential to facilitate local

entrepreneurs with technical knowhow and ensure the quality of our products. And our products will be competitive once we can ensure that these bodies function properly," Barua observed. Hossain Khaled, former

(DCCI), said his business organisation, Anwar Group of Industries, prefer local materi-"But we cannot judge the quality of products in absence

president of Dhaka Chamber of

Commerce and Industry

facilities to check quality. Khaled also suggested extending finance from the Equity and Entrepreneurship

Fund (EEF). Prof AMM Safiullah, vicechancellor of Buet, stressed the need for a strong industry and education linkage to support

## industrial sector expansion.

Road crash

**FROM PAGE 16** rammed into a Chapainawabganj-bound tempo while trying to overtake a truck, said Zakirul Islam,

officer-in-charge of Godagari police station. All the victims were passengers of the tempo, he added. national tenders floated by the

> Agitating locals blocked the highway nearly for about an hour protesting the accident. Normalcy returned when police seized the bus.

Our correspondent says shallow-engine run three wheelers have recently become a threat to people's lives causing

most road accidents. At least 15 people died in accidents of these vehicles at Godagari last month.

two of three wars between the

India of "narrowing down the

talks" by focusing exclusively

on militancy rather than the

range of disputes between the

countries, including Kashmir

the discussions to lead to

creation of a "roadmap" for

improve ties, Qureshi and

Krishna agreed to meet again

talks) was unfortunate but

they have to remain engaged,

they have no viable option

because the issues that

bedevil their relationship are

so complex," Uday Bhaskar,

security analyst and head of

the India's National Maritime

Foundation think-tank, told

miers met in April on the

sidelines of a summit in

Bhutan and set in motion the

process of trying to revive

India and Pakistan's pre-

in New Delhi later in the year.

He said Pakistan wanted

Despite the failure to

"What happened (in the

and water rights.

better relations.

Qureshi on Friday accused

nations.

# Indo-Pak talks

FROM PAGE 16

Serious introspection is required by Pakistan into why terror has been used as an instrument of policy against India," she said.

Islamabad also needs to

understand "why terror threatens the very fabric of Pakistan itself," Rao said, referring to the slew of deadly attacks in the country blamed on Taliban and Al-Qaedalinked militants. Rao's comments echoed

statements on the eve of the talks by India's Home Secretary GK Pillai, whose accusations that Pakistan's intelligence service coordinated the Mumbai attacks cast a long shadow over the Islamabad meeting.

India's newspapers, meanwhile, on Saturday blamed Pakistan for creating the talks deadlock.

The Economic Times accused Islamabad of pushing ties "off the diplomatic rails... by sidelining New Delhi's main demand for action" against the Islamic militant perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which left 166 people dead. The Hindustan Times said

contacts.

Pakistan had engaged in particular by the United States, which sees regional stability as crucial to winning the war in Afghanistan and has pushed Pakistan to fight Taliban insurgents.

The thaw has been encouraged by Western allies, in

"ambush diplomacy" by insisting on a timeframe to resolve such thorny issues as the row over Muslim-majority Kashmir, which has triggered

hundreds of small and of testing facilities for light engineering products," he said, suggesting creation of testing