Demra turns

Daniabazar, Shanir Akhra, Kutubkhali, Dhalpur, Rayerbazar, Nayapara, Matuail, Shontek, Gobindapur, Nurpur and Paterbagh of Demra and Shyampur areas decided to put up barricades on the highway yesterday morning.

Announcement was made on loudhailers from different mosques in the areas Thursday night and yesterday morning, urging the residents to join the agitation programme

Hundreds of vehicles got stuck as people from different walks of life blockaded both sides of the highway at Shanir Akhra at 6:30am.

Witnesses said the demonstration had been absolutely peaceful until Salahuddin's imprudent interference at 10:15am.

Salahuddin first asked the demonstrators to withdraw the blockades. He slapped an elderly man as he protested the lawmaker's way of talking. A few of the angry people at this point hurled brickbats at

The MP and his bodyguard pulled out their firearms and fired some five blank shots to scare away the mob, people said.

They said Salahuddin asked Officer-in-Charge of the local police station Abdul Gaffar to open fire on the demonstrators.

"Salahuddin asked the police to open fire, saving the people will automatically leave the road if two or three die," Hanif, a rickshawpuller from Merajbagh who was standing beside the MP at that time, told The Daily Star.

The police, however, did not comply with the orders.

The angry demonstrators threw brickbats at the MP and chased him. Salahuddin took shelter first inside Anarkoli Fast Food and Confectionery, about 100 yards away, and then Popi General Hospital.

Around 500 policemen chased the agitating mob but they gathered again and counter-chased the law enforcers.

By the time Salahuddin managed to flee the scene, a number of activists of JCD, ruling BNP's student wing, joined the police to attack the angry crowd.

After two hours of chasingcounter chasing, the law enforcers left Shanir Akhra around noon and took position near the Jatrabari foot

The mob took control of the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway and damaged over 150 vehicles including a police van. They also vandalised the Shanir Akhra police outpost and a filling station and tried to set it on fire.

They also destroyed a godown containing materials for the construction of a small flyover along the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway. Locals alleged that Salahuddin's son Imran Ahmed got the contract for constructing the flyover three years ago but has not vet finished the work.

Army men led by Brigadier General Nizam Ahmed arrived in the area with 10 lorries of water at

Several contingents of police fired teargas shells to disperse the

lives and livelihoods of billions of

people who depend on them are far-

40,000 species according to their risk

of extinction and provides a search-

able online database of the results.

The total number of species on the

planet is unknown, with 15 million

being the most widely accepted

estimate. Up to 1.8 million are known

most species' decline, mainly through

habitat destruction, according to

People are the main reason for

Polar bears are threatened by

global warming and melting ice caps,

because they are conditioned for the

icv environment and depend on Arctic

ice floes for hunting seas. They are

predicted to suffer a 30 percent popu-

war-ravaged Congo, meanwhile, has plummeted by 95 percent, mainly

because of unregulated hunting for

instability in some African countries

have created hardship for many of the

region's inhabitants, and the impact

on wildlife has been equally devastat-

ing," said Jeffrey McNeely, chief

some of the most dramatic population

declines because of human activities

that damage their habitat, like forest

clearance, pollution and water extrac-

tion. In the Mediterranean, more than

half of the 252 endemic species are

threatened with extinction. Seven

species, including two relatives of

that the decline in wetlands and

freshwater ecosystems will also

damage supplies for humans of food.

extinction include desert gazelles,

ocean sharks and Mediterranean

The fishermen, however, swam

contact the pirates at a place in

Monpura area with Tk 50,000 in toll

to get back their trawlers and nets.

The fishermen were asked to

18 fishermen

flowers, IUCN said.

FROM PAGE 16

clean drinking water and sanitation.

The conservation union warned

Other species threatened with

carp, are already extinct, IUCN said.

Freshwater fish have suffered

meat and ivory in their teeth.

scientist at IUCN.

The hippopotamus population in

"Regional conflicts and political

lation decline in the next 45 years.

The Red List classifies about

reachina.'

mob to make way for the army but people chased the police away. The army men tried to pacify the mob but failed. Three military officials--Abdur Rab. Zia and Kabir--were wounded as the demonstrators threw brickbats at them.

The police and the army withdrew half an hour later.

Meanwhile, as vehicular movement on the highway came to a stop, the police diverted vehicles from Demra towards Jatrabari, But it took the vehicles long hours to cross the area due to clogging on the narrow

Locals burnt several effigies of Salahuddin during their demonstra-

LOCALS' DEMANDS

In the evening, the locals announced on loudhailers that they would not withdraw until their sevenpoint demand is fulfilled.

The demands include solution to water and power crises, repairing of the Shanir Akhra water pump. finishing the construction of a foot over-bridge at the Shanir Akhra bus stand immediately, demolishing illegal establishments, including the godown, on both sides of the highway, unconditional apology of Salahuddin, and assurance that no case would be filed against them.

At 6:15pm, around 250 JCD cadres with sticks suddenly swooped on the demonstrators and chased them away from Shanir Akhra. Gathered again, the demonstrators chased the JCD men away although could not keep control of the area. The JCD activists were chanting

slogans against the "troublemakers", threatening of dire consequences if anything happened to

The duty officer at Demra Police Station said yesterday evening that 13-14 policemen were injured during the clashes. She said all of them were undergoing treatment at Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital.

Talking to The Daily Star, many locals said they have been undergoing untold sufferings for the last three months for lack of adequate water and power supply.

"We get water for a few minutes in the morning and in the night and it is too scanty to meet the household needs," said Mohammad Ali, a leader of the agitating Sangram Expressing disgust over water

and power crises, government employee Amiad Hossain of Rayerbagh said they cannot cope with the situation. "My son whose HSC examination begins May 14 cannot study properly for frequent power outages. Electricity is supplied for only a few hours a day," he

Many said they have not bathed for three to four days due to water

"We cannot even sleep at night for load-shedding," Monir Hossain, a grocer from Baganbari, complained.

16,000 species

some others, such as the white-tailed

"Reversing this trend is possible

as numerous conservation success

stories have proven," Steiner said.

"Biodiversity cannot be saved by

environmentalists alone--it must

become the responsibility of everyone

with the power and resources to act."

3 US soldiers

The legislation passed by a vote of

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist,

a Republican, promised to ensure

that the price tag was reduced in

negotiations with the House of

Representatives, in a bid to help the

means, and so should Washington. I

applaud the administration's deter-

mination to stick to true emergency

spending, and will support a veto, if

necessary, to keep federal spending

The legislation includes 65.7

billion dollars to finance military

operations in Iraq and Afghanistan,

as well as nearly 30 billion dollars to

help fund reconstruction of the US

Gulf coast in the wake of hurricanes

under control," he said last week.

"Families must live within their

FROM PAGE 16

78 to 20.

bill pass.

eagle and Indian vultures

of home ministers annually. Some 784 are listed as extinctonly a small increase from 2004-hile 65 are found only in captivity. But the situation looks a little brighter for

at Chameli of the hotel.

FROM PAGE 1

mood, given their own culture, you probably don't put everything on the table," Annan said.

tion after assuring the world they were not seeking nuclear weapons.

Should they be offered a diplomatic package allowing them to pursue nuclear energy for peaceful ends "and they resist that, how do they explain it to the world?" he

In fresh defiance, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed yesterday that Iran would pursue its contested nuclear programme until it could mass-produce atomic fuel, and branded those trying to stop it

"We intend to continue our activity ... until we manage industrial-scale production of nuclear fuel for our atomic power stations, Ahmadinejad said, according to a text of his speech at a regional

The Iranian president's com-UN resolution requiring it to halt

It also freed up 1.9 billion dollars to fund border security initiatives.

Bimstec

Katrina and Rita last year.

The first Bimstec summit in Thailand in July 2004 had decided to set up the JWG to strengthen joint efforts on combating terrorism and transnational crimes

It was agreed that the next meeting of the JWG will be held in Myanmar.

MP Salahuddin

for his 'misconduct' with the demonstrators, told reporters at his Kadamtola house after yesterday morning's police action at Shanir

Yesterday's agitation was not any outburst of common people's grief, he said.

Refuting the news of firing shots from his pistol, he said, "I did not have any firearm." He also denied nis bodyguard's opening fire.

Asked about his steps to solve the problem, he said he did not know he problem was so acute.

"Getting the news of the agitation, I rushed there and told them I would arrange water by tomorrow and the convinced people left the place. But when I was leaving, somebody hurled brickbats at me. Criminals of Awami League attacked me according to a previous plan."

They have attacked me!" the MP from Demra-Shyampur expressed surprise, adding, "General people of my constituency cannot do this because I love them and I am a friend of them.

Admitting water crisis in the area, Salahuddin said the area is outside the city corporation and the army has been tasked with distribution of

Palli Bidyut

building and stormed into it ransackng office furniture around 8:00pm. Swapan Kumar Haldar, who was

on duty at the office, said he and three other employees were injured during the mob-atťack. Police rushed to the spot and

brought the situation under control Tighter security measures have been taken to prevent further untoward incidents.

Local leaders of Awami League BNP alleged people of Batiaghata upazila are fed up with frequent power cuts. The entire upazila has been virtually in darkness during the nights for a month, they added

Local businessmen had been complaining about the power cuts to the authorities concerned but Palli

Target terrorism

discuss what else can be done to strengthen the regional coopera-The general meeting agenda will

include extradition of Bangladeshi criminals hiding in other Saarc countries, Babar said. 'We'll discuss issues of common

nterests during the bilateral meetings." he said. The schedule for the bilateral meetings is yet to be fixed. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia

signed Agreement for Mutual Cooperation for Preventing Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Matters during her state visit to India from March 20-22 this

Condemning terrorist violence in all forms and manifestations, the Saarc member states called for effective mechanism for implementation of the Saarc Convention on Suppression of Terrorism during the 13th Saarc Summit that ended on November 13 in Dhaka

he Saarc leaders also decided to strengthen cooperation in exchanging information among their relevant agencies and hold meeting

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will naugurate the Saarc home ministers' meeting at Winter Garden of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel and the working session will be held later at the Ballroom of the hotel.

The meeting of the home secretaries and police chiefs will be held

lalk directly

"When you are in that sort of a

He said the Iranians could soon find themselves in a difficult situa-

asked.

as "bullies.'

summit in Azerbaijan.

ments in the Azeri capital Baku came as Western powers, which fear Tehran is concealing a drive for atomic weapons, push for a tough uranium enrichment or face possible sanctions.

Ahmadinejad told leaders from the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) -- which includes five of Iran's neighbours -that "certain bullies are insolently trying to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries."

The speech was made behind closed doors, but a copy of the text was obtained by AFP.

Ahmadinejad hailed his country's nuclear power drive as "a great achievement for the whole region and the Islamic world.

Fatality rate 50 times

recorded by the cell in six years that killed some 17,825 people and injured more than 20,000 others.

Of the accidents, contrary to the general perception, about 60 per cent took place in rural areas. The rural accidents are also more disastrous than their urban counterparts and account for almost two-thirds of the country's total road traffic fatalities, reports the ARC

According to it, nearly 37 per cent of the road accidents take place on national highways, 12 per cent in regional roads and 15 per cent in eederroads.

Buses account for 48 per cent and trucks 37 per cent of the vehicles suffering accidents. These two are the main contributors to road mishaps. Forty-four per cent of the accidents

involve pedestrians, followed by 16.5

per cent rear-end and 13.2 per cent head-on accidents, the ARC reports. Pedestrians also represent as much as 53 per cent of the dead in road accidents. In urban areas, they often constitute up to 70 per cent of the

Nearly 21 per cent of the dead are aged below 16. The percentage is nearly 2.5 times higher than that of the developed countries, according to the

The ARC director, Mazhar, names reckless driving, over-speeding, overloading, ignorance of road users, vehicular defects, hazardous roads and road environments, inadequate training, and poor enforcement of traffic rules and regulations as the **RIVER DISASTERS**

As in road transportation, the country's inland water transport too suffer from high frequency of accidents and causalities. On the other hand, the lack of monitoring, reporting and recording Hospital said is more acute in case of river mishaps.

The shipping ministry claims only 385 river accidents took place in 1976 to 2006, claiming 3,597 lives, with 396 people critically wounded and 252 others remaining missing. But, every quarter concerned

knows the real picture is grimmer by many degrees. Because, while the Inland Shipping Ordinance of 1976 empowers only the vessel crew to file case about an accident or report it to the police, in most cases, the crew rather flees the spot as soon as possi-Despite a series of launch disas-

ters in the recent years, faulty vessels continue plying the river routes, threatening with vet another round of disasters in the coming monsoon. The owners of some vessels, which were declared unfit, are plying them after changing their colours and names. But officials of Bangladesh Inland

Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) argue they do not have enough manver to inspect all the vessels. The BIWTA has just nine inspectors for nearly 8,000 passenger vessels plying

in the country, sources say. Of them three inspectors are posted at Sadarghat in the capital and one each of the rest in Narayanganj, Chandpur, Aricha, Barisal, Khulna and

Moreover, BIWTA sources say, most of the masters or pilots of the passenger vessels do not have proper training and licences. Experts say violation of rules is the main cause of launch accidents. But the rule violators are rarely brought to book.

Hundreds of cases are pending with the marine court, officials tell The Daily Star. "Cases lodged back in 1988 are also among those awaiting dis-RAILWAY SCENE

With half of the country's railway tracks being run-down and unsafe, every year the railway sector sees over 500 accidents on average. But the causalty rate is not as high in this sector as in road and water transports. A total of 354 people were killed

and 2,485 injured in 4,968 train accidents in the decade from 1995-96 to 2004-05. Amazingly, despite the dilapidation of rail tracks, which is the main reason of so many accidents, the railway

department does not allocate any fund for repairs and maintenance of the tracks in its annual budget. The department is keener to buy new locomotives than repairing the unsafe

Saifur FROM PAGE 16

investigations on him," a doctor attending on him at Yashoda

A decision on the course of treatment would be taken on the basis of the results of the diagnostic tests the doctor Added

Rahman is in incentive care unit (ICU) and his health condition is being monitored closely. Andhra Pradesh Information and

Public Relations Minister Mohammad Ali Shabbir visited Yashoda Hospital, where Rahman was admitted, and consulted the doctors, hospital sources said. Meanwhile, Kaisar Rahman

Saifur's son in Dhaka told The Daily Star that his father, who had been suffering from urinary tract infection, had dehydration due to the excessive heat and became ill for extensive works from May 2 to 5. Quoting the doctors at

Hyderabad, Kaisar said Saifur was kept under observation and would be released this morning.

Hasina blasts

Hasina, who is also a member of Lions Club, called upon the Lions and people of all walks of life to come forward to free the nation from the present anarchic situation.

The AL president said the BNPled alliance government is torturing and harassing people who are raising their voice against its misrule.

The present rulers could not add a single megawatt of electricity to the national grid because of massive corruption in every sector, she

Turning to education sector, the leader of the opposition said this government could not at all raise the rate of literacy, rather it is decreasing. Under the previous AL government, literacy rate increased to 66 percent, she claimed.

Hasina said the primary objectives of the Liberation War, which include freeing the people from poverty and exploitation, have not

been achieved even after 35 years

of independence. The country is moving backward due to misrule of the coalition.

The former prime minister said they (AL) intend to celebrate the golden jubilee of independence by building Bangladesh as a modern country capable of facing the challenges of the 21st century. "We don't want to celebrate it (golden jubilee) as a country of human rights violation, repression on women and iournalists."

Hasina later handed over four wheelchairs to the Centre for Rehabilitation of Paraplegics (CRP) and three sewing machines to three poor women.

Speakers at the convention ncluded International Director of Lions Club Sheikh Kabir Hossain. Ln Mobarak Hossain, Benazir Ahmed, Mahamudul Haider, MA Kashem Bhuiyan, and Ln Golam

UN anti-torture body

The UN Committee on Torture, a panel of 10 legal experts, regularly reviews the record of the 141 countries that have ratified the Convention Against Torture. Its findings on the United States

are expected to be released on May

The US government last appeared in a regular crossexamination before the committee in 2000, well before it implemented tougher and controversial measures to detain and interrogate terror suspects.

"The US government is not only failing to take steps to eradicate torture, it is actually creating a climate in which torture and other illtreatment can flourish, including by trying to narrow the definition of torture," said Curt Goering of Amnesty International.

US officials have expressed official opposition to the use of torture.

But one issue expected to come under the spotlight in Geneva is a series of memos and statements in recent years effectively redefining torture, according to human rights groups. In 2004, the US Justice

Department withdrew legal guidance intended for CIA interrogators, which argued that physical pain amounting to torture had to be "equivalent in intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment of bodily function, or even

But Justice Department lawyers argued earlier this year that freshly amended legislation banning cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of detainees does not apply to terror suspects held at the US military's detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In March, a Defence Department official said the United States was considering formally barring the use of any evidence gained through torture in special military trials of terror detainees, potentially addressing another key complaint. US detention policy is also

expected to come under scrutiny in

Geneva, including the existence of secret detention centres where terror suspects are being held. Amnesty and Human Rights Watch have also called on the Committee to examine potential

impunity in cases of abuse that have

come to light, and the chain of

command. A study by Human Rights Watch allegations relating to Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo, found that at least 600 US military and civilian personnel have been involved cases of abuse or killings.

Only 54 military personnel have been convicted by court-martial, impact and died in a few minutes often with sentences of less than one year, according to Human Rights Watch.

Senior US officials have denied that they endorsed abuse.

2 shot

criminals sprayed bullets at him. They missed him as he rushed into the office but the guards on duty

"The extortionists had been demanding toll over telephone. The numbers of all the phone calls showed they were made from overseas countries," he added.

The extortionists did not say anything about when and where the money is to be given, said Noor adding he had filed a case with Gulshan Police Station on Thursday night. A general diary was also filed 25 days ago in this connection.

The owner of the agency Shahjahan Mohammad Chowdhurv, who lives in Saudi Arabia, also received demands for toll and threats by unknown criminals. His wife lodged a general diary with Uttara Police Station on Thursday night, the agency official

Bangla Bhai

accused were involved with the December 8 bomb blast in front of Netrakona Udichi office in the district town where eight persons were killed and over 50 others were injured.

Local elites, leaders of different political parties and residents of the town protested the dropping of Abdur Rahman's name from the charge sheet.

50 hurt

FROM PAGE 1

The strike was jointly called by busminibus-truck owners and workers associations of 21 districts of southwestern region to press home their demands, including cancellation of BRTC bus services on all routes of these districts. This decision to call off the strike

from 15 districts and to continue in six others was taken at an emergency meeting of leaders of the transport owners associations at Sonadanga Bus Terminal in Khulna Chaired by Khulna Inter-district

Bus and Minibus Owners

Association President Abdul Gaffar

Biswas, the meeting also demanded stoppage of plying of Nasimon, Karimon and other modes of vehicles on these routes. Awami League lawmaker Shajahan Khan, also the executive president of Bangladesh Road

the meeting as chief guest. Shajahan Khan said the decision to continue strike in six districts has been taken as government has turned a deaf ear to their demands despite call for an indefinite strike in 21 districts from May 2.

Transport Federation was present in

Shajahan Khan alleged the communications minister is yet to sit with them for resolving the dispute. "We again will call for strike for an

indefinite period in all the 21 districts if our demands are not met soon,"

Present job

FROM PAGE 16 psychiatry and 4 specialists on

aerospace medicine. "At least 12 years are needed to make an officer a specialist on any particular subject. But now there is no significant move for specialisation of the officers," a senior officer

The percentage of commissioning officers into AMC in respect to its demand have been decreasing each year over the last six years since January 2000, sources said. Only 28 officers were commis-

sioned into AMC in two batches in 2000 against a demand for 50 officers In 2001 37 officers were commissioned in two batches against a demand for 58 officers. In 2002. 47 officers were commissioned in two batches against a demand for 78 officers. In 2003, 27 officers were commissioned in two batches against a demand for 40. In 2004, 12 officers were commissioned in two batches against a demand for 50 and in 2005 only three officers were commissioned into AMC against a demand for 50 officers.

Sources said against a demand for 50 officers, only 21 joined training in the first batch in January 2006 and they are expected to get commissions next September. "But we don't know how many will remain finally," a senior officer said.

Merry ride FROM PAGE 16

agitators chased a truck, the driver revved up the engine and steered the vehicle into an alleyway. But soon he lost control and rammed the rickshaw that was carrying Meemusa, her mother Shaheen Akhter and grandmother. A class II student of Govindapur

High School at city's Shanir Akhra. Meemusa fell on the road and the truck ran over her. She went into convulsions on

before the very eyes of her mother. She was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) but only to be declared dead on arrival, said Meemusa's father.

Abbas calls Israeli PM to resume peace talks

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas phoned Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert yesterday and urged him to resume peace talks quickly now that his government has assumed power

Olmert's aides said a meeting with the moderate Abbas is possible, but ruled out negotiations as long as the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority refuses to recognise Israel or renounce violence.

With the Islamic militant Hamas refusing to budge, a speedy resumption of talks that broke down in 2000 appears unlikely.

Olmert reiterated Thursday, after his government was approved by parliament, that he is determined to set Israel's final borders even without negotiations, and that this would entail the dismantling of smaller Jewish settlements scattered across the West Bank. Olmert has said he intends to hold on to large settlements as part of his "consolidation" plan. "Partitioning the land is a lifeline for Zionism," he told parliament Thursday. Olmert was to meet with U.S.

eaders in Washington later this month to try to win backing for his West Bank plan. He has said he would not proceed without broad international support, U.S. officials have said final borders between Israel and a Palestinian state must be drawn in peace talks, but have not rejected

Olmert's ideas outright.

Abbas called Olmert on Friday and urged him to resume negotiations, said Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

"President Abbas called Mr. Olmert, congratulated him on the formation of the new Cabinet and offered to resume the partnership between the two sides and to resume negotiations," said Erekat. Olmert told Abbas he would consider a meeting after his Washington trip, Erekat said,

adding that no date has been set. Israeli Cabinet Secretary Israel Maimon said a meeting with Abbas was possible, but that negotiations can only resume if Hamas moderates its positions. "As long as there is terror and as long as the terms (for moderation) are not being fulfilled, there cannot be talk about negotiations.

Abbas, elected separately, has been wrangling with the Hamas government over the division of powers, particularly over control of the security forces. At the same time, he has appealed to the West to restore aid payments to the Palestinians, frozen after the Hamas government took office in late March, two months after its election victory.

Business leaders

announced the name of the Enterprise of the Year and handed over the award to Md Mazibar Rahman, chairman of BRB Cable Industries Ltd. at a gala ceremony in the Sonargaon Hotel ballroom following a fascinating laser show.

Mir Nasir Hossain, president of the

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers

of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), announced the name of the Outstanding Woman in Business of the Year 2005 and handed over the award to Hasina Newaaz. Scott Price, chief executive officer of DHL Express, Asia Pacific, announced the name of the recipient

of Special Achievement Award 2005 and handed it over to Kihak Sung, chairman of Youngone group. Finally, Salehuddin Ahmed, governor of Bangladesh Bank, announced the name of the Business Person of

to Fazlur Rahman. Diplomats, business leaders, entrepreneurs, intellectuals, professionals and government officials attended the event Following the announcement of the names of award winners one by

one amid pin-drop silence, the audi-

ence burst into applause congratulat-

the Year 2005 and handed the award

ing the business heroes. Two giant screens displayed their exemplary successes in brief. Receiving the Enterprise of the Year 2005 Award on behalf of BRB Cable Industries Ltd, Mazibar Rahman said producing quality prod-

ucts is the key to success. "Being an entrepreneur, I do all these not only for myself. Industries create jobs and at the end benefit people," he said.

Expressing her reaction to winning the Outstanding Woman in Business of the Year 2005 Award, Hasina Newaaz elaborating on the start of her business said it is possible to start a business with a small capital.

"But sincerity is the key to success

had to overcome financial limitations

and social problems to become a woman entrepreneur," she told the gala event After receiving the Special Achievement Award on behalf of Youngone group, Kihak Sung said Youngone is a Bangladeshi company

He said Youngone wants Bangladesh to take a step forward in

the global market

and it carries 'Made in Bangladesh' on

Fazlur Rahman, who was awarded the Business Person of the Year 2005,

Earlier, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam observed that it is a tremendous success of

made their presence in the global market despite facing severe obstacles and limitations at home. It was told that thousands of garment workers would lose jobs after phasing out of quota in the US market from 2005 but it is the entrepreneurs

Scott Price said Bangladesh is a growing country and increasingly making its presence stronger in the industrial sector and the readymade

who have successfully overcome it, he

Hard work and persistence are key in the business, he observed adding that the achievements of the business leaders benefit the community. Speaking at the event, Salehuddin Ahmed said Bangladesh is now

force behind it despite facing many

BSF kills 1

the Mahananda river at about Komirul died on the spot while

Ismail received bullet in his left

The BSF men took away the

managed to flee and is now undergoing treatment at Panchagarh Sadar Hospital. BDR sent a letter to its Indian counterpart protesting the killing

5:30 pm yesterday. A tense situation is prevailing in the border area following the inci-

minister in the past two weeks over a

spate of scandals including the failure

to consider deporting foreign prison-

ers. hospital staff cuts and his married

deputy's admission that he had an

few days, not just the next few weeks,

that we have sorted these problems

out," said Brown. "I will be talking to

Tony Blair about these issues over the

best result since 1992 and it shows

they are on the way back," said pollster

"But it doesn't mean that Labour

"We have got to show in the next

Blair dumps ministers

were released without checks. "Margaret Beckett going to the Foreign Office was certainly not something anyone had predicted. Reid is a marvellous all round player for Tony Blair and here he is saving his

with 4,360 council seats up for grabs.

Results on a BBC Web Site showed Labour had lost 256 of the 1,768 seats it was defending, while a resurgent opposition Conservative party under new leader David

Brown, who has been finance

paigned together for the local elections and Brown said on Friday that Blair and Labour wanted an orderly transi-

Maimon told Israel Radio.

said willingness, commitment and quality products are the keys to his

Bangladeshi entrepreneurs that they

garment sector is one of them.

growing at six percent rate and the credit for this goes to the business

entrepreneurs, as they are the driving

In his concluding remarks Desmond Quiah, country manager of DHL Worldwide Express, Bangladesh, said the awards are recognition of the contributions of Bangladeshi entrepreneurs as they

are usually not recognised properly.

5:00am.

body to their camp. Ismail, however,

and asking for a flag meeting. The Indian side did not respond as of

lower house of parliament. Defence minister John Reid will take over from Clarke, who has been accused of

incompetence after foreign prisoners

bacon again," Page told Reuters. Thursday's vote was held in 176 of the 388 local authorities in England,

Cameron gained 252. "This is a warning shot for us as a government." said finance minister Gordon Brown ahead of the reshuffle The renewal of the Labour Party must

after three straight election defeats. "This shows the Conservative

see a Labour Party that is in some sort of serious meltdown," Cameron told GMTV television. "I'm a happy man this morning.'

power in 1997, has long coveted Blair's job. He is widely expected to take over before the next general election, due by mid-2010 at the latest. Relations between the two have been tense, although they cam-

Voters in Britain traditionally use local elections to punish the government, but analysts had said the loss of many more than 200 seats would be seen as a bad result for Blair. "The Conservatives have had their

are going to lose the next election. It just shows it will be close. This is far from meltdown." The poll was also a crucial test for the Conservatives under new leader Cameron who is trying to transform his

party into a modern, caring political

force and drag it out of the wilderness

Party is broadening its appeal, that it's attracting new voters, and I think we

start now. minister ever since Labour returned to

Critics have attacked the prime

Blair, who won his third straight election in 2005, has said he will quit before the next election, but has not

success in business.