ADP's local share

of Tk 350 crore for the current revised ADP, the estimated proposed ADP for the next fiscal does not have any policy loan.

Commodity and food aid are also believed to be 64 percent less in the coming ADP compared to the current fiscal's revised ADP.

Special development support loan of Tk 1380 crore for the current fiscal's ADP remains the same for the next fiscal's ADP too.

Project aid however is likely to increase by 23 percent for the next ADP and is expected to stand at Tk 8,750 crore. Sources said chances are very high that in the end the same percentage of project aid will not be received as the same was the case for the current ADP too. The project aid size had to be downsized by 5 percent in the current ADP and may very well be cut further when the final estimation will be made.

In the current year's original ADP, Tk 1,040 crore had been included as a condition to debt relief provided to the government by Japan, but in the revised ADP it was re-fixed at Tk 406 crore.

In the coming ADP too Tk 1247 crore has been proposed as allocation derived from debt relief provided by Japan but if the current fiscal year's record is anything to go by the real amount will be much less in reality

CURRENT FISCAL'S REVISED ADP

Allocations for agriculture, education, transport, health, oil, gas and natural resources sectors have been reduced in the revised ADP. While allocations for rural development, power and infrastructure sectors have been raised.

The original ADP size in the current fiscal amounting to Tk 24,500 crore has been cut by Tk 3000 crore bringing it down to Tk 21,500 crore

In the revised ADP allocation for the agriculture sector has been reduced to Tk 1088 crore, down by Tk 37 crore. Block allocation of Tk 500 crore for agricultural assistance in the original ADP has been dropped altogether in the revised

Agriculture ministry sources said the block allocation existed only in the ADP document, it was never handed over to them in reality. They sent letters to the finance ministry on several occasions over the last four months, but to no avail, they said.

Allocations for health, nutrition, population and family welfare have been re-fixed at Tk 2.110 crore. down by Tk 159 crore from the original ADP.

Allocations for education and religious affairs have been cut by Tk 434 crore bringing it down to Tk

2863 crore. Allocations for oil, gas and natural resources have been cut by

Tk 650 crore, bringing it down to Tk 394 crore Allocation for the transport

sector has been set at Tk 2855 crore, down by Tk 184 crore.

A planning ministry source said these amounts actually have not been cutbacks, rather the respective ministries have not been able to spend them. So the planning ministry has just reallocated the amounts to those ministries that require more than what had been allocated before.

Allocations for rural development and institutions have been raised to Tk 3.056 crore, up by Tk 60 crore. For the power sector Tk 263 crore was raised to make it Tk 3382 crore; for physical planning, water supply and housing sectors an additional Tk 202 crore was allocated bringing it up to Tk 1497

projects.

ject implementation.'

It pointed out that among 183 ADP projects in the transport sector 138 were road projects and depicted a picture as to how much time will be needed if resources are allocated in the present pattern to complete those projects.

road projects should be restricted in the budget 2006-07 and further allocations to projects that have experienced extremely slow progress so far should be minimised and resources should be diverted to projects which have progressed the most so that these can be completed at an early date."

It suggested a maximum ADP size of Tk 24.000 crore for 2006-07 fiscal against the planning ministry proposal of Tk 26,000 crore.

and their implementation rate over the last several years, BIDS showed that the government had always fallen much short of implementing its total ADP plan. For example, during the first eight months of the current fiscal, only 37 percent of ADP was implemented.

BIDS observed, "As a result, there is a rush to quickly achieve the target towards the end of the fiscal year. This results in wastage and inefficient use of resources. In 2006-07, the concern becomes even more serious as the risk of fiscal profligacy remains high in an

EC waits for copy

the fresh voter list. But both the EC and BNP are now saying the list should be prepared in accordance

tives to make a fresh voter list in July last year, the senior BNP leaders and ministers had suggested preparing the voter list afresh terming the existing electoral roll, prepared in 2000, out of date.

move appointed two election commissioners in January to provide the chief election commissioner (CEC) with majority in the EC to prepare the fresh voter list ignoring the HC directives for a revision.

But finally, the SC upheld the HC directives to the effect that the EC will have to revise the exiting voter list cancelling the just-prepared controversial list that cost about Tk 100

CEC MAAziz, who had continued the preparation of the fresh list despite the HC directives, finally on last Thursday said he would initiate steps to prepare the electoral rolls

according to the court verdict. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and ruling BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister after the SC verdict said they hoped the EC should prepare the voter list according to the judgment.

Though the EC is yet to issue orders deciding the fate of the draft list, senior officials at the EC Secretariat verbally ordered the field level officials to stop the task for resolving the disputes on the draft list. They also ordered them to stop payments to the enumerators and supervisors who had worked for the voter-listing job since January

BNP FAVOURED FRESH LIST Supporting the CEC's move to prepare a fresh voter list, the ruling BNF

had termed the voter list prepared in "The voter list which was prepared six years ago has largely become out of date. We prefer a fresh list, which must be correct as far as possible,

BIDS SUGGESTS EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION AND EVEN SMALLER ADP

BIDS suggested taking up fewer projects in the road sector in the next ADP to ensure quality and timely implementation of those Last week it sent a 'Policy

Recommendations for National Budget 2006-07' to the government where it said, " A large number of road projects are often taken up on political considerations resulting in very thin distribution of resources over many road projects and consequent slow rate of pro-

"Because of a large number of road projects, resource allocations to these projects have been such that at the current rate of implementation, nearly 20 percent of the projects will require a completion time of more than 10 years while about 10 percent of them will require completion time of more than 20 years," the BIDS recommendation said. It suggested. "Inclusion of new

Analysing the target ADP size

Emphasising on quality expenditure, BIDS said, "The three-year rolling investment programme, which will involve better synchronisation of the Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper target and resource allocation for development, should be put in place."

BNP Vice-President and Agriculture

Minister MK Anwar told the EC on July 28 last year when the FC sought opinion from the political parties on with the court's verdict. At the beginning of the EC initia-On the question of huge expendi-

ture for making a fresh list, Harris Chowdhury, political secretary to the prime minister, had said the EC should consider the greater interest of the nation, not the expenditure in preparing a fresh list Even the government in a hasty After holding the dialogue with the

political parties, the CEC in a unilateral move on August 6 last yea decided to prepare the fresh voter list ignoring the opinion of the then two election commissioners, M Munse Ali and AK Mohammad Ali, who favoured revising the existing list.

Amid severe opposition from the two commissioners, the CEC started preparing the fresh voter list, but the egality of his unilateral move was allenged in the court and the HC on January 4 asked the EC to revise the existing electoral roll.

BSF kills 2

FROM PAGE 16

an inhabitant of Beldangi village and teacher of Sonamoti Ebtadae Madrasa, and Ashraful Haq, 30, of Atghoria village of the upazila.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said the Indian border guards of Nargaon camp fired several shots on Mamlot and Ashraful when they went to their croplands near pillar no 371 at around 5:30am. They died on the

The BSF personnel then took vay the bodies.

When contacted, commander of 20 Rifles Battalion said they strongly protested the killing and asked the BSF to return the bodies immedi-

Rain disrupts

The downpour created serious water ogging in most of the city streets and the low-lying areas went under kneedeep to waist-deep water.

During the incessant downpour vesterday noon a shanty at the Matiiharna slum at the foothill near Lalkhan Bazar was crushed in a mudslide leaving two women injured.

They are Fatema Begum, 22, and Taslima Akter, 25. Fatema and Taslima were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for treatment.

The continuous rainfall caused several low-lying areas like Sholokbahar, Chawkbazar, Bakalia, Bogarbil, Korbanigonj, Kapashgola, Pathantooli, Agrabad CDA residential area and Halishahar to go partially under water.

The rain also disrupted operations of Chittagong port and delayed flights at Chittagong International Airport.

Meanwhile a tornado hit Banshkhali upazila damaging houses and properties yesterday.

Sources said at 1:00am the tornado, lasting seven minutes, lashed through Nagmura and Tessipara of Pukuria union wreaking huae destructions.

It damaged over 100 houses, uprooted many trees and flattened standing crops in the area. However, no casualties were reported.

State Minister for Forest and Environment Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, the local lawmaker, visited the tornado-hit villages around 2:00pm yesterday. He directed the district administration to take immediate measures in providing relief to the affected people.

Torrential rain and onrush of water from highlands overwhelmed a vast area of the Banshkhali yesterday overflowing the Shankha river. Sources said the rain triggered flash floods in the area as embankments along the canals Jaladir Chhara and Napurar Chhhara were breached.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1 wounds," the foreign minister said.

He said it is time for all nations in the region to get together to face such challenges posed by the nature and mitigate the sufferings of the humanity.

The foreign minister said Bangladesh is ready to extend all possible assistance that may be helpful for the people of Indonesia at this critical hour.

Dr Kamal

FROM PAGE 16 iudges, especially in the lower courts.

In his speech as special guest, Mainul Hosein, chairman of the editorial board of the daily Ittefaq, alleged that the political parties are responsible for violence. "Political activists are involved with violence. That's why we should raise our voice against those political leaders who are harbouring these criminals."

Habibur Rahman, father of late Sabequnnahar Sony, urged all to ensure the security of the students on the campus.

Bijor S Talukdar, president of Sony Memorial Foundation, said despite knowing beforehand about a political clash that left Sony killed the government and the ruling party did not take any action to stop their party men.

Khabir Uddin Ahmed presided over the meeting, while ABM Osman Gani, Tajim Uddin, Col (Retired) Abdul Latif Mallik, Subrata Chowdhury and FR Siddique

Jalil sees

FROM PAGE 1

Minister Khaleda Zia has been conspiring to be the president.

Jalil. also coordinator of the 14party opposition coalition said the leader of the opposition expressed her concerns observing that the prime minister has been hatching a conspiracy to grab the post of the president changing the parliamenary system.

Jalil asked the government to let the people know the real condition of the president.

He said even the adviser to the prime minister on parliamentary affairs, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, in an interview to a private television channel on Friday said that the government has plans to return to the presidential system from the parliamentary form.

Urging Bhuiyan to refrain from delivering speeches against Sheikh Hasina, Jalil asked why the government failed to protect garment factories even though the state minister for home affairs said it had early information on possible unrest

He blamed the four-party alliance government of failure to ensure security to the country's largest forex earning sector. Jalil said Bhuiyan's speech

clearly proves that they do not want a dialogue to take place. For this they have been trying to include war criminals and godfathers of the militants in the process. "Under no circumstances we will

sit with the war criminals and antliberation forces," Jalil said reiterating his vows to resist any attempt to holding elections under the present election commission and without reforms in the system of caretaker government and the election commission.

EC empowerment

FROM PAGE 1 students, NGO workers, and cultural activists attended the dialogue to listen

to the discussion. Barisal City Corporation Mayor Mujibur Rahman Sarwar was the chief guest at the dialogue held at Shaheed Abdur Rob Semiabat Auditorium at the deputy commissioner's office com-

CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya conducted the discussion while former advisor of caretaker government Hafiz Uddin Khan, and Sultana Kamal of Ain o Shalish Kendra spoke on behalf of the Nagorik Committee 2006 formed to prepare a vision paper for the next government.

President of Barisal Nagorik Parishad advocate Enavet Peer and former president of Bangladesh Medical Association Barisal Dr AKM Mokhlesur Rahman were the special quests at the regional dialogue. Shajjad Sharif, deputy editor of the

Protham Alo and Anisatul Yusuf

Fatema of the CPD also participated in the discussion. The dialogue was part of the civil society initiative for the campaign for honest and competent candidates in

the next general election.

regional dialogue as three previous dialogues were held in Mymensingh, Jessore and Comilla on the same topic. The next round of the regional dialogue will be held in Sylhet. Stressing the need for a national

This was the fourth round of such

consensus in greater national interest, Barisal Mayor Mujibur Rahman Sarwar said. "There would not be false voters and controversy on the voter list if the political parties had prepared the lists on the basis of a consensus. "We also do not want to see the influence of black money in the elec-

tions but the nomination of candidates comes from the party high command, he said, adding that the CPD should hold dialogue with the top leaders of the two major parties for nomination of honest and competent candidates. Advocate Enayet Peer said corruption and politics have become closely

related which is very shameful for the politicians. He called upon the politicians to become united for saving the country from misrule and anarchy. He said the 'inefficient' chief election commissioner is pushing the

nation towards conflict and confronta-

The country could not reach the level of a medium income state due to lack of good governance, Hafiz Uddin Khan said. He suggested more power for the

Election Commission, updating voter list every year, registration of political parties and arrangement for holding Referring to the question of

cise whatever power it had been As citizens of this country, the people should be vocal against corruption, misrule and injustice in the society, Sultana Kamal said, adding that people should not vote for those who are known as communal, against

empowering the Election Commission

(EC), Khan said the EC did not exer-

President

satisfaction at the gradually improving condition of the president in the last 24

The PID handout mentioned that among the fresh complications, the quantity of urine has been reduced to 30/40ml from 60ml per hour. To norbeing given continuous venue venus hemodia(CVVH)'.

A Bangabhaban bulletin said since other methods of dialysis failed to heal the problem, doctors changed to CVVH. The president has developed some infections in the right lung, it

With chest pain, President laiuddin, who is now 75, was admitted to the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka on Tuesday afternoon. A seven-member medical board headed by Prof MA Malek decided to send the ailing president to Singapore for treatment. He was flown to Singapore by an air ambulance on Wednesday afternoon.

An angiogram (an investigative medical procedure) done on Thursday found one completely blocked and two partially blocked arteries in his heart.

The president had a successful cardiac surgery during a four-hour and ten minute-operation Friday when a system of communication was made with four grafts on four quality vessels to overcome three major blocks in his

authority. Rest of the money is

Chittagong port are nominal com-

pared to other ports. "The port fees

have not been increased since

exporter had shown him a docu-

ment that shows Tk 12,000 as his

port expenditure but only Tk 110 of

flow of imports ahead of the next

budget and general election, recent

growth in export-import and eco-

for congestion at the country's main

nomic activities are the main causes

As a result, 12,500 to 16,000

containers remain piled up at the

port yard everyday leaving no space

for incoming new containers, he

month ultimatum by feeder opera-

tors for imposing a \$130 surcharge

on each TEU container if the situa-

tion does not improve, will end on

Hossian however claimed that

the situation at the port will improve

soon as the port authority took a

number of steps for ameliorating

congestions and for accelerating

the pace of goods handling.

According to sources, the one-

Shahadat Hossain said heavy

that was documented as port fees.

The port chairman said an

He claimed that the fees at the

pocketed by the private agents.

Owners

the Liberation War and do not want

gender equity in the society.

The dialogue began with inaugural

songs rendered by the artistes of local

The other speakers who partici-

pated in the general discussion are: Dr

Syed Habibur Rahman, SM Iqbal, Nazrul Islam Rajon, M Moazzem

Hossain, Nurul Alam Farid, Mir

Moniruzzaman. Dr Captain Siraiu

Islam, advocate Talukder Mohammad

Yunus, Dr Mizanur Rahman, Ebadur

Rahman Chan, Mintoo Basu, Nikhil

Sen, Manobendra, Ahsan Habib

Kamal, AKM Mizanur Rahman,

Rahima Sultana Kamal, Nusrat Jahan, Monirul Ahsan Khan, Prof

Abdus Sattar, Mahmud Golam

Sadeque, Bazlur Rashid Hawlader, advocate Shahida Talukder, Tofazzal

Haque Chowdhury, Mohiuddin Manik,

Shamsuddin Alam Kamal, Jiban

Krishna Dev. Nur Jahan Begum. Alhai

Abdur Razzaq, Monir Hossain, Sheikh

Abdul Kader, Mohsinul Islam Habul

Rabeya Khatun, Ismail Hossair

Negahban, SM Saleh, advocate Abdul

Hai Mahbub, Fazlul Bari, Shahidul

Islam, advocate Salahuddin Masum

Arpita Halder, Mamunur Rashid,

Santosh Mukherjee, Aminur Rahmar

Khoka, Kazi Enayet Hossain, Minto

Kumar Ghose, Shameem Azad

Rashedul Hasan Miraj, Sajeda Matin

and advocate Golam Masud.

3 murdered

dences received through intelligence

sources, we now think the identified

On the identity of the two others, he

Insurgents used to visit the house

said they might not be citizens of

at Uttara where they were killed, the

official further said, adding, "They have

several more shelters at Uttara." They

Sanjay's cousin Sumon, who left the

house Thursday morning, and two of

Sanjay's 'sisters', who used to visit the

females claiming them as Saniav's

sisters. But it was learnt later Sanjay

had only one sister who lives in

Meanwhile, the case was trans-

ferred to Detective Branch (DB) of

Saniav's father Kuleswar filed a

In the first information report, he

Meanwhile, Kuleswar, whom law

police yesterday and three detainees

case with Uttara Police Station yester-

said Sumon had telephoned him to

watch television to learn about an

accident involving his son Sanjay, Ajay

enforcers held for sheltering six

insurgents in Kamalganj of

Moulavibazar a year ago, yesterday

received the body of Sanjay after

autopsy at Dhaka Medical College

detained since he went to Uttara

Police Station to receive his son's body

Friday evening, allowed him to go to

with Kuleswar to ensure that he comes

back to Dhaka face quizzing about the

three slaughtered Manipuri men,

including Sanjay, an HSC examinee

from Milestone School and College, in

Ashit Kumar, Jisair and Lipson -

whom police picked up from the house

Friday for quizzing, before court today

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)

recovered the bodies and later handed

over those to Uttara police. Rab

Intelligence chief Lt Col Gulzar Ahmed

told The Daily Star yesterday that Rab

Shahidul Islam last night said they are

trying to know the whereabouts of

of containers free of charge until

May 25 for easing the congestion.

For accelerating loading and

unloading activities the workers will

be paid on piece basis instead of

monthly salaries. The workers might

not agree to the arrangement

readily but ultimately they will give

consent because their income will

He said the port authorities

decided to release nine items

including food, seeds, scraps, and

animal feed from two nearby private

inland container depots. The import-

ers will get a four-day grace period

and if they release goods within that

time the port will not charge any fee.

transit area instead of a storage

area." Besides, some container

ships will be diverted to the Mongla

port authorities already undertook

tainers, under the development

He told The Daily Star that the

seaport, he said.

projects

"They should treat the port as a

double. Hossain added.

Sanjay's said sisters and Sumon.

Deputy Commissioner of the DB

is also probing the matter.

Ctg port turn costly

seeking remand, said DB sources.

The DB will produce the three -

a house at Uttara-6 Thursday night.

Police also went to Moulavibazar

Law enforcers found the bodies of

Moulavibazar for his burial.

Law enforcers, who kept him

day accusing some unknown killers.

ere handed over to it.

and a domestic help.

Hospital (DMCH).

Sumon rented the house with two

Detectives are also looking for

would make some raids there soon.

victim Sanjay-- was involved in insur-

gency," the official told The Daily Star.

" Scrutinising evi-

FROM PAGE 16

Bangladesh.

apartment.

Moulavibazar.

with insurgents.

Udičhi Shilpi Gosthi and Protham Alo

Bandhu Sabha.

"I have never seen or heard that because of trade unionism, trade or

The MCCI chief also said garment manufacturers will have to address the existing problems in the

secretary of Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation, said no garment owner could cite any instance of closure of a factory due to trade unionism. Mamun Rashid, chief executive

said as garment industry is a labour intensive one and most of the workers are women who are not so

might mislead them we saw every trade union at a stage goes under a political party."

in garment industry is a wake up call for its owners.

to trade union activities

management in garment industry is very weak, resulting in a communication gap between the owners and workers. They suggested more investment on building an efficient management to put an end to this.

holiday and maternity leave. Annisul Huq said minimum wage is now a 'myth and slogan'. "And instead of it, we now favour sector-

wise wages." The garments owner also sought formation of a transparent enquiry committee to probe the recent

Ain O Salish Kendro, said the BGMEA repeatedly made commitments on workers' rights but did not implement those. "You should now give a time frame to fulfil the workers demands." she added.

Fazlul Haque, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), said the recent violence will affect foreign investment in garment industry.

Shahdeen Malik, advocate of the Supreme Court, BGMEA vicepresidents Abdus Salam Murshedy and Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury Dr Pratima Paul-Majumder, research fellow of BIDS, Nazma Akhtar, general secretary and executive director of Sammilito Garments Sramik Federation

Energy adviser FROM PAGE 16

As power grid of northern region adviser along with others became

Two standby generators of the mine also failed to start up immediately that resulted in an unbearable situation, as the lift as well as the ventilation system inside the mine could not be operated, sources said.

adviser and other officials started feeling suffocated and at one point decided to get out through the stairs. But fortunately, the electricity supply was restored and the lift started functioning.

have been averted if remedial measures were taken in time.

took over. The mining project is already four years behind schedule because of flaws in the design that have also raised the costs.

sub-soil waters started gushing in from April 5, 1998 at a depth of 1,100 feet due to flaws in design. Through repeated rescheduling

Tk 2.82 lakh FROM PAGE 16

business have been stopped '

Amirul Hague Amin, general

officer of Citibank NA. also said garment owners should allow trade BGMEA president Tipu Munshi

educated, trade union leaders Former president of the BGMEA Kutubuddin Ahmed said. "We have no problem in allowing trade unionism but a fear works in our mind as

He also said the recent violence

Another former BGMEA president, Annisul Huq, said it will have to be ensured that there will be no unwanted incident in the sector due Some speakers said mid-level

The garment manufacturers also gave their views on workers'

wages, appointment letter, weekly

demands for increased minimum

violence in the industry. Dr Hamida Hossain, director of

Oother speakers included Dr

According to Barapukuria official sources, Mahmudur Rahman had gone about 1,900 feet deep down the coal mine by a lift along with some local engineers while visiting the project in the evening.

tripped at about 7:00pm, the energy trapped in the deep underground.

As oxygen circulation inside the coal mine reduced, the energy

Sources said that the untoward incident shows sheer negligence of the authorities, adding that it could

It has also been learned that CMC did not provide any gas masks and other safety equipment required for emergency manual operation inside the mine when it

The Barapukuria project was approved in March 1992 with the target of completion on July 31, 2001 at a cost of Tk 887 crore. But the project was suspended when

of deadlines, cost escalations and various types of irrational contractual extensions, the contractor was given seven years extra time to

various development works spending around Tk 1700 crore. The yard at the port will be expanded for

security quards at the time of incident is mysterious. They could not be traced as of 6:30pm yesterday. keeping at least 10,000 more con-

A case was filed with Rupsha Police Station yesterday afternoon.

Low pay

FROM PAGE 1

Minister Khaleda Zia to take immediate action to 'clean up' the industry. ITGLWF General Secretary Neil Kearney expressed their concerns through an e-mail to the prime minister

on May 23. The letter said in light of the labour conditions that prevail in the industry, the events of the last few days, while tragic, are hardly surprising.

The organisation had warned

repeatedly of the growing frustration at the payment of starvation wages, excessive hours of work, cheating on piece work, falsification of overtime rates, abusive treatment and the appalling health and safety conditions. But unfortunately, instead of trying to resolve the problems and demanding that employers respect the rights of their workers, the authorities have been persecuting the workers, the

It went on saying, the reality is that the Bangladeshi garment industry owners impose a regime, which is beyond human endurance. Last year the government legalised a 72-hour work week. But the reality is even harsher. Even on Fridays, which is supposed to be their weekly day of rest, workers in hundreds of factories can be found working 18 hours a day. Sometimes workers are forced to work around the clock, it said. For an example Kearney men-

tioned, "A leading Bangladeshi retailer recently drew my attention to the situation at a factory owned by a senior member of BGMEA (Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association), where after working 29 days for 12 hours a day, last month a worker earned only Taka 400 (less than \$6) a month - less than half the legal minimum wage. This is truly a scandal. No wonder the industry is in uproar!' Some of the details are still

n Gazipur in Dhaka on May 20. There had been tensions at the factory for months, with workers being forced to work excessive overtime, being cheated on piece rates and facing verbal abuse from supervisors and managers," he wrote. The letter said workers had gone on strike to press for fairer piece rates. the release of three detained workers

and withdrawal of charges against eighty other workers. Actions had

been taken against the workers in

question following a dispute over piece

unclear, but we understand that the

unrest started at FS Sweater Factory

rates in which the management had called in thugs to terrorise and intimidate the workers.

ITGLWF claimed that some workers reported that they were shot at not only by the Ansars, but also were attacked by armed outsiders and goons. The protest became even more desperate and angry after the shooting and the unrest quickly spread

response of the industry employers associations BGMFA and BKMFA (Bangladesh Knitwear and have claimed that the violence was the result of a 'conspiracy by a neighbourng country'

that the violence is the result of low wages and poor conditions, claiming that workers were 'well paid and enjoyed good conditions'.

in the foot, the letter added.

The international organisation of of the riots. The organisation identified some

problems and urged the government to solve those to save the garment industry of Bangladesh. The problems identified by ITGLWF are, excessive long working hours, low rates of basic earnings, abuses in piece rate payments, late payment of wages, child labour, issues of structural and fire safety corrupt police practice of charging workers on the flimsiest of evidence, the practice of supervisors acting as labour contractors who illegally rake off a percentage of workers' wages, the practice of using hired goons to terrorise and intimidate workers, behaviour of the police and other paramilitary forces when unrest

Yudhoyono made a snap visit to the scene after learning of the scale of

the disaster, bringing forward a

health and social affairs ministers to

oversee the relief effort and told the

military to evacuate victims, urged

to treat the injured. Make sure that

hospitals or camps have enough

doctors, paramedics and food," he

The tsunami scare started when

Yogyakarta province police chief

Bambang Hari Sampurnojati told

local radio that the earthquake was

that there was a tsunami. We were

ready to flee," Yogyakarta residen

Clemon Cilik told the state Antara

As several aftershocks shook the

region, many residents were to

afraid to return home, wandering

dazed and confused in the streets.

"We panicked when we heard

to be followed by tidal waves.

"The first priority is to save lives

rescuers to work round the clock.

Yudhoyono, who ordered the

planned visit by 24 hours.

told rescue workers.

news agency.

many in tears.

FROM PAGE 1

Over 3,000 killed

aid and condolences from around the world yesterday. Emergency

disaster response team was ready to help with humanitarian relief.

Britain and France also offered a quick response to the disaster, which left more than 2,800 people dead in and around the historic city

Italian President Giorgio Japan said it was sending a relief team and was ready to provide aid. A team of about seven people

ministry official said.
Neighbouring Malaysia said it will send a 56-member search team, doctors and medical supplies, and the European Commission said it

hospital, many of them in the hallvays.
People of all ages with broken arms and legs and bruised faces lay out on tiled floors covered in blood

eft homeless, while an appeal for blood donors was launched Rescue workers and survivors

rom the rubble. The guake forced the closure of Adisucipto airport in Yogyakarta Detikcom news portal said, with buildings damaged and cracks in the runway. Flights have been

Meteorologists said the quake measured 5.9 on the Richter scale, but both US and Hong Kong monitors registered it at 6.2 Seismologists said the guake would eruption at Merapi

months Nepal has gone from being a

centuries-old absolute monarchy to abolish the monarchy altogether.

at a luxury resort outside the capital.

to other areas The ITGLWF also rejected the Manufacturers Association), which

BGMEA brushed aside the notion

The ITGLWF letter said such a reaction is so divorced from the reality of the industry that it made the employers of Bangladesh a laughing stock internationally. It is regrettable that when so much effort has been made to try to stabilise and expand the industry in the post-MFA (Multi Fibre Arrangement) climate, employers seem determined to shoot themselves

garment, leather and textile workers called on the government to undertake an urgent inquiry into the root causes

President Susilo Bambang

rescue and medical crews rushed to the worst-hit areas as officials said the death toll may rise Hospitals overflowed with casu-

UN chief Kofi Annan led those

expressing sadness and said a UN

The European Commission said t would release up to three million euros (3.8 million dollars) in emergency aid in response to the devastating earthquake.

of Yogyakarta. Russian President Vladimir Putin offered his condolences along with Chinese President Hu Jintao and

including doctors and bureaucrats would head to Indonesia on Sunday to assess the needs, a foreign

would release up to \$3.8 million in emergency aid. Heru Nugroho, spokesman for the state-run Sardjito hospital in Yogyakarta, around 400km east of the capital Jakarta, told AFP 1.500 victims were being treated at the

covered with bedsheets. Aid agencies were sending tents and food to the area to help those

waiting for attention. Bodies were

oulled hundreds of bodies hourly

diverted to the nearby city of Solo.

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has been fixed but the rebels hope for the body to be in place within six

a constitutional one but the country was thrown into disarray when King Gyanendra dissolved parliament 15 months ago. The Maoists want to "We have already agreed on our main political agenda," chief rebel

Indonesian geophysicist.

force: the meeting of giant, shifting plates of the Farth's crust. "It wasn't Merapi that set off the

earthquake today," said Giuseppe

Arduino, an Indonesia-based

Indonesia's twin

earthquake.' The Indo-Australian and Furasian plates, as they are known by scientists, grind towards each other at rate of about five centimetres (two inches) a year, the first

The movement, called

subduction, creates two results: a

build-up of tension resulting in earth

zone for volcanoes with 130 still dangerous and has been plagued by earthquakes and eruptions for

centuries.

climates across five continents. More recently, a major earthquake prompted the Asian tsunami of December 26, 2002, which left

volcanic activity on Sumatra island. ics, it's true that there are links between tectonic activity in the Indian Ocean and volcanic activity

Unesco geologist, but "the increase n tectonic activity which is causing the Merapi eruption also started the

passing under the second.

tremors, and the release of magma as the melting lower plate shoots back up to the surface. The Indonesian archipelago made up of thousands of islands and islets, is the world's most active

Indonesia has seen the two biggest volcanic disasters of modern times: the Tambora eruption of 1815, the most deadly in history, and the cataclysmic Krakatoa explosion of 1883 which unleashed waves around the world and altered

220,000 dead mostly in Indonesia's Aceh province and was followed by "In the framework of plate tecton-

Similar activity was seen at the volcanic lake Toba after an earthquake at nearby Nias on March 28,

negotiator Krishna Bahadur Mahara Police said the absence of two in Sumatra," said Fauzan, an told reporters late on Friday, referring to the assembly. He was speaking after a six-hour meeting with the government team