NEWS

No wrong done rules aimed at cracking down

on aggressive lending and

microcredit operations of

Grameen Bank. Îts interest rate

is 20 percent, which is lower

than the government rate at 27

types of interest rates for bor-

generating loans, 8 percent for

housing loans, 5 percent for

In its publications, Grameen

This means, if a borrower

loan of Tk 1,000 and pays back

the entire amount in weekly

instalments within a year, she

will pay a total of Tk 1,100 (Tk

1,000 as principal and Tk 100 as

interest for the year, which is

equivalent to a 10 percent flat

cent cash dividend for 2009,

which the micro-lender said

was the highest cash dividend

declared by any bank in

dends declared by Grameen

repeated vision of sending

poverty to museums, a target

that many think is far from

poverty from Bangladesh by

poverty in 15 years by 2015 in

line with the millennium devel-

opment goals, then it is my

dream of eradicating poverty in

Yunus declined to comment on

prime minister's remarks about

him. But he said whatever she

Prof Yunus said he has no plan

to get involved in politics. "A

wise man hardly repeats the

political party during the care-

taker government rule in 2007.

Norwegian company Telenor

owns two-thirds of

GrameenPhone's share. Prof

Yunus after the Nobel peace

prize demanded Telenor hand-

over its shares to Grameen. As to

whether he sticks to the

demand, Yunus said, "We still

pursue it, but we cannot legally

enforce." He said Grameen has

nothing but to request Telenor.

Replying to a query Prof Yunus

admitted that Grameen had

deficiency in public relations

affairs. "Now a dedicated per-

son has been appointed to deal

Yunus said media business

should be social business,

otherwise the space will be

taken up by the owners' news. "I

have got offer from India and

the US to launch a TV (televi-

sion) and a global networking

media respectively," he said. But

he did not say whether he is

going to get involved in the

About establishing corporate

governance in Grameen Bank,

he said it depends on the board.

He said the government nomi-

nates the chairman and two

directors in the board who

along with other directors can

Corporate governance in

Public relations at

with the issue," he said.

Media business

media business.

Grameen Bank

decide on it.

Grameen

Prof Yunus tried to float a

2030. This is my dream."

another 15 years."

said was her view.

comments

On Prime Minister's

On political ambition

same blunder," he said.

On GrameenPhone

"Let's set a target to erase

"If there is a target to halve

was in 2006: it was 100 percent.

The highest record of divi-

Yunus defended his oft-

Bangladesh for the year.

achievable.

Grameen declared 30 per-

Grameen Bank offers four

Yunus explained the

recovery practices.

percent.

rate).

FROM PAGE 1 Bank to Grameen Kalyan.

The Grameen Bank founder described the disagreement with Norad, the Norwegian aid ministry, as honest disagreement and said it was a difference of opinion on "modality".

"Other donor agencies did not raise any question on the modality, but Norad did. Later, we had resolved it," said Prof rowers: 20 percent for income Yunus.

Yunus said he is saddened to see how much of the local student loans and zero percent for beggars. media dealt with the issue, and falsely suggested a diversion of funds for purposes unintended explains: "All interests are by the donors. He, however, simple interest, calculated on wanted to put the controversy declining balance method." behind him and work unitedly for eliminating poverty in takes an income-generating

Bangladesh. The Nobel laureate made the comments at a press conference at Grameen Bank headquarters in Mirpur yesterday. He addressed the media to resolve the debate that caused mental agony not only to him but also to many people in the

Prof Yunus said some local media published an inaccurate and misleading news report regarding an alleged "siphoning off" of a large amount of money by him through one of his organisations. The aid had been agreed, in 1994, between Grameen Bank and Norad to be used for housing loans for the poor in Bangladesh.

Reports in the local media were triggered following a documentary "Fanget 1 Mikrogjeld" (caught in micro debt) shown on Norwegian TV on November 30. Yunus, however, ruled out

any legal action against such libellous news reports that he was "siphoning off" Tk7 billion.

He also saw no conspiracy against him, though he said some individuals might have added fuel to the controversy. The microcredit pioneer

read out a two-page statement explaining the issue of fund transfer that triggered the debate. He explained the job benefits he receives from Grameen Bank and his dream of sending poverty into the museums. Later, he answered questions of reporters on a wide range of issues including tax exemption, microcredit, public relations, corporate governance, GrameenPhone and social business.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway on the fund trans-

Prof Yunus showed how a latest Norad report on its assistance to Grameen Bank on December 7 cleared Grameen Bank from all allegations of wrongdoing. The report was published following a request from Erik Solheim, the minister for environment and international development.

"According to the report, there is no indication that Norwegian funds have been used for unintended purposes, or that Grameen Bank has engaged in corrupt practices or embezzled funds. The matter was concluded when the agreement concerning reimbursement of the funds was entered into in May 1998 under the government in office at the time," said Solheim.

His role at Grameen Bank

and in its sister concerns Prof Yunus said he does not receive any monetary benefits, house, car or any allowance from any organisations other than Grameen Bank. He gets salaries and other benefits from Grameen Bank as its official. He has no share in Grameen Bank or any of its various organisations. Though he sits on Grameen Bank and other boards, he has no voting power.

exemption for Grameen Bank

because it benefits the poor.

"It's my moral responsibility to

demand tax exemption," he

said. "If tax is imposed on

Grameen then do it for other

NGOs," he said, adding that

other NGOs (microlenders) get

Muhammad Yunus defended

microcredit as an effective tool

in cutting down poverty but

He criticised over

commercialisation of

microcredit by SKS, India's

largest for-profit micro finan-

The comment came after his

attention was drawn to SKS that

staged a highly successful initial

lysts fear India's seven-billion-

dollar micro-finance industry

could be thrown into crisis by a

ing to the poor more tightly.

It came at a time when ana-

share offer in India in August.

criticised the abuse of it.

tax exemptions.

Microcredit

At the end, the Nobel laureate urged all to work together to build the country, which he Grameen Bank gets tax exempbelieves has immense potention from the government. tial. "I want cooperation from Grameen has applied to extend all, and confrontation with the facility on the eve of its none," he said. expiry. Prof Yunus replied to a query that he has sought tax

According to him, poverty is still the number one problem in Bangladesh and only unity can address the issue meaningfully.

Govt pledges

"If there is any discrimination over the wage, let the government know and it will be resolved through discussion, Labour Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain told reporters after a meeting with a delegation of Bangladesh Association of Garment Manufacturers and Exporters (BGMEA) at his office.

After meeting the same delegation at her office sepa-"But it doesn't mean the rately, Home Minister Sahara original concept of microcredit Khatun said there are conspirais flawed." Microcredit is meant cies to create unrest in the to help the poor with loans, he garments sector.

She pledged to launch an investigation to expose the conspirators behind the workers' unrest.

"If anything happens, workers take to the street and vandalise vehicles. None will be spared if anyone takes the law in hand," warned the home minister.

bill that seeks to regulate lend-Meanwhile, the labour ministry officials and represen-The legislation, slated to be tatives of RMG factory owners taken up Tuesday by lawmakers and workers will sit with the in southern Andhra Pradesh BGMEA leaders today at the state--hub of India's BGMEA Bhaban to settle the microcredit activities, sets new RMGunrest.

Tamim

FROM PAGE 1

The left-handed opener's 95 off 96 balls had five bound aries and seven sixes, breaking his own Bangladesh record of six sixes in an innings, that too was against Zimbabwe last year. He also overtook Mashrafe Bin Mortaza as the

man with the most ODI sixes for the Tigers, and equaled the highest number of sixes in an innings hit in this country. A cautious start made sure

man-of-the-match Tamim was set for some big ones and he launched his array with a forehand smash over long-off, following it up with a slogged sweep off part-timer Brendan Taylor. Twice he lofted legspinner Graeme Cremer over long-on and hit another on one knee, slogging over mid-

Keith Dabengwa, the leftarm spinner, also bore the brunt of the local boy's bat, twice being hit for sixes, but after Tamim had entered the nineties through the second one off Dabengwa, nerves got the better of him as on the next ball, he miscued one to deep mid-wicket and was out caught by Hamilton Masakadza.

The left-hander shared a 133-run second wicket stand with Junaed Siddiqui, who rode his luck to score an unbeaten 56. Tamim too survived an early life when Chris Mpofu dropped him when he was on 24.

Before Tamim had made it a backyard affair, batting seemed to be a tough job for the visitors who took 24 overs to reach 50 runs, incidentally through their first boundary.

Tatenda Taibu, who hit that first four, salvaged the Zimbabwe innings through a 95-run fourth wicket stand with Craig Ervine. Taibu made 64 off 104 balls with a four and a six while left-handed Ervine struck 46 off 100 balls. It was Mashrafe's first

seven overs that essentially kept the visitors in check, the paceman picking up two for 25 in the end. Shakib took three wickets for 58.

The No 1 all-rounder of the world won a motorcycle for his all-round performance but it was the highest wicket-taker in the series, Abdur Razzak, who won the man-of-theseries award.

AL questions

FROM PAGE 16

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia possessed earlier and to save her "corrupt" sons --Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko.

AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam at a press conference at party president Sheikh Hasina's political office in Dhanmondi termed Parishad Chairman Muhiuddin Khan a war criminal, rajakar and antiliberation element.

Muhiuddin has recently announced the hartal to protest against the National Education

Sved Ashraful also said if the main opposition did not have any relations with the war criminals, they would not extend their support to Muhiuddin's hartal.

The AL leader urged the opposition to withdraw their support for hartal and expressed the hope that people would reject the strike.

Ashraf, also the LGRD and cooperatives minister demanded that the government launch a probe into any mismatch between the wealth statements Khaleda Zia submitted to the Election Commission (EC), Anti-Corruption Commission and the National Board of Revenue and the assets she possesses right now.

"We will urge these organisations to find out if there is any anomaly in Khaleda Zia's sources of income, current wealth accounts and what she submitted to these agencies,

Ashrafadded. Protesting against BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain's statements about the wealth accounts of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other family members, Ashraf urged his counterpart not to make any false statement before the nation.

He said the BNP leader made false statements over the issue to mislead the people and divert public attention from corruption "committed" by the Khaleda Zia family. The list of Khaleda's belong-

ings at the cantonment house that the PM read out in parliament is completely true and based on facts and figures, he said, adding, they would make it public, if need be.

Delwar has recently spoke about Bangabandhu and Hasina's property and wanted to know the Tax Identification

Number of Bangabandhu. It proved Delwar's ignorance as the TIN was introduced in the country during 1990s, Ashraf commented.

People's nerves

FROM PAGE 1

For those stranded on the Airport Road, it was a harrowing experience, as the demonstrators went on the rampage smashing buses and cars.

More than 100 people including 20 policemen were injured when protesters clashed with police.

The workers set fire to three vehicles and damaged over 50 others. "I was going to Khilgaon to

see a doctor. Sitting for two hours in the bus, I realised I cannot see the doctor today. So I got down and started walking back home," said Monsura Begum near Bishwa Road. The 51-year-old had to

walk nearly six kilometres to reach her home in Uttara.

Most commuters had to do the same. Some took rickshaws or rickshaw vans to reach their destinations. "Why can't they relocate all

the factories from Dhaka? Why should we take the brunt of the garment sector?" said Shahin Chowdhury, who missed an important business appointment due to the violence.

assistant of Special Branch of police, was going to her office at Malibagh by office bus. "When the bus arrived at

Kuril, some people started pelting brickbats breaking the windowpanes," she said.

Panicked, they got down from the bus and ran for life.

Irritated parents took back their school kids home. An Eden College student, who missed her class, termed the situation frustrating.

Some took alternative routes to go to their offices, but still failed. Private job holder Wasim

Habib is one of them. " missed my programme and all my efforts went in vain. How much the city people will have to suffer?" he asked. Sharifa Tasfin, a lawyer at the Dhaka Judges Court, said

ries in residential areas but a group of people pay no heed to that. "Nobody thinks about the consequences if a garment factory in a densely populated area catches fire. Another

Nimtoli tragedy will happen,"

laws prohibit setting up facto-

She said the law enforcers take no action against them, as the garment sector earns a huge amount of foreign cur-

she said.

Talking about the gridlock Rehana, an upper division caused by frequent unrests in garment sector, Dhaka City Corporation chief town planner Sirajul Islam said, "There is every solution in the Detailed Area Plan (DAP). Sufferings of the people will end if it is properly implemented."

Hijacked ship

Urmila Sharmin, wife of Abul Bashar, 28, second engineer of the ship, said the pirates demanded \$9 million, while Bilkis Rahman, the mother of another crew, said the abductors demanded Tk 900 crore. Urmila said her husband

called her at about 10:00pm from the phone of a pirate and said the pirates asked him to pay a ransom of \$9 million as soon as possible. Bashar talked to her for

nearly three minutes and said the ship would run out of food and fuel in five days. Earlier, the ship owner

claimed that the vessel had a stock of food and fuel for the crew for two months. The pirates hijacked the

Bangladesh-flagged ship in the Arabian Sea off the coast of India on December 5. Bilkis Rahman, mother of engine cadet Md Shahriar

Rabbi, 21, said her son called her at about 10:10am yesterday and said the pirates had confined the crew to the navigation deck.

developments every month,

deadline for marking the land

of rivers and setting up

boundary pillars along the

riverbank in Dhaka, Gazipur,

Munshiganj and Narayanganj.

for setting up the boundary

pillars will be completed by

directed the deputy commis-

sioners of Dhaka,

Narayanganj, Gazipur and

Munshiganj to set up those by

Protection Commission Act,

2010 was submitted at yester-

day's meeting. The draft will

be placed before the cabinet in

a week or two, the minister

prevent river pollution, stop

river grabbing and building

illegal structures on river-

According to the draft, the

commission will comprise a

chairman and five members.

The chairman and a member

will be given permanent

appointment while the four

others will hold honorary

The commission will be

empowered to file cases

against the grabbers while an

aggrieved person can also file

cases against the commission.

The high-powered

taskforce also instructed the

Raidhani Unnayan

Katripakkha (Rajuk) and the

Dhaka City Corporation

(DCC) to take legal actions

against the house owners who

connected their sewage lines

with the underground storm

water lines that ultimately fall

secretary, managing director

of Dhaka Water Supply and

Sewerage Authority (WASA),

chairman of Rajuk and chief

executive officer of DCC will

meet twice a month to moni-

taskforce chaired by the min-

ister observed the four Dhaka

rivers are being polluted

the partial recovery of

Ramchandrapur canal,

Katasur canal, Kalyanpur Ka

The meeting also discussed

The 10th meeting of the

tor developments on this.

through 138 points.

The shipping ministry

into rivers and pollute them.

If enacted, the law will

The draft National River

January 5 next year.

April this year.

added.

Shajahan said the tender

The taskforce earlier

The taskforce also set a new

said the minister.

Govt moves

during the 10-minute conver sation. He told her that they were allowed to use only one 'Please rescue us. Tell the

government to do something, otherwise the pirates will torture us," she quoted her son as saying. Meanwhile, Mohammad Shahjahan, owner of SR

Shipping Ltd, said the pirates allowed the ship's Chief Engineer Motiul Maola and his wife Roksana to talk to him over the phone at about 2:30pm. The two told him that all the crewmembers were in good health. Shahjahan, also chairman

of Royal Shipping Ltd, told journalists that the prates made two phone calls -- one at 2:30pm and another at 7:00pm. He was speaking at a press conference at his office in Agrabad in the port city last

He said 24 Somali pirates held control of the ship.

The pirates hijacked the Bangladesh-flagged ship in

canal and Shyampur canal

present at the meeting.

Three jute

Locals joined them in fighting

director of Fire Service and

Civil Defence, told The Daily

Star the reason behind the fire

could not be known immedi-

ately. None was injured in the

were burned to ashes, said

Enamul Haque, general man-

Mill workers brought out a

procession last night demand-

ing proper investigation into

Steps far less

in Copenhagen had irreparably

eroded public interest in cli-

confidence of the world com-

munity in multilateralism,

Indian Environment Minister

Jairam Ramesh told Mexican

Foreign Secretary Patricia

Espinosa, even likening her to

"a goddess" for her diplomacy.

Connie Hedegaard, a Dane

who helped lead the

Copenhagen summit,

macy would "turn into Doha,"

But even though the

Cancun talks reached an agree-

ment, they did not take up

some of the most critical issues

process but it did not yet save

the climate," said Greenpeace

International's climate policy

"Cancun may have saved the

EU Climate Commissioner

You have restored the

Over 50,000 mounds of jute

incident, he added.

ager of the jute mill.

the incident.

mate action.

agreement.

on climate change.

directorWendelTrio.

Abdur Rashid, deputy

FROM PAGE 16

dential areas. They are enrolling huge number of students and the Arabian Sea off the coast of using limited space on markets, She said Rabbi sobbed India on December 5. shops, hotels or restaurants and CNG refuelling stations.

from grabbers. To fully recover In this context, the ministry has labelled the universities into them, some lands have to be acquired three categories--'red', 'yellow' Ramesh Chandra Sen and 'green'. The universities which failed water resources minister, to establish necessary infra-Rezaul Karim Hira, land minstructures on their permanent ister, AKM Mozammel Haque

campuses will get additional five MP, Aslamul Haque MP, secreyears from now on to go to their taries and high officials of permanent campuses, the ministries and the departminister mentioned. ments concerned were also These universities will even

not be allowed to run extended or additional campuses and institutes and launch new faculty or programme. After the passage of the bill in

parliament, the ministry officials sat with the owners of the private universities on August 18 and gave them three weeks to inform about the approximate time required for the shifting. The owners did not respond

to the ministry's directives for twice and finally on November 22 came up with the demand for giving 15 years more. They also sought land from the govern-Private universities got tem-

porary approval on condition that they will have to have permanent campuses and shift there within five years of opening, said Nahid. But we are observing with

grave concern that only eight out of 51 private universities have shifted to their permanent campuses," he added. The universities that shifted

to permanent campuses are --North South University; University of Science & Technology, Chittagong; International Islamic University, Chittagong; Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology; International University of Business Agriculture & Technology; BGC Trust University Bangladesh; Brac University; and Bangladesh University of Business & Technology

described Espinosa as "skilful Replying to a question, and clever." Hedegaard earlier University Grants Commission worried that climate diplo-Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam said this is a 'red alert' for the univerthe all-but-dead talks on a sities which failed to comply global economic liberalization with the act.

Of the total, five universities bought lands and constructed infrastructure while nine others bought land but did not start construction. Nine universities have their own campuses of limited land, falling short of the size fixed by the act, while 22 others have not yet taken any initiative in this regard, said the minister.

Four killed Tiger response

FROM PAGE 1

team proves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A village-based tiger response

team has again showed great

courage to save a tiger of the

suddenly came out of the forest

and entered the village Uttar

Rajapur, under Sharankhola

range of the Sundarbans. It then

killed a cow and returned to the

forest, says a Wildlife Trust of

Bangladesh (WTB) press

scared and agitated thinking

about the return of the tiger, a

village-based tiger response

team (VTRT) of Dashervarani

municated with the local forest

department offices and went on

patrol with forest officials that

with the authorities concerned

of the local mosque and con-

vinced them to announce a

cautionary notice repeatedly.

During the announcement

the Sundarbans will be pro-

tected. And if the forest is pro-

secured. There is no other way

except saving the tiger," said Md

Dulal Chaprashi, team leader of

Trust of Bangladesh (WTB),

who helped the villagers set up

VTRT teams, said, "Still our tiger

conservation approaches have

a long way to go. But obviously

in the case of building the field-

level capacity to deal with the

immediate tiger-human con-

flict needs, it is obviously a

feather in the cap for the village

teams. With this kind of sup-

portive people, the tiger has a

much better chance of survival

also mentioned, "The VTRT is a

community-based team which

has been formed by the joint

At present there are 29 vil-

Sundarbans. The team mem-

bers will also control the crowd

into a village until the forest

department officials reach

there, he said, adding that all the

members of VTRT are volun-

teers and they spend their time

to help save tigers and keep

The minister alleged most insti-

tutions are operating like com-

mercial organisations in resi-

He said some people turned

the universities into family

organisation while absolute

supremacy of the owners is

prevailing in some universities.

Follow rule

their villages safe.

FROM PAGE 16

Trust of Bangladesh."

Prof Anwarul Islam of WTB

Ashraful Haque of Wildlife

the Dashervarani VTRT.

remain calm, alert and safe.

They also communicated

The VTRT members com-

As the villagers became

On December 10, a tiger

a point

Sundarbans.

release.

came to their aid.

The protesters set five vehicles ablaze and damaged 90 more bringing traffic on Chittagong Airport Road, Dhaka Airport Road and Dhaka-Sylhet Highway to a halt for hours.

1,54,000 workers. Mohammad Abul Qashem,

commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, said one of the dead was Ariful Islam, 35, a rickshawpuller. He said the cause of death

could be confirmed after autopsy. The CMP commissioner said 56 policemen were wounded

including one bullet hit. Six of them were in a critical condition. "A third party might have fired shots during clashes leaving

Constable Rafigul Alam injured," he said. He CMP chief said police fired 519 rounds of rubber bullet, 60 rounds from Chinese rifles and shotguns, and 96 teargas

from the mosque, they canisters to disperse the demonrequested the villagers to Witnesses said nearly 10,000 "If we can save a tiger then workers of 11 units of Korean Youngone Ltd in CEPZ went to work in the morning without any tected our livelihoods would be knowledge about the authority's decision of indefinite shutdown

of the units on Saturday following labour unrest overwage. Earlier, the workers of Youngone Ltd took to the streets demanding reinstatement of a "temporary" Tk 250 food allowance that the management withheld when it started paying

the new minimum wage, said an official of the company. Finding the factories closed, they became furious and clashed with police for about five hours since 8:30am turning the entire CEPZ area into a battlefield.

The workers tried to break through the main gate of the Youngone Ltd. They damaged gates and windowpanes of other factories. Labourers of other factories later joined them.

initiative of the Forest Tanvir Arafat, assistant com-Department and the Wildlife missioner of police in Double-Mooring Zone, said hundreds of angry workers clashed with lage-based teams around the police at about 8:30am when law adjacent areas of the enforcers barred them from blocking the Airport Road near the main entrance of the CEPZ. that forms when a tiger strays Police charged truncheons

on the demonstrators who pelted them with brickbats. Law enforcers fired shots and tear gas shells to disperse them.

The workers took position at different points from Airport road to Agrabad Barik building bringing vehicular movement on the road to a halt.

Rezaul Masud, senior assistant director of Chittagong Industrial Police, said unruly workers set fire to a bus and a motorbike, and damaged 30 other vehicles. They ransacked eight garment factories and 20 roadside buildings. Four people were killed and

90 others, including 56 policemen and three journalists, injured in the clashes. Of the wounded, eight were hit by bullets. Ten of the injured were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Deputy Commissioner (Port) Kushum Dewan claimed rickshaw-puller Ariful died after being hit by a brickbat during the clash in front of the CEPZ at about 12:00noon. But his employer said he was shot dead. Police later took his body to

Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Ruhi Das, 45, worker of CM

Superior Garments, got injured at the CEPZ main gate while coming out of his factory shortly after 11:00am. Ruhi, a resident of

Pathorghata, was rushed to a local hospital and later shifted to the CMCH where the doctors declared him dead at about 1:30pm, said his nephew Titu

Police held 30 people with links to the clashes. Bangladesh Export

Processing Zones Authority Chairman Jamil Ahmed Khan held a meeting with CEPZ and CMP officials after the incident. Local lawmakers and ruling partyleaders were present there

After the meeting, the BEPZA chairman said all factories except the 11 units of Youngone Ltd in the CEPZ will open today. Fazle Rabbi, general manager

of sector-7 of Youngone Ltd, at a press conference at about 3:00pm, said outsiders were involved in the violence which he claims has caused a loss of around Tk 100 crore to the com-Meanwhile, in the capital, at

least 100 people including 25 law enforcers were injured, as workers of three factories of Nasa Group clashed with police on Airport Road in Kuril area in the morning. Vehicular movement on the road was suspended for around

three and a half hours, as the agitating workers vandalised at least 50 vehicles and set fire to a microbus, a private car and a taxicab. Police fired 40 teargas canis-

Officer-in-Charge Mojibur Rahman of Badda Police Station said around 8,000 workers of

Nasa Group's three units--Kimia Garments, Sunseed Apparels

The workers allege the factory owners have added only Tk 500 to their earlier salaries instead of following the new

and Eden Apparels--gathered

near Kuril Bishwa Road around

8:00am, demanding implemen-

Witnesses said the clashes broke out when police resisted the demonstrators trying to blocktheroad at 9:00am.

For around two hours, the workers fought pitched battles with the law enforcers in Kuril Bishwa Road and Radisson Hotel

Several policemen had to swim across the canal beside the Airport Road to flee a group of angryworkers in their wake.

Traffic on the road returned to normal at 11:30am. Some of the workers left the

Airport Road and returned to their factories, ransacking all three units. Nizamul Huq Mollah, additional deputy commissioner of

police (Gulshan division), told The Daily Star they arrested seven people in connection with the violence. Our Narayanganj correspondent reports: At least 25 people including five cops were injured

during chase and counter-chase between police and garment workers in Rupganj yesterday morning. Police held five people on the

The workers, mostly of Robin

Tex BD Ltd at Bhulta Gausia,

closure of the factory following

blocked Dhaka-Sylhet highway for an hour and ransacked several vehicles. They were protesting the

Saturday's violence, which left 10 people injured. As the workers went to work around 8:00am yesterday, they saw the closure notice and flew into a rage.

They tried to go inside the factory but were resisted by the law enforcers who had been deployed there after Saturday's violence. Thwarted, they took to

Dhaka-Sylhet highway and

ransacked seven vehicles, halting vehicular movement for an At around 10:00am, law enforcers lobbed 15 teargas shells and baton-charged the

demonstrators. They also shot 38 times in the air to bring the situation under control.

BNP tells

FROM PAGE 16 democratic institutions so that it can rule the country without any

opposition party, but people will not allow this, they said. They protested "repression" on the opposition and called upon representatives of foreign countries and donor agencies in Bangladesh to raise their voice against violation of human rights

in the country. The leaders and professionals were speaking at a discussion meeting on 'Erosion of Political Rights, Gathering Storms', at a city hotel on the occasion of Human Rights Day 2010. A forum of pro-

BNP professionals -- G-9-- organ-The speakers also criticised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her recent remarks about Nobe laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus The way the premier blasted him is unfortunate since he is the most

respected Bangladeshi in the A video presentation on the recent incidents of human rights violation across the country was

aired at the discussion meeting. Representatives of several embassies and donor agencies were present at the programme, but none of them spoke despite repeated requests from the

organisers. Speakers included BNP leaders MK Anwar, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Nasiruddin Asim and senior journalist Shafik

Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday urged the prime minister to withdraw her "unparliamentary and objectionable' statement in parliament about the Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia for the sake of healthy

untrue" statement of the PM from the House proceedings.

government movement.

trying to confuse people through false propaganda against Khaleda Zia and her family. But people don't want this government to continue in power any

ters and 10 rounds of rubber bullet to disperse the demonstrators and picked up 30 people from the spot.

democratic practices. He also urged the Speaker to expunge the "indecorous and

Muktangon, the BNP leader warned that any malicious campaign against Khaleda Zia and her

Rehman. MKAnwar said the ALgovernment wants to eliminate the opposition to perpetuate its rule but people will not accept it. Urging all to take a serious note of the human rights situation in the country, Moyeen Khan said the government is involved in 95 percent incidents of human rights violation. DELWARASKSPM BNP Secretary General

Addressing a protest rally organised by Jatiyatabadi Swechhasebak Dal at the city's

family cannot stop the anti-

He said the government is

tation of the newwage scale. The clashes led to the closure of the entire CEPZ in the morning and suspension of production at three factories in Dhaka wage structure. and another in Narayanganj. The CEPZ houses 156 factories with