Govt forces attack

FROM PAGE 1 east of Tripoli, and the oil port city of Ras Lanuf, 660 km east

of the capital. Government spokesmen said Gaddafi's forces won a series of swift victories, but many of the towns remained in rebel hands, Reuters reporters at the scene and witnesses said.

The rebels said they had withdrawn from the coastal town of Bin Jawad, occupied Saturday in an advance westward on Sirte, Gaddafi's home town, after clashes which doctors said left two dead and around 50 wounded.

It was the first time since the uprising against the Libyan leader began on February 15 that the rebels have admitted conceding ground to his forces.

Gaddafi loyalists were nevertheless jubilant over the reports and automatic gunfire

Around 4,000 people flooded into Green Square. Military and paramilitary forces fired into the air, unconcerned about falling

"We are shooting to celebrate because we are beating Al-Oaeda. We have won, Al-Qaeda is gone," one soldier oldAFP.

Women and children oined the crowds, and an AFP reporter witnessed children as young as seven firing pistols in the air.

AFP reporters in Ras Lanuf, taken by rebels early on Saturday, confirmed the town was still in opposition hands despite being hit by air strikes early yesterday.

About 49 evacuees, mostly

Bangladeshi nationals, were

on board the Ionian King that

docked in the port of Souda

late Saturday. The ship sailed

with 1,288 evacuees from

Tripoli in Libya, reports news

Coast Guard and Navy ves-

sels, a military helicopter and

fishing boats were scouring

the waters off the coast of

Crete in search of the miss-

ing, the Merchant Marine

It was unclear why the

men jumped, but authorities

said they might be trying to

avoid being sent back to

Ships have been ferrying

thousands of evacuees from

Libya to Crete. The latest

arrivals were the Ionian King

and the Nissos Rhodes that

were carrying mostly

Bangladeshi workers fleeing

authorities after seeing peo-

ole in the water and on a

beach near Souda in the early

hours of Sunday. The Coast

Four were treated in a

nearby Naval Hospital and

the rest, mostly suffering

from hypothermia, was

taken to a hospital in the city

One died on the way to

hospital, while authorities

logistics to offer all the sup-

ports. HIV patients have to go

to ICDDRB for pathological

tests, as we don't have any

said Jagodish Chandra, senior

The hospital has no surgi-

cal and intensive care units.

"Patients here are expected

not to be requiring any sur-

gery or any other urgent medi-

cal intervention," he added

If one's condition deterio-

rates or if they suffer a heart

attack, stroke etc, they are

moved to other hospitals,

Hasibul Haque, a medical

It treats on average 250

patients a day at its outpatient

department. Bed occupancy

rate at this 100-bed hospital is

Though patients here are

55 percent, said IDH sources.

supposed to get blood and

have to buy everything.

injections free of cost, they

Things get even worse

when in-patients develop

various complications. As the

hospital does not have the

facilities to continue their

treatment, those patients

officer at IDH, said, "This

modern equipment here,

consultant at IDH.

rather sarcastically.

added Dr Jagodish.

only rabies patients."

of Chania, the ministry said.

Guard found 29 men there.

Locals alerted the Greece

the fighting in Libya.

Nearly a dozen Greece

agency AP.

Ministry said.

Bangladesh.

But residents in Misrata said government tanks had begun shelling the town and warned of "carnage" if the international community did not intervene.

A rebel spokesman confirmed that Misrata was under intense fire from pro-Gaddafi forces and reported 'casualties' but insisted the city was still in rebel hands.

A rebel officer, Colonel Bashir al-Moghrabi, told reporters in Ras Lanuf rebels were also still in control in Zawiyah, west of Tripoli, where fierce battles took place on Saturday.

However, wounded streaming back from Bin Jawad to Ras Lanuf said Gaddafi loyalists lured them into a trap, secreting themselves in homes, mingling with civilians and hunkering down on rooftops.

France vesterday conreverberated around the demned the use of force against Libyan civilians and "pays homage to the bravery of populations subjected to violence, in Zawiyah and other Libyan localities," a foreign ministry official said.

A French journalist shot in the leg told AFP he had been driving with rebel fighters towards Bin Jawad when their vehicle was hit by a hail of

The rebels had vowed to march on Sirte from Bin Jawad, which was the furthest point AFP saw them deployed along the Mediterranean coast on Saturday.

Britain's Defence Secretary Liam Fox said vesterday that a 'small British diplomatic team' was in Benghazi talking to rebels,

recovered the bodies of two

rescued on Sunday morning,

International Organization

for Migration (IOM) said it

strengthened evacuation of

the Bangladeshi nationals,

who took shelter in border

areas in Egypt and Tunisia

after fleeing Libyan conflicts.

around 7,000 Bangladeshis

on Tunisia border and 6,500

more on Egypt border. But

another 14,000 are yet to be

registered with the organisa-

foreign nationals at the two

borders now are

Bangladeshis," said an IOM

flying the Bangladeshis

home, as repatriation of

other nationals from Libya

flights with more seating

said on an average, at least

500 Bangladeshis would be

flown back home every day.

The number could go up to

were repatriated from Libya

until yesterday. Of them, the

IOM repatriated 1,432 while

have to turn to other hospitals

do not want them because

they do not have proper quar-

antine facilities, said Habiba

Akhter, executive director of

Ashar Alo Society, an NGO

working for the people living

an HIV patient who devel-

oped cancer while under

treatment at IDH had to be

shifted to International

Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease

Research, Bangladesh

(ICDDR,B), as this hospital

was not equipped to handle

man, told The Daily Star that

That patient, an elderly

"They could not even

diagnose my cancer. I had to

go outside for X-rays, electro-

cardiogram and

ultrasonogram and suffer a lot

just because they [IDH] don't

and nurses at IDH are not

sincere at all as caregivers.

"They came wearing masks

nosed with cancer recently

said he had to receive radio-

therapy from the National

Another IDH patient diag-

and talked to us from afar."

He also said the doctors

have these services."

Citing an example, she said

with HIV/AIDS.

him.

hospital seems to have he had been given nominal

become a treatment centre for treatment and care at IDH.

However, most hospitals

Hospital in need of care

About 3,994 Bangladeshis

"IOM is trying to charter

The IOM spokesperson

The IOM now focuses on

spokesperson in Dhaka.

neared to a close.

capacity," he said.

600, he said.

"Nearly 80 percent of

The IOM registered

Four more people were

Meanwhile, the

3 drown in Greek waters

more men in the water.

reports AP.

after reports the insurgents were holding a British special forces unit and a junior diplo-

"We are in touch with them but it would be inappropriate for me to comment further on that for reasons I am quite sure you understand," Fox told BBC television.

The Sunday Times newspaper said the Special Air Service (SAS) soldiers, thought to be up to eight men, were captured along with the diplomat in the rebel-held east.

The rebels scored a diplomatic victory when France on Sunday hailed the creation of their "National Council", saying it supported its objec-

The rebels formed the council on Saturday at a meeting in Benghazi, the rebel stronghold in the east of the North African country.

Meanwhile, Gaddafi's government asked the Arab League to reverse a February 22 decision suspending in from the organisation's meetings, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Kaaim said.

Gaddafi told the French weekly Le Journal du Dimanche he wanted the United Nations or the African Union to probe the unrest and promised: "We will let this panelworkunhampered."

An estimated 100,000 mainly foreign migrants have crossed from Libya into Tunisia since February 20, Tunisian officials said. Many have been evacuated home in an international effort but thousands remain in temporary camps facing growing problems of hygiene.

foreign ministry.

Around 1,300 more

Those returning home

Bangladeshis will be brought

back home by March 10

under IOM's arrangement,

from Tunisia and Egypt said

they were in dire straits in the

The IOM said the UN

refugee agency has set up

camps and is providing the

evacuees with food. The

International Committee of

the Red Cross (ICRC) is giving

high but the international

agencies are trying their best

to take care of the refugees, it

cies now do not have access

to Libyan cities, except

Saturday announced a \$3

million contribution to IOM

as part of a joint US-IOM

partnership to strengthen

efforts to repatriate thou-

sands of foreign nationals

taking shelter on the Egypt

\$25.7 million to assist more

than 200,000 people affected

by the crisis in Libya for the

Institute of Cancer and

Research Hospital, hiding that

sources, the hospital does not

have machines for Cluster of

Differences 4 count (immu-

nity test). Though there is an

X-ray machine, it seldom

works. Apart from some rou-

tine blood tests, nothing can

Pervez, assistant scientist at

ICDDR,B, said IDH is sup-

posed to address all the prob-

lems of its patients. For the

new machines and facilities.

tious diseases hospitals

abroad provide all the sup-

ports necessary for patients.

"In India, they even give

expensive anti-retroviral to

number of people living with

AIDS is increasing every year,

the government should have a

sound infrastructure and

system to better tackle the

She noted that since the

Mohammad Moshtag

According to the IDH

The ICRC is appealing for

and Tunisia borders.

next two months.

he is HIV positive.

be done.

isolation corner.

patients."

situation.

Benghazi, the IOM said.

The international agen-

The United States on

The number of evacuees is

said the spokesperson.

cold and windy desert.

them medicine.

Beijing Youth Daily said. "They are using the Internet to create and disseminate false information, incite illegal gatherings in a bid to the rest returned home either bring the chaos in the Middle with the help of their compa-East and North Africa to nies or on their own, said the China, to mess up China."

A report in the Jiefang Daily, the official Communist Party mouthpiece in Shanghai, carried a similar opinion piece, urging people to "maintain social harmony and stability."

"People must... highly cherish and consciously maintain hard-won stability like they take care of their own eyes," it said.

The anonymous calls for rallies each Sunday, inspired by popular uprisings in the Arab world, have heightened official concern about unrest in China amid growing resentment at issues such as a yawning wealth gap and corruption.

Stalker stabs

FROM PAGE 20 He also tried to make advances to Hira when her parents were away at work,

she added. Six months ago Jamal, driver of a CNG-run threewheeler, came up with a marriage proposal on behalf of Mamun, Hira's mother, a domestic help, told The Daily

Star.

"We were shocked that Mamun, being a married man and father of a child himself could behave so outrageously," she said.

We informed locals who beat up Mamun and drove him and Jamal away from the area," added Hira's mother.

However, Mamun reappeared a few days ago and threatened to pour acid on Hira if his proposal was not accepted.

Enamul Huq, officer-incharge (OC) of Hazaribagh Police Station, said they were trying to arrest Mamun. A case would be filed against him soon under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, he added.

India allows

FROM PAGE 20 Communications and IT Sachin Pilot told reporters

HIV patients, there must be an here yesterday. The minister, on the last leg of his three-day visit to IDH authorities said they do not have enough resources border districts of and manpower for setting up Rajasthan, said "We will improve our signal strength

Ashar Alo director Habiba in the border areas as it is Akhter said this should not be important from the security the case. State-owned infecpoint of view."

> On reports of Pakistani mobile network being used near the border areas of Jaisalmer and Bikaner, he said "We have taken strict action whenever we came across the incident of people using Pakistan mobile network in the border areas. Ministry of Home, Defence and Department of Telecom are working together to

counter such activities."

DU students go berserk 6.2 magnitude

FROM PAGE 1

earthquake

Chile

AFP, Santiago

ernment reported.

hits northern

An earthquake measuring 6.2

hit an area of northern Chile

early yesterday, the US gov-

reports of damage or victims.

There were no immediate

The quake was deep, 87

kilometres underground. It

was cantered 93 kilometres

east of Tacna, Peru and 1,060

kilometres southeast of Lima.

Chinese state

China's state media stepped

up its criticism of calls for anti-

government rallies yesterday,

saying stability was key amid

concern that unrest sweeping

the Middle East could spread

after a similar comment piece

was published for the first

time in a state-run newspa-

per, amid renewed online

calls for citizens to gather in

dozens of cities to participate

in "strolling" demonstrations

that some people with ulterior

motives at home and abroad

are using various means to

incite 'street politics'," a

report on the front page of the

"Firstly we must recognise

The reports came a day

media slams

calls for

protests

to the Asian nation.

yesterday.

AFP, Beijing

night formed a five-member committee to probe the incidents.

The meeting also decided to give Tk 2 lakh to the family of Redowan and file a case with Motijheel Police Station in connection with the incident. Around 10:30am, hun-

dreds of students thronged Shahbagh intersection and set fire to a Mirpur-bound bus near Shishu Park.

A panic spread through Shahbagh, Shishu Park, Nilkhet and Kantabon and the areas near Sheraton Hotel and Engineers' Institution of Bangladesh as the students ran wild ransacking vehicles.

Police lobbed around 25 teargas canisters and batoncharged to disperse the students who retaliated with brickbats and demonstrated burning tires on roads. Krishnapanda Roy,

Ramna division deputy commissioner, said several policemen suffered minor wounds when they tried to take the situation under Shahbagh police officer-

in-charge Rezaul Karim said over 60 vehicles had been damaged at Shahbagh, Shishupark and DU areas and near Hotel Sheraton. The Shahbagh OC also

said they detained Rahmat Ullah, a student of Islamic Studies department of DU.

Owners and drivers of several damaged vehicles filed general diaries with the Shahbagh Police Station, the OC said.

During the clashes, traffic on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, and on roads from Press Club to Palashi via Shahbagh, Kantabon and Nilkhet was halted for over two hours.

However, police also did not let any vehicle enter the DU campus.

at Motijheel Saturday night.

into a fight and the bus workers had an upper hand. The students later mobilised others including Redwan from campus to fight back.

dent of Arabic department, nessed the Saturday night's Motijheel some policemen had detained Redwan, Zisan and Mostakim.

snatched Redowan and Zisan from the lawenforcers.

under a running truck after beating him up and pushed Zisan into a drain. Mostakim however escaped.'

the same department, said, and Zisan mercilessly but I managed to flee."

an Arabic department stu-

dent, was admitted to Combined Military Hospital, Dhaka.

city

Sources said during the clash between students and bus workers, some of the students forced the driver of Himalaya Paribahan to take his bus from Motijheel to Mohsin Hall of DU.

Himalaya Paribahan authorities could not be contacted immediately and the reason behind the argument is still unknown. However, Motifheel

Police Station OC Tofazzal Hossain said "The student was run over by a truck when he tried to cross the road running." "We took him to Dhaka

Medical College Hospital in a critical condition," said the Asked, the OC, however,

said he was not aware of any incident that injured some other students. Shahbagh OC Rezaul

Karim said they seized a bus from the playground of Mohsin Hall and rescued its driver Mizanur Rahman. As there was a huge rush

at DMCH, Redowan was taken to the intensive care unit of Anwar Khan Modern Medical College and Hospital in Dhanmondi where he died at 2:05am yesterday.

Muhammad Redowan was laid to rest at their family graveyard in Angaria village of Jhalakathi last night. He was the second among three sons and a daughter of Muhammad Alauddin.

Removal letter illegal

The Nobel laureate vesterday submitted to the HC some relevant papers including the copy of his letter to Finance Minister AMA Muhith. The hearing was held to supplement his writ petition and submissions. Yunus sent the handwrit-

ten letter to the finance minister on March 15, 2010 saying he had long been looking for a respectable way to quit his post and ensure sustainability of the organisation. The submissions were

made to remove the legal confusion about his holding the office at Grameen Bank, his lawyers said.

On March 3, the HC bench fixed March 6 for passing an order on the writ.

Mahmudul Islam told the court that Bangladesh Bank has exempted Yunus from office without serving him any show-cause notice, which is illegal, malafide and arbitrary.

It is not correct that there was no necessity of issuing a show-cause notice, since he continued in the office in line with the relevant laws, he said citing some reference laws. The lawyer made the submission in reply to an argument placed by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam on March 3.

The attorney general told the HC bench that Yunus is now around 70, and according to the Section 36 of the Grameen Bank Ordinance, 1983, he cannot hold the office of the managing direc-

The bank was established as per the ordinance, and according to section 36, the retirement age of its officials is 60. This provision is applicable to Yunus as well,

Mahbubey Alam said. Rokanuddin Mahmud said Bangladesh Bank has no right to appoint or relieve or remove anyone from

Grameen Bank as per the Service Rules. Only the Board of

Directors of Grameen Bank can do so as per the provisions of the Ordinance under which the bank was established, he said. The Board of Directors of Grameen decided in 1999

and again in 2009 that Yunus, founder of the institution, may hold the office of managing director as long as he wishes, the lawyer pointed Rokanuddin said to exercise its power to give direc-

tives, Bangladesh Bank has to be satisfied with some issues in respect of exercising Section 45 of the Bank Companies Act, 1991.

satisfied whether this section Melanne Verveer and Yunus is used for the sake of public interest or monetary and banking policies, he argued. The lawyer said it was not

mentioned in the letter whether Bangladesh Bank exercised its power under the section. He made this argument in

reply to a point of Mahbubey Alam, who said on March 3 that as per Section 45 of the Bank Companies Act, 1991, Bangladesh Bank has the authority to remove any person from Grameen Bank. The HC bench heard

submissions from Yunus counsels for two hours and then adjourned the hearing. The central bank on

March 2 sent a letter to Grameen Bank Chairman Khondoker Muzammel Huq relieving Yunus of his duties.

On March 3, eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain appeared for Yunus and placed a long argument before the HC bench for an order asking the government to explain why the Bangladesh Bank's "letter of removal" should not be declared illegal.

Dr Kamal told the court

But the court rejected the

ally and regularly approved Grameen's activities and operations and other orders for over 11 years. No question

was raised about the issue

during the period.

that the central bank annu-

The HC bench may hold hearing today on the writ filed by nine members of the board of directors of Grameen Bank, who challenged the legality of the Bangladesh Bank's letter.

YUNUS CANCELS USVISIT Muhammad Yunus, who was to visit the US to meet Hillary Clinton and address a microcredit summit, has cancelled the tour due to preoccupation at home, said a Grameen Bank official.

US Ambassador-at-Large The central bank has to be for Global Women's Issues were scheduled to speak at the launch of the State of the Microcredit Summit Campaign today in Washington, DC.

Prof Yunus was also expected to meet US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on March 8. The meeting will be held later, said a source.

Irish set for coalition govt

BBC ONLINE The leaders of the Irish

Republic's two largest parliamentary parties say they have agreed to form a new coalition government. Talks between the centre-

right Fine Gael and the centre-left Labour Party centred on how to tackle the deficit and public sector cuts. Last week's election saw

Fianna Fail roundly defeated over its handling of Ireland's economic crisis. Fine Gael fell short of a

majority with 76 seats while Labour took 37 seats.

Cops asked to appeal

FROM PAGE 20

Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain also ordered the police to appeal to the lower court for placing them on remand in this connection.

Superintendent of Police prayer again. The SP said he is unable

> The court relieved him of the charge and replaced him by the chief executive officer

of the district council of

petition. The court also directed

for further orders on the

the police to ensure security of the Bogra correspondents of The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo and Custodian of Mahasthangarh Archaeological Museum Naheed Sultana.

Hasibur Rahman Bilu of The Daily Star, Milon Rahman of the Prothom Alo and Custodian Naheed Sultana on Wednesday appeared before the court and said some people involved in the land grabbing are threatening to "punish" them by filing false

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1

the institution and the poor will be deprived of the privileges," she said in a statement signed by her Press Secretary Maruf Kamal Khan.

The opposition leader called upon people of all walks of life, including members of the bank, to play a courageous role against this vindictive conspiracy of the government. "Grameen Bank is

engaged in the development of the rural poor, especially women, and both national and international research and audits have recognised this bank's success," she said.

"Micro credit projects have also been used as a weapon to alleviate poverty in Africa, South America, and even in the United States," she added.

The former premier said disrespect towards Dr Yunus revealed the ignorance of some government top officials about his contributions. This attitude of the government is being condemned both within and outside the country.

The BNP chairperson, in her first ever reaction on the issue, said, Dr Yunus wanted time and opportunity to leave his post at Grameen Bank in a decent way, but he did not get that chance.

UK to arrange FROM PAGE 1

situation on the Libyan border with Tunisia," said Andrew Mitchell, the

Development Secretary. "I vowed that we would do everything possible to give those stranded shelter and get them back home as quickly as possible,"

International

Andrew Mitchel added. According to foreign ministry sources, over 15,000 Bangladeshi citizens who fled Libya have

been stranded in Tunisia. Reports from Tunisia said the British minister, during his visit to the transit camp just beyond the border area near Rad Ajdir on Friday, met some of the

191,693 displaced migrant workers, including many from Bangladesh. Following his visit, the British government decided to provide three commercial charter planes to fly 500 Bangladeshis

airport for Dhaka yester-Andrew Mitchell said, "We have already evacuated more than 6,000 Egyptians and this early action has so far prevented a humanitarian crisis. But Britain is not complacent,

that is why we are acting

now to get 500

home. The planes were due

to leave Tunisia's Djerba

Bangladeshis home safely. "Unless we continue to relieve the numbers in border camps, there is still a real danger, the situation will deteriorate rapidly. We are prepared for further surges of people who may be on the other side of the

border. "But the rest of the world must join Britain in giving their assistance to help transport them back home to restart their lives."

HC asks

FROM PAGE 20

On January 19, the HC issued the suo moto rule against Kashem, asking him to explain why he should not be punished on contempt of court charges for breaking ships violating its order.

The court, however, exempted him from the contempt charge, as he apologised to the court yesterday.

The suo moto rule fol-

lowed the deaths of four workers of MAK Corporation in an explosion on January 18. The bench also directed the government to stop all kinds of scrapping of ships in the country until further order. Following a writ petition

by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela), the HC in March 2009 ordered the government not to allow any ship to enter the country without cleaning its in-built toxic substance.

(SP) of Bogra Humayun Kabir, Officer-in-charge (OC) Mokaddem Ali of Shibganj Police Station and OC of sadar Police Station Khalequzzaman appeared before the bench.

They said the police had arrested Khokon, Sabuj and Saiful on charge of damaging and grabbing the land of Mahasthangarh, and had Bogra. prayed to a Bogra court for

The bench fixed April 6 cases against them.

prayer and granted bail to the accused.

their remand.

The bench asked the police to appeal to the HC for their remand, if the lower court rejects the remand

to discharge his duty as a member of the committee formed by the HC to recommend ways to protect the site, as he is busy with his official work.

THE DEATH Friends and classmates of Redowan said some DU students became embroiled in a quarrel with the workers of a Himalaya Paribahan bus

The students were returning from Sonargaon by the bus.

The argument escalated Ozayer Hossain, a stu-

who claimed to have witincident, told The Daily Star, "During the clash at "But some of the workers

"They pushed Redwan

Mostakim, a student of "The workers beat Redowan

Injured Zisan, who is also