



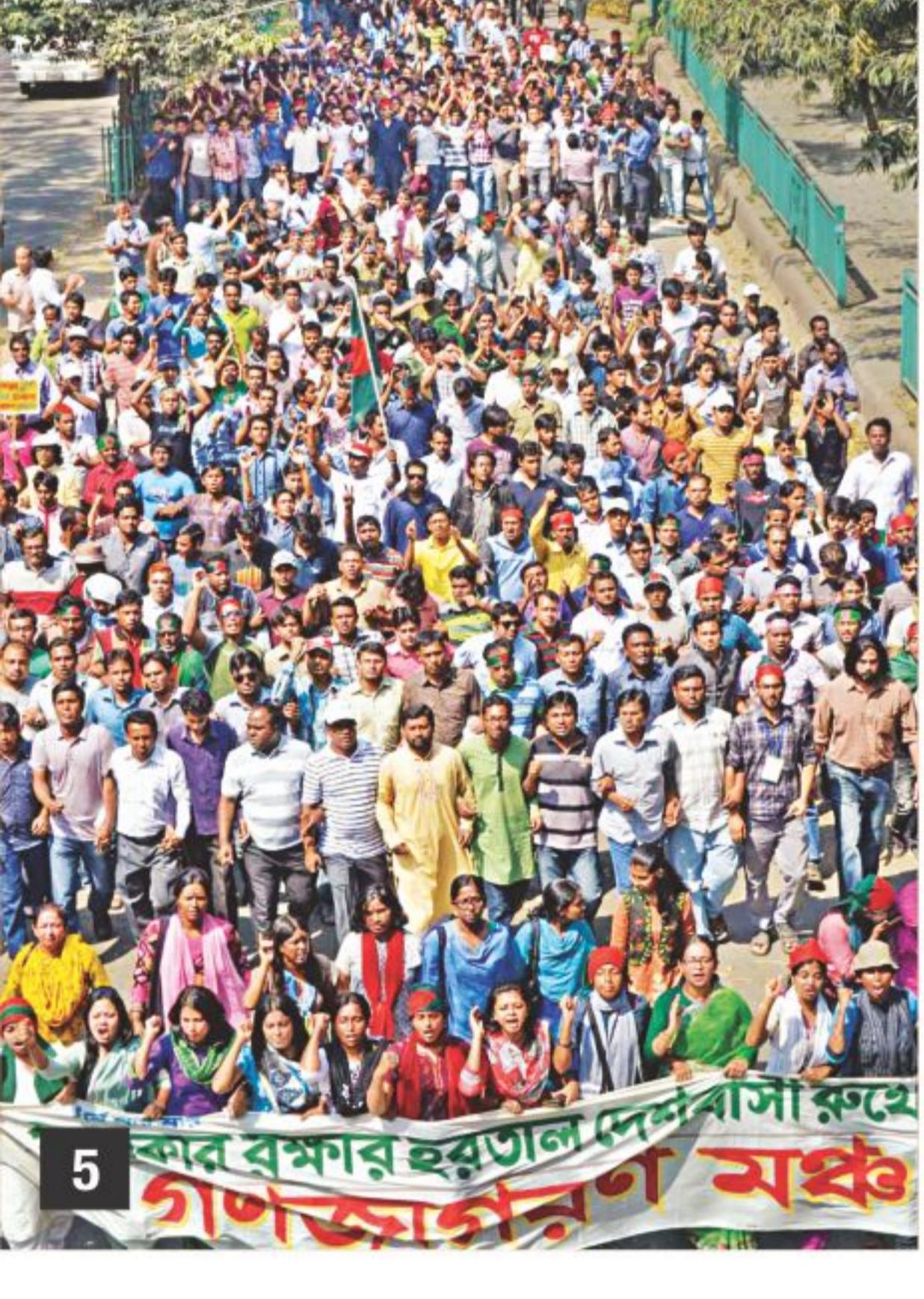
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JAMAAT VIOLENCE AND RESISTANCE

1) A Jamaat-e-Islami activist fleeing after he and fellow activists set fire to furniture, documents and vehicles of Nandigram Upazila Parishad in Bogra yesterday. 2) Another Jamaat man sets fire to furniture and vehicles of Koigari Police Outpost in Bogra town. 3) Police with locals remove a tree Jamaat and Islami Chhara Shibir activists used to barricade City Bypass Road in Rajshahi city while smoke rises from a truck set alight by the activists. 4) A Jamaat activist helps stoke a fire right in the middle of a road in Bogra town. 5) A procession of the Shahbagh demonstrators before Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in the capital chanting slogans to defy the 48-hour hartal called by Jamaat. 6) People flying in from abroad resort to an ambulance at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital to reach home. 7) Police carry out random checks on bus passengers in the capital's Paltan intersection to prevent subversive activities. 8) Jamaat-Shibir activists vandalise a shop owned by a Juba League man on Sherpur Road in Bogra town. 9) Projonmo '71 brings out a procession in Segunbagicha of Magura town calling on people to defy Jammat's hartal call. 10) A rickshaw burns after being set alight by Jamaat-Shibir men on Shaheed Shahidullah Kaisar Road in Feni town. 11) A bus set alight by the activists burns in Fatullah of Narayanganj. 12) Quite a number of vehicles plied the streets of Chittagong city defying yesterday's hartal. 13) Bricks scattered over Dhaka-Pabna highway by Jamaat-Shibir activists to create a blockade.

PHOTO: STAR, FOCUS BANGLA, BANGLAR CHOKH



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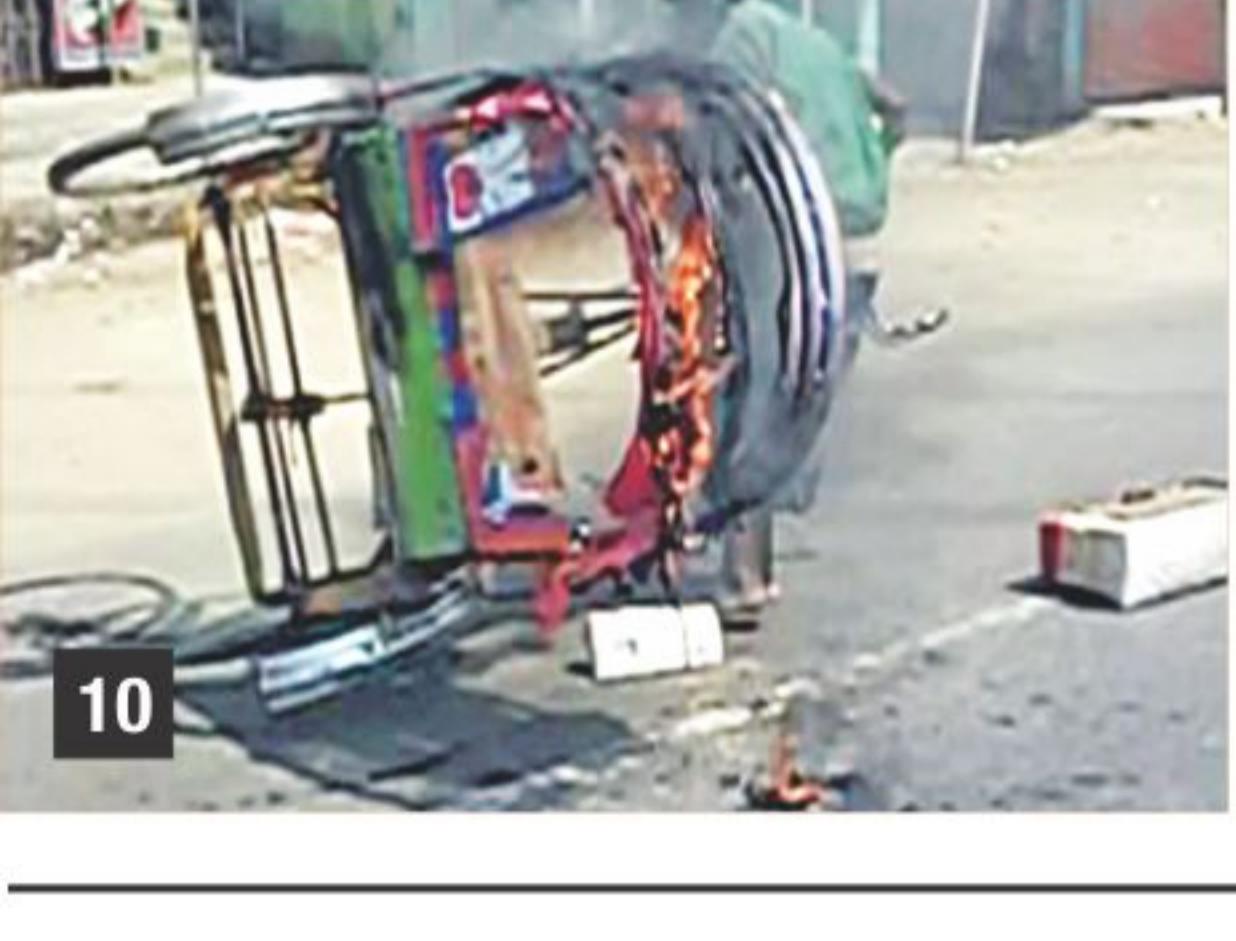
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Lifespan of Bangladeshis increased: Health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The average lifespan of Bangladeshi people has increased from 65 years to 69 in the last four years due to improvement in the health sector, said Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr AFM Ruhal Haque yesterday.

Although the government has achieved numerous successes in the health sector, those have not been recognised due to lack of publicity, the minister told reporters at his secretariat office.

Reading a report, the minister said the current population growth rate is 1.37 percent while it was 1.41 percent in 2008.

The rate of underweight babies fell to 36 percent in 2011 from 2007's 41 percent, he said.

Besides, some infectious diseases including polio were removed and other diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, avian influenza and anthrax have been brought under control, he said.

He said, "More than 15 crore people have been attended to through around 13,000 community clinics across the country."

Ruhal Haque said the government has appointed sufficient number of doctors, nurses and other health assistants to extend health services to the root level.

Parliament passes silk development bill

BSS, Sangsad Bhaban

"Bangladesh Silk Development Board Bill, 2013" was passed in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday with a provision to constitute Bangladesh Silk Development Board integrating the Bangladesh Silk Board, Bangladesh Silk Research and Training Institute and Bangladesh Silk Foundation to ensure a quick development of this sector.

Textiles and Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddique piloted the bill in the House for passage.

Earlier on February 27, the report of the parliamentary standing committee on the bill was placed in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Meanwhile, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen yesterday placed "Bangladesh Water Bill, 2013" in the Jatiya Sangsad to ensure proper use of the water resources.

38 BNP leaders sued for violence on Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty eight BNP leaders, including its acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and standing committee member Moudud Ahmed, were sued yesterday for violence in the capital on Saturday.

Some 1,200 unnamed activists of the main opposition were also accused in the five cases filed.

Police filed the cases accusing the BNP leaders and activists of torching and damaging vehicles and attacking cops during clashes in the city's Kakrail, Shantinagar and Shahjahanpur areas on Saturday afternoon.

Of the cases, two were filed with Ramna Police Station, two with Paltan Police Station and one with Shahjahanpur Police Station.

The others accused include Gayeshwar Chandra Roy and Mirza Abbas, BNP standing committee members, Abdullah Al Noman, BNP vice chairman, Amanullah Aman, joint secretary general, Moazzem Hossain Alal, Juba Dal president, Saiful Alam Nirob, general secretary of Juba Dal, and Sultan Salahuddin Tuku, former Jatiyatabadi Chhatri Dal president.

During Saturday's violence, a local BNP leader was killed, two private cars were torched and 15 vehicles were damaged.