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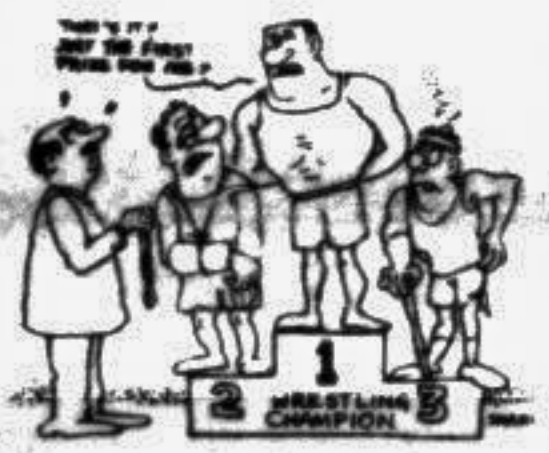
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## One killed, over 100 hurt in clashes during hartal

By Staff Correspondent

At least one person was killed in the city and over 100 injured at various places in the country in violent clashes on the concluding day yesterday of the Opposition-called 32-hour hartal.

The victim, a rickshaw-puller, was shot dead and 12 persons were injured when two rival groups clashed at Mirpur in the city at the fag end of the hartal. Eight others were injured in some other parts of the city, 30 in Savar, 20 in Sylhet, 15 in Narayanganj, and 12 in Sirajganj as pickets clashed with police and anti-hartal activists.

Police picked up 15 people for picketing in the city during the hartal hours till 2:00 pm yesterday.

Life was paralysed throughout the country. Educational institutions remained closed and most economic activities were suspended during the shutdown. Attendance in government offices was also thin.

All modes of transports remained off the streets. Few rickshaws were seen plying in the capital. Inter-district bus, train and launch services were severely hampered. Biman was forced to suspend four domestic flights and to rescheduled two international flights yesterday.

The non-stop hartal, which started at 6:00 am Saturday, was called by the three major opposition parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami — demanding dissolution of the parliament and immediate holding of general elections under a caretaker government.

Sporadic bomb blasts and gun shots rocked different areas of the city as well as a number of other areas in the country during the last hours of the hartal. In the city, at least 20 people were injured in clashes during hartal hours.

Rickshawpuller Rahim Badshah (25) was shot dead in the clashes that began in two phases from 10:30 pm and ended at around 3:00 pm between two armed rival gangs of Bishilpara and Pikepara under Mirpur thana, while seven people received bullet injury, witnesses and



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was seen off by Law and Justice Minister Mirza Ghulam Hafiz at the, Zia International Airport yesterday on the eve of her departure for Beijing to attend the Fourth World Conference on Women. — PID photo



HOME THEY BROUGHT HER SON DEAD: A speechless mother beside the body of her son Abdur Rahim, killed at Mirpur in the city during hartal hours yesterday. — Star photo

## PM's speech provoked attacks, says Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, skirting round the Prime Minister's renewed offer for a dialogue, said yesterday that she had rather wanted the PM to accept the popular demand for polls under a non-party caretaker government the day before she (PM) reiterated her offer.

"But she (PM), instead of doing that, had delivered a provocative speech as if she is an opposition leader," Hasina told a huge public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

The AL leader, however, did not directly reject the PM's dialogue offer although most of her senior party colleagues, addressing the AL's post-hartal rally, ruled out any possibility of returning to the negotiating table.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, addressing her party's founding day public meeting in the city on Friday, called upon the agitating Opposition to sit for a dialogue with an 'open mind' and also warned of tough measures to check any destructive activities in the name of agitation.

The way she spoke does not suit her as she is the Prime Minister. Her remarks provoked her party activists to attack pro-hartal Opposition workers at Mirpur in the city, at Laxmipur, at Narsingdi and many other places," Hasina said.

In this regard, the AL chief alleged that three of her party activists — Rahim, Jamal and Sajju — were killed by pro-government armed terrorists at Mirpur at the fag end of the 32-hour country-wide hartal yesterday.

She also announced a three-day programme including a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the city on September 6 to protest the killings and the summoning of the illegal Parliament. The 21st session of the Parliament begins on

## Dawn-to-dusk hartal on Sept 6

By Staff Correspondent

Major opposition parties — the Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami — yesterday announced identical programmes, including a dawn to dusk hartal in the city on September 6.

The hartal call was given to protest the killing of one rickshawpuller and press the demand for immediate general elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, Jatiya Party acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Jamaat-e-Islami acting ameer Abbas Ali Khan announced the programmes from their post-hartal rallies in the city.

Other programmes are: A mourning procession and *gayebana Janaza* today and country-wide demonstrations tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the Awami See Page 12 Col 8

## World Conference on Women opens in Beijing today

BEIJING, Sept 3: One of the biggest global conferences ever seen will be launched here tomorrow, with more than 170 countries meeting under the UN flag in a bid to sketch a blueprint for the future of the world's women, reports AFP.

But years of preparation for the World Conference on Women have failed to resolve a battle between liberal and conservative countries, the outcome of which will see rights for women strengthened or possibly retreat.

Facing the expected 25,000 delegates from 178 countries is a draft declaration of equality, development and peace, "seeking to address the biggest problems facing women today."

They range from specific legal rights and protection from discrimination to vague concepts of equality and freedom from violence.

But it is fertility — contraception and abortion — that will determine whether the 11-day conference draws up a liberalising document, a fudged one, or a conservative paper that gnaws at rights supposedly enshrined in three preceding UN meetings.

The conservatives comprise a loose alliance of about nine states that, since the start of the 1990s, have joined to attack the liberal vision at UN conferences on population and poverty.

The nine comprise the Vatican and a scattering of traditionally Roman Catholic countries, as well as Muslim countries from the Middle East and South Asia, according to diplomats.

Conservative Muslim states, led by Iran, have added a rider to the debate, saying that the notion of equality of the sexes conflicts with Islamic law.

However, an arch-conservative, Saudi Arabia, has yet to make it known whether it will attend the meeting, and its absence could weaken the anti-liberal line, they said.

On the eve of the conference, roughly a fifth of the draft, key document, the Platform for Action, remains

## PM addresses confce today

BEIJING, Sept 3: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will address the formal opening ceremony of the UN-sponsored Fourth World Conference on Women here tomorrow afternoon, reports UNB.

Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto and Iceland President Mrs Vigdis are also scheduled to address the opening ceremony at the Plenary Hall of the Beijing International Convention Centre.

Begum Zia flew in here tonight to a warm reception for attending the biggest-ever international women's assembly beginning tomorrow (Monday).

Ms Chao Di, Vice President of the All China Women's Federation, received her at the tarmac when she disembarked from a Biman aircraft

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## NGO Forum firm to put forward its issues

Shaheen Anam from Beijing

The leaders of the NGO Forum have expressed their determination to get the Forum's special concerns on the agenda of the UN Conference that opens here today.

The most important issues seem to emerge are violence against women, women's health and empowerment.

The South Asia sees the rise in fundamentalism and the regional peace as the major issues to be placed at the conference.

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## China to relax surveillance

HUAIROU, China, Sept 3: The leader of the world's largest gathering of women said Sunday that China has agreed to relax surveillance and improve transportation, easing concerns that provoked some participants to discuss a boycott, reports AP.

Supatra Masdit, the Thai organiser of the forum, also ruled out a boycott, which one organizer had listed among possible courses of action.

The conference's executive director, Irene Santiago, had said earlier that "appropriate action" would be taken if conditions weren't improved by noon (0400 GMT)

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### NEWS BRIEFS

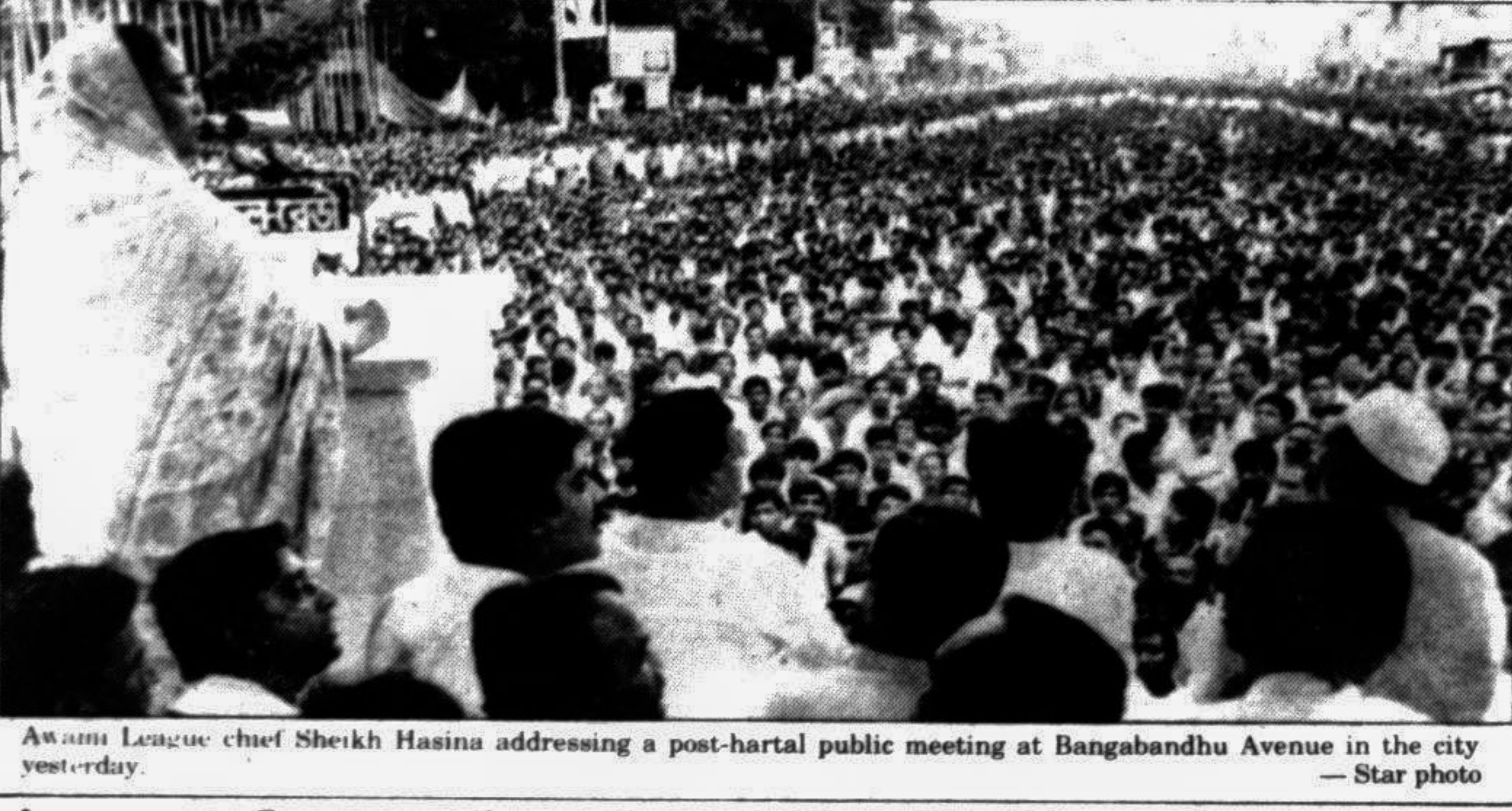
**BNPPP meets tomorrow**  
 An 'emergency' meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) will be held tomorrow at 5 pm to discuss the country's prevailing political situation and matters of the upcoming Parliament session. The meeting will be held in Room No 932 on eighth floor of the West Block of the Sangsad Bhaban, reports UNB.

**Cargo handling at Ctg port resumes**  
 From Staff Correspondent  
 CHITTAGONG, Sept 3: Loading and unloading of cargo resumed at Chittagong port at 2 pm today when the 32-hour hartal called by the opposition parties ended, sources said. Mills and factories also resumed operation at 2 pm.

**Alleged thief shot dead**  
 CHITTAGONG, Sept 3: An alleged thief was shot dead by the railway security force at Pahartali railway workshop early today. Police said Shajahan, 30, of Chandina in Comilla district was gunned down as he was fleeing with railway equipment from the workshop at about 4:30 am, reports UNB.

**Body recovered**  
 From Staff Correspondent  
 BARISAL, Sept 3: The floating body of Golam Mostafa, 42, former OC of Muladi thana was recovered today. He was missing after a Hularhat-bound launch — O MV Mitali-4 — from Dhaka hit a country boat at Muladi launchhat early yesterday.

**Qatari envoy hosts reception**  
 The Ambassador of the state of Qatar, Atiq Naser Al-Badr, hosted a reception in the city yesterday evening in celebration of the 24th anniversary of the National Day of the state of Qatar.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a post-hartal public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Accept demand or face consequences: JP

By Staff Correspondent

Acting chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury yesterday asked the government to accept the demand for general elections under a neutral caretaker government immediately and warned that the agitation would continue until the demand was realised.

There is still time to accept the people's demand. Otherwise, the government will have to face the consequences if people lose their patience," Mizan said while addressing a post-hartal rally at Shapla Chattar at Motijheel in the city.

Chaired by JP city unit president Col (ret'd) M A Malek, the rally was also addressed by Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Anwar Hossain Manju, Barrister Abul Haan and Col (ret'd) Zafar Imam.

Mizan Chowdhury criticised Begum Khaleda Zia for her 'provocative' speech against the opposition saying it appeared from the incident of Mirpur that the Prime Minister had instructed her party workers to kill Opposition members before

## Credibility of govt now under question: Jamaat

By Staff Correspondent

Acting ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Abbas Ali Khan yesterday accused the Prime Minister of delivering a provocative speech against the Opposition from her party's rally last Friday.

"A rickshawpuller had to sacrifice his life as the PM had instigated her party workers to resort to violence," the Jamaat leader told a post-hartal rally at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

"The credibility of the government has now come under question at home and abroad for its recklessness and bullying tactics against

## Raphel likely to discuss political impasse

By Diplomatic Correspondent

US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel, who arrives in Dhaka today on a 4-day visit, is expected to discuss both with the government and the opposition leaders the persisting political impasse, sources said.

Raphel, who is Secretary of State for South Asia, will be meeting some opposition leaders including Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and Moudud Ahmed of Jatiya Party. She will also call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on September 7. The Prime Minister is scheduled to return from Beijing the day before. Raphel is also expected to brief the press prior to her departure.

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Rabin Raphel

## Police resuming duty at Dinajpur

From Morshed Ali Khan

DINAJPUR, Sept 3: Police has started resuming duty in Dinajpur town.

Traffic police were controlling traffic and some police vans carrying armed police were seen on roads after the 32-hour hartal. Policemen inside the vans, with weapons in hand, looked a bit nervous as people stared at them.

During the hartal, BDR was patrolling the streets.

"We want peace. We have nothing against the police as an institution. But they should remember that they wear the uniform to serve the people, not to harm them," said Aminul Haque, a resident of the town who took part in the protests following Yasmin's death.

At the Kotwali thana today, a group of young police officers were busy stock-taking.

The new Officer-in-Charge, Syed Emdadul Haque, who arrived only yesterday from Nature said that for him it was a challenge to be in Dinajpur and to restore normalcy.

"Some policemen started patrolling parts of the town last night. The Ward Commi-

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## Saddam seeks asylum in Mauritania?

WASHINGTON, Sept 3: Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein has engaged in negotiations with Mauritania to secure political asylum for himself and his entourage, a US news magazine reported, says AFP.

US News and World Report also said in its latest edition that traces of chemicals detected on the battlefield indicate that Baghdad may have used chemical weapons during the Gulf War contrary to assertions by the Pentagon.

The news magazine said Mauritania's President Maouya Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya had reacted favourably to the question of asylum for Saddam Hussein in the North African country.

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## Pakistan backs Dhaka's call for OIC summit

Pakistan has welcomed Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's call for an emergency OIC summit on the situation in Bosnia, reports UNB.

In early August, Begum Zia wrote to all OIC heads of state or government for holding an OIC summit immediately to devise ways of protecting territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Muslim republic in the Balkans.

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, describing the call as appropriate and timely, has expressed her desire to attend the summit.