'Aftershocks to rock Gujarat for months'

Aftershocks will rock India's Gujarat state for many more months in the wake of last week's massive earthquake, meteorological officials said Friday

R.K. Kelkar, director general of the Indian Meteorological Department said the magnitude of the earthquake was such that stress. in the region's geology would cause continuing tremors.

"Since Friday, there have already been more than 50 shocks which measured above 3.5 on the Richter scale." he said.

More than 140 shocks above 3.0 on the Richter scale have also been measured.

Kelkar defended his office's measurement of the quake's magnitude at 6.9 on the Richter scale. Foreign seismological stations, including the US Geological Survey,

Kelkar said the discrepancy was due to other agencies using a different "surface view" magnitude sys-

the Guajarat quake have ranged between 30.000 and 100.000 people

Gujarat, which was at the epicentre of the earthquake, lav in the highest

the same category are the states and the remote Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Indian Ocean.

in a quake-sensitive area.

There will be rattling even in Delhi. There are possibilities (of bigger quakes)," Kelkar said, responding to a query on whether the Indian capital itself was vulnera-

implement safety measures," kar added.

He said the meteorological department was setting up six new stations in addition to the 10 which

Wahid refuses to step down

FROM PAGE 12

the scandals.

ever (parliament) says," Witoelar said. "The president is confident in his innocence and asks the people

rily to parliament's demands within 90 days, the legislature can censure him again. A month after that it can

Top security minister Gen. Susilo

"Parliament's decision is nothing to worry about." Yudhoyono said after meeting with Wahid yesterday. "The government is functioning

Still, minister of justice Yusril

"It is better that the president resign because it is clear that the

Earlier this week, the parliamen-

seismic zone for India

The other regions which fall in Himalayan range, northeastern

The Indian capital of Delhi is also

"We should move forward to

Earlier, presidential spokesman Wimar Witoelar told reporters Wahid would meet the legislature's demands that he explain his role in "The president will follow what-

to believe in his innocence. If he does not respond satisfacto-

start impeachment proceedings.

Bambang Yudhoyono said Wahid had already prepared political and legal responses.

Mahendra -- a member of a small Muslim party that voted against Wahid on Thursday -- recommended that Wahid should step

majority (in) parliament supported the letter of reprimand," Yusril said yesterday.

tary committee issued its report

linking Wahid to the scandals, but

presented no conclusive evidence

that he had benefited from the

It claimed Wahid was involved in the illegal transfer of dlrs 4 million from the coffers of the state food agency, Bulog, by a former business associate. It also accused him of failing to officially declare a dlrs 2 million aid donation from Sultan Hasanal Bolkiah, the ruler of neighboring oil-rich Brunei.

The president has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

With the vast majority of lawmakers against him, Wahid's political survival hinges largely on the continuing support of his Megawati Sukarnoputri.

She has yet to comment, but her party -- the largest in parliament -led the charge against him along with the Golkar Party of former dictator Suharto. Ironically, both Golkar and

Megawati's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle have been accused of involvement in corrup-

As the ruling party during Suharto's 32-year dictatorship Golkar was ridden graft in a regime that was regarded as one of the most corrupt on earth. And Megawati was forced recently to fire 13 party officials because of shady financial dealings.

take a full-scale research programme after close examinations of available data.

Initially, the 5,000 tested tubewells were divided into six groups according to degree of contamination, with a tag put on each denoting the level of arsenic in its water.

During a recent visit, members of the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FF.IB) found out that sophisticated equipment linked to satellite are used to examine groundwater at Darishatabandi, a village under Araihazar thana.

Seven monitoring tube-wells have been installed at the depth of 20, 30, 40, 50, 100, 120 and 140 feet respectively, Dr Stute told the FEJB

reporters. Another production deep tubewell has been set up at 300 feet. The idea is to study the degree of arsenic contamination in different layers of

the ground aguifer He said that they would also

TUs at Ctg Port

FROM PAGE 1 The ministry hardly give any direct

appointment, they added, saying 'such appointments may hamper seniority and block the promotion of other employees. Talking to this correspondent

CBA president of Chittagong Port Mahfuzur Rahman Khan said "we would launch a movement to resist such interference by the ministry as it would affect the normal procedure of promotion of our employees."

"Despite repeated appeals the ministry concerned has not yet given clearance to CPA for filling up the 1900 vacant posts here," Khan

not done this even in three weeks

is now in trouble as he had earlier given a report in favour of the kiln. They quoted the TNO as saying that he could now give a report against the kiln if the 'protesters helped' him return the money he had taken from its owner.

Meanwhile, villagers who protested setting up of the brick kiln in their village have come under threat from some local mastans. They have threatened that a case would be filed against the protesters under

Despite repeated attempts. neither the TNO nor the DC could be contacted over telephone.

He said the Kutch area of

dollars 50 years from now if action is not taken to slash greenhouse gas emissions, the UN warned in a report released on Saturday. That would constitute a 750 per cent increase on today's costs of

global warming, and would cost some low-lying states more than 10 per cent of their national wealth. The figures, in a report drawn up from data compiled in part by a

The annual costs of the effects of

global warming could top 300 billion

German reinsurance company, Munich Re, assume that concentrations of carbon dioxide will in 2050 be double those of the pre-industrial "Global warming may cost the world several billion dollars a year unless urgent efforts are made to

curb emissions of carbon dioxide

and the other gases linked with the

greenhouse effect'," said the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in a statement. "Losses due to more frequent tropical cyclones, loss of land as a result of rising sea levels and damage to fishing stocks, agriculture

and water supplies, could annually

cost around 304.2 billion dollars," UNEP said.

Global warming may cost world \$300 b a year: UN

"In some low lying states such as the Maldives, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, the losses linked with climate change could, by 2050. exceed 10 per cent of their national wealth or Gross Domestic Product (GDP)," the statement said.

"The time to act is now," urged UNEP Executive Director Klaus "We must all work to reduce

emissions of greenhouse gases. But mitigation is not enough. 'The world has already signed up to a certain level of human-

induced, climate change, as a result of over a century of industrial emissions primarily from the developed "We must help vulnerable areas of the world, primarily in the developing countries, to adapt to the consequences of global warming We have a moral responsibility to

our fellow men and women to pro-

floods," added Toepfer. "These estimates ... of the costs

of climate change to the world's economy serve to further underline the need for governments to act to avert the damaging impacts of rising greenhouse gas levels in the atmo-

sphere," said the UNEP chief.

According to Gerhard Berz, who heads Munich Re's geo-science research group, climatic change could lead to natural catastrophes, such as cyclones and hurricanes, of hitherto unknown force and freauency.

Extra burdens on water management systems, the increased need for flood defence systems, damage to delicate ecosystems and agricultural land are some of the factors behind the predicted rise in the cost of global warming.

About 100 environment ministers from around the world are due to gather in Nairobi to attend the 21st session of UNEP's Governing Council from February 5 to 9.

A study by thousands of scientists released this year showed that average temperatures across the tect them and their families from world could climb by between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees Centigrade over food shortages to devastating the coming century.

'Uphold dignity of mother tongue'

language through a long struggle and supreme sacrifice. She expressed the hope that people of the world would love their respective mother tongue and uphold its

The Prime Minister said it is a matter of pride for the whole nation that Amar Ekushey would be observed throughout the world as International Mother Language Day. She said the world would also remember the supreme sacrifices

cleared the path for the War of Liberation in 1971 under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through movements against military and autocratic regimes in 1962, '66, '69 and

"We've set an example of how to love the mother tongue by giving blood. We also want people across the world to love their own mother tongues and work together for their development," she said.

Sheikh Hasina paid rich tribute to poet Rabindranath Tagore for bringing international glory to Bangla by winning the Nobel prize and to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for addressing the UN General Assembly in Bangla, thereby giving it international status.

Referring to the proposed Mother Language Research Centre for research on Bengali language and culture, the Prime Minister said that the institute would preserve the specimen of all known and recog-

release said, The Daily Star and the

DHL hope to create an environment

of excellence and competitiveness

which will drive members of the

business community to achieve

greater heights in productivity,

efficiency, financial discipline and

modern management that will make

Bangladesh a worthy partner of the

sought nominations from members

of the public to select deserving

candidates for the awards.

Advertisements were placed in

several dailies to seek nominations.

Nearly three thousand letters were

also sent to members of the busi-

ness community and the civil soci-

background papers on the nomi-

nees. An 11-member panel of

League government, it will not be

possible to win the next general

local BNP, who were implicated in a

case under the Public Safety Act

(PSA) centering a chaos on October

5 last year when Khaleda was

obstructed at Kalaroa, came to meet

the opposition leader after obtaining

Narrating the "misdeeds and

election, she said.

A Daily Star team prepared

AL does not believe

in vote: Khaleda

ety to solicit nominations.

The Daily Star and the DHL

global economy.

ised languages of the world. She noted that so far 4000 specimens were available to carry out research. She said the education ministry is

implementing the project. Sheikh Hasina said that there was no clash between our mother tongue and other foreign languages of the world. "Rather our language would be enriched by interacting with other languages," she said.

She also urged the academicians and educationists to translate books from other languages and this regard and assured all possible cooperation from her government.

Describing the Ekushey Book Fair as an indispensable part of Bengali culture. Hasina said this book fair is not only a commercial fair, but "this is part of our thinking and spirit. She termed the poets, littera-

teurs and intellectuals as the conscience of the nation and hoped that they would try to give a strong mooring to the nation's mind and intellect alongside their creative writings.

The Prime Minister announced that the government would set up a welfare trust for helping the distressed artists, litterateurs and cultural activists. A draft bill has been approved by the cabinet, which would be placed in the next session of parliament.

ence, Hasina said her government has scrapped the Drama Control Act allowing exercise of free thinking in a democratic environment.

"Without democracy, exercise of

free thinking is not possible. We want the poets, litterateurs and cultural activists to get the opportunity to exercise free thinking, which was obstructed since 1975," she told the gathering of litterateurs and intelligentsia

Calling for peace and healthy academic atmosphere on the campus, the Prime Minister said: "We no longer want to hear bomb blasts or gunshots '

She said the situation at the Dhaka University has improved a lot, but it could have improved further had there been cooperation from the opposition. She requested the vice-

chancellors and teachers of universities to take tough action against any kind of vandalism or rowdiness and assured government's cooperation in maintaining academic atmosphere in all educational institutions. The Prime Minister said: "Let's

start our journey towards light from darkness, let's build a nation free of illiteracy, hunger and poverty. Let's build a self-respecting nation exploiting the immense prospects." The function was also

addressed by State Minister for Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Qader, editor Obaidul Huq, chairman of Bangla Academy Prof Anizuzzaman, director general Syed Anwar Hossain, general secretary of Publishers and Sellers Association Abdur Razzak and president of Srijanshil Publishers Association Mafidul Hug.

Later, the Prime Minister went round different book stalls at the fair and showed interest in new books

Heroin worth Tk 2cr seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of Police arrested six people and recovered heroin worth over Tk 2 crore from the city's Gulshan area on Thursday night.

A squad of DB police raided DCC market at Gulshan Circle-2 and arrested Moslem Uddin, 40, Habibur Rahman, 45, Nazrul Islam, 40, Abdur Rab, 42, Dulal Sarker 38, and Mujibur Rahman, 38, while they were selling and purchasing the contraband.

The squad seized two kilograms of heroin from their possession. A case has been registered with Gulshan Thana in this regard.

Rangpur rally to be held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

on schedule

A meeting of Central Liaison Committee of the opposition alliance on Thursday decided that the alliance's planned joint public meeting at Rangpur tomorrow will be held on schedule.

Chairman H M Ershad is in jail in connection with a corruption case. But leaders of the four compo-

nent parties of alliance -- BNP, JP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote -- are firm to hold the meeting, meeting sources said. Held at Jamaat office with BNP

Vice-chairman M Shamsul Islam in the chair, the meeting also decided that JP Secretary General Naziur Rahman Manjur will represent the JP acting chairman at the public

Erhsad imporving

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former president and Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad, now under treatment, is improving.

He was admitted to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) Thursday afternoon with chest pain.

Doctors last night said Ershad's condition was stable and he was gradually improving. He may be taken to his cabin from the coronary care unit (CCU) "Ershad is doing better and he is

talking to people", one doctor said.

Another source at the hospital

said a medical board formed for his treatment is likely to meet today. Ershad suffered a mild pain in his chest in his prison cell at the Dhaka Central Jail on Thursday. Doctors from Dhaka Medical College Hospital examined him and advised

Meanwhile, Jativa Party Presidium at a meeting last night demanded proper treatment of Ershad. Twenty one members of the

hospitalisation.

Presidium out of 31 attended the meeting held at the party office with Dr MA Matin in the chair.

The meeting decided that all the central leaders of JP would leave for Rangpur by 6 am today for the 'grand rally' of the four-party opposition alliance at Rangpur tomorrow, meeting sources said

Confce on Bangladesh Parliament begins in city today

BSS, Dhaka

An international conference on "Bangladesh Parliament in the 21st century," begins today at Sheraton

Organised by Parliament Secretariat, in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, the conference will be attended by parliament members including leading parliamentarians from home and abroad. Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid

Advocate will open the conference at 10 am. Former speaker of the Indian Lok Sabha P A Sangma former chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Belgian Parliament Geert Versnick, MP former Associate Finance Minister of New Zealand David Butcher will present keynote papers at the

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, State Minister for Foreigr Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhurv. MP former finance minister Saifur Rahman, MP and prime minister parliamentary affairs adviser Suraniit Sengupta, MP are expected to take part in the conference.

Biman's Haji

Bangladesh Biman Airlines started its hajj flights yesterday with the departure of its first flight for Jeddah carrying some 572 pilgrims.

of Biman Bangladesh Airlines departed Zia International Airport at

State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Mohammad Nurul Islam saw off the pilgrims at the airport, said a Biman press release. Earlier, the ministers spoke to the

pilgrims at a brief inaugural ceremony in the holding lounge where a munajat was offered seeking blessings of the Almighty for a safe pil-

Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Chowdhury Mohammad Mohsin, and high officials of the ministries of Religious Affairs and Civil Aviation and Tourism were

Dhaka, Yangon FROM PAGE 12

fire between the border forces of the two countries January 8.

Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry Janibul Haq led the 15member Bangladesh team at the talks yesterday. It included Cox's Bazar DC Pulin Bihari Dev. DDG of BDR Brigadier General M A Salam and representatives from the Joint River Commission, National Security Intelligence, Bangladesh Water Development Board, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority and Surveyor General's Office.

The 15-member Myanmar delegation was led by Deputy Director General of Foreign Ministry U Ong Bah.

The amounts were determined by checking the company's monthly statements on sales, stocks delivery and sale bills. During the period, the company supplied goods worth Tk 256.30

Russia steps up campaign against US missile defence

AFP. Moscow

Moscow stepped up its campaign Friday against US plans to build a national nuclear defence shield (NMD), saying it had no guarantees the system would not grow in size and affect Russian defences.

As a result. Russia's command argued against any possible amendments to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic (ABM) treaty that would allow Washington to deploy even a limited missile defence programme.

"Although the Americans are talking about small changes to the ABM. what we are saving is that this would break ground for a system that could be aimed against our own rockets and strategic forces." said General Valery Manilov, the deputy chief of staff.

"The US will then have all the technological, economic and financial means at its disposal to unfold this system to its full potential," said

Moscow and Beijing have led the diplomatic offensive against the NMD, and further sought to exploit European unease about the system to pressure new US President George W. Bush to delay its deploy-

Russian President Vladimir Putin

last week warned the shield would create "irreparable damage to the architecture of international rela-

Washington argues that the shield is aimed only against socalled roque states like North Korea

develop long-range missiles. The White House further argues that such a shield would in no way affect Moscow since Russia's nuclear arsenal is so vast.

and Iran, which are seeking to

However Moscow is concerned that with its limited finances, it will be unable to replace its quickly-ageing stockpile of nuclear arms, and may be left with only a few hundred warheads within the next 10-15

Such a depleted Russian force could, in theory, be defended by US defence shield, defence analysts here say.

Moscow has used a range of arguments against the system, although Manilov's admission that the US shield could one day be impossible for Russia to penetrate

Still, Manilov stressed that Russia's military was developing various counter-measures, some of which "are much cheaper than

Ershad's party meetings

The jail authorities shifted Ershad to NICVD following doctors' advice when he complained of chest

Barely 15 minutes after Ershad was admitted to the hospital at 4:30 party leaders Naziur Rahman

Manjur, GM Kader, Kazi Feroj

Rashid, Mostafa Jamal Haidar, Ruhul Amin Howladar, Saifur Rahman and some others forced into the CCU defying jail officials and police personnel on duty there. Ershad had a two-hour meeting

with them followed by an exclusive

Later, the authorities strictly

meeting with Manjur.

prohibited visitors to the CCU. However, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan was allowed to meet Ershad on Thursday night. A JP leader who attended the

a mini presidium meeting at the hospital. The party chairman asked us to sink differences in the party." When contacted Kazi Feroi

meeting with Ershad said, "We held

components of the four-party alliance. He also requested us to make a success the February 4 grand rally of the alliance at Rangpur.

Earlier, senior leaders became

worried on Thursday night following a rumour that Ershad would leave the country in the early hours of Friday. On behalf of them, one leader rushed to Zia International Airport to inquire about flight sched-The rumour took the JP rank and

Ershad might have a 'secret deal with the government for leaving the country. At one stage, the party secretary general called other party leaders to come to the party central office at Kalabagan on Thursday night. They

stayed there for several hours, discussing the issue. Ershad was jailed for five years and fined Tk 5.5 crore in the Janata Tower case. He has already completed his jail term and is now in jail for another six months from November 20 last year for non-

against 'fatwa' (religious edict). Later in the evening, more than twenty vehicles were damaged during clashes between police and section of the participants at Paltan crossing and near the

Witnesses said a clash ensued when they started damaging vehicles in front of the Muktangan at about 5:45 pm.

Police from Paltan police box lobbed tear gas shells and brought the situation under control.

damaging vehicles in front of the

Matshya Bhaban, Police lobbed

They regrouped and started

Some 20 people were injured when activists of Islamic groups on way to Dhaka for joining the rally Gazipur yesterday.

noon when a bus coming from Mymensingh carrying Islamic activists was intercepted by law enforcers at the crossing.

injured included police constable Monayem. Three of them were admitted to Gazipur Sadar Hospital.

resist Vow to

Islamic law.

Akhter Ali Biswanathi. In his presidential speech, Mufti Fazlul Huq Amini said they would not allow any other law except Islamic law in Bangladesh and fatwa (religious edicts) would be the only vehicle of implementing

Mufti Amini, who declared two

High Court judges as 'murtad' for

their verdict against 'fatwa', said Justice Golam Rabbani and Justice Najmun Ara Sultana, would be tried under fatwa. He said an initial victory of the Islamic movement has started and it would succeed in the days ahead

Bangabhaban and the Jatiya Sangsad. Accusing the government of patronising the NGOs to hold rally in Dhaka, Mufti Amini asked their followers to put up barricades at various entry points of Dhaka city so that no bus carrying the NGO activists and supporters could

Shaikhul Hadith Azizul Huq

address it.

grassroots level organisations from across the country are expected to attend the rally, the organisers said. They further said the hartal was

called to resist holding of the rally..

Admn turns

Local sources said that the TNO

the Public Safety Act.

Arsenic contamination

identify the causes of mobilisation of Dr Martin said that the team so far collected samples from 30 wells for geo-chemical examination. The samples will be sent to the Columbia University for final examination, he

samples are being collected from shipped monthly to laboratories at the university. Data is being also compiled

using a 21-page questionnaire, he added. Besides, experts are also has link with nutrition or genes.

working, taking interview as well as collecting data from people of the three union in Araihazar thana to identify affected people. The objective is to find out how fast arsenicosis spreads, he pointed out

young children. Engrs reject

tioned that recommendations in the DDS like use of groundwater, abundant reliance on international river water and gradual abolition of the Water Development Board are damaging to national interests.

severe environmental impact. Besides, the observations on use of international river water. if taken for granted, would hurt Bangladesh's share of water, it said

of WDB should not be accepted and Bangladeshi experts to harness water resources. It decided to form a 12-member committee with Chief Engineer

Chief of health-related activities in the Bangladesh chapter of the project, Dr AZM Iftikhar Hussain told reporters that blood and urine people in the project areas and

trying to find out whether the arsenic Dr Iftikhar informed that they have decided to set up a clinic within a couple of months in the project area to provide treatment to arsenic affected people. He said appropriate measures would be taken after the geo-chemical survey and test.

He said six health teams are

Also, the experts are trying to find out whether arsenic crosses the placental barrier and harms the foetus and also to assess the effects

on the cognitive development in

FROM PAGE 1 At a meeting on Monday, it cau-

UNB, Dhaka BNP Chairperson and Opposition Leader in Parliament Khaleda Zia It urged the government not to accept the report, saying recomyesterday asked her partymen to mendations for utilising groundwaintensify the oust-government ter below 300 metre would have a movement. Without removing the Awami

"Because, Awami League does in a resolution. not believe in vote. They want to The association demanded that come to power through election the recommendation on dissolution fraud," she told a group of BNP leaders of Kalaroa in Satkhira who task force be formed with met her in the evening yesterday. Some 46 leaders and workers of

naleda Shariar Kabir as convenor to review the DDS and prepare specific recommendations. A national workshop would be held to review the DDS.

made by our heroes for the cause of also to translate our books into the mother tongue on that day in foreign languages so that there could be an effective interaction She said the inherent strength among the languages which could of the Language Movement and the benefit all. She asked the Bangla aspiration of the entire nation Academy to take a leading role in

Amidst cheers from the audi-

Bangladesh Business Awards judges comprising top economists, businessmen, professionals and academicians analysed the contri-

bution of the candidates and chose

The Business Person of the Year

award will be given for outstanding

one winner from each category.

corporate success. Integrity, business and financial acumen, management skills and leadership qualities will be considered. The Outstanding Woman in Business award will be given to someone in business or profession who has made an outstanding

as an inspiring model for other woman entrepreneurs. The Enterprise of the Year award will be given to a company that has distinguished itself through entrepreneurial sprit and innovation

contribution to her company or

profession and can be considered

old Awami League government, the BNP chairperson said the ruling party has become isolated from the "People want to get rid of the government as soon as possible,

misrule" of the four-and-a-half-year-

Ahmed Nazir briefed newsmen after the meeting The opposition leader said people have become totally frustrated following the failure and

misrule of the Awami League gov-

Khaleda's press secretary

she told the party activists.

ernment. "Our victory is certain if the movement can be stepped up now," On granting bail against cases under the Public Safety Act, Khaleda said judges have understood that the PSA was enacted to harass the opposition.

in city: 6 held

The meeting at Rangpur had become uncertain when Jatiya Party Acting Chairman Roushan Ershad recently left for a visit to US. JP

crore but declared that the price of

flights begin **UNB**, Dhaka

A chartered Boeing 747 aircraft 2:40 pm Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Mosharraf Hossain and

grimage.

Cosmetic company FROM PAGE 1

the supplied goods was only Tk The company declared 80.51 per cent less value of the goods in documents, the notice said.

He also requested the transport owners not to give any bus to the

CPB worker dies

FROM PAGE 1 Disease Hospital CPB president Manjurul Ahsan

Chan and general secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim in a statement yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Bipradas and conveyed their sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Police arrested four people identified as Hafizur, Hafij, Maksud and Harun from the spot.

appointing Justice Golam Rabbani, who gave anti-Fatwa verdict, as judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. She appointed the judges defy-

Justice, he said.

ing the President and the Chief

has just began following the High

He said their united movement

Court verdict and it would continue until the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government and with the establishment of the rule of Islam in the country. America wants to ignite fire against Islam through the NGOs alleged Shaikhul Hadith Azizul Hug and asked the olama-mashaikh to

Pir of Chormonai said those supporting the High Court verdict against fatwa are enemies of Islam.

build up resistance from their

A 'Jihad' (holy war) would be declared against any quarters including Awami League, BNP and JP, who would support the High Court verdict against fatwa, he said.

Nagorik Andolon FROM PAGE 1 Poet Shamsur Rahman is likely to inaugurate the rally at 10 am.

Distinguished citizens and

renowned opinion leaders will Hundreds of people of different professions and representatives of

file by surprise. Some of them later said that as Raushan Ershad was already in US, they suspected that

Rashid said. "Ershad reminded us that there is no alternative to unity of Islamic scholars call hartal

clashed with police and transport workers at Chandana crossing in Witnesses said the clash, chase and counter-chase ensued at about

The agitated activists damaged five vehicles during the clash. The

tear gas shells again and dispersed

Hasina of fomenting trouble by

when flags inscribed with "La-Illaha-Illallahu-Mohammadur-

Rasullah (SM)" will fly at the

reach the rally venue.

respective areas to crush the NGOs and their activities."