scholars and ulemas and kill opposi-

tion activists indiscriminately," said BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuivan while addressing a huge rally in the city yesterday afternoon.

BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Oikya Jote, JAGPA and Democratic League jointly organised the rally in front of BNP central office at Nava Paltan with city BNP President Sadeque Hossain Khoka MP in chair.

Announcing the hartal programme, Mannan Bhuiyan said there is clear indication of a mass upsurge in the country soon and asked opposition activists and people to fearlessly take to the

He said Awami League is certain of its defeat in the upcoming national elections due to its miserable failure in running the country and incompetence in all sectors and is now trying to cling to power through conspiracy and evil activities.

The BNP secretary general said the government in a bid to cover up its failure is fomenting strife in the country, instigating riots among different groups to destroy atmosphere for future polls

About yesterday's hartal, Bhuiyan said the government, as before, resorted to terrorism and repression across the country attacking opposition activists, but the heroic people confront the terrorists in the street

He alleged that AL terrorists and police attacked pro-hartal activists at Jessore, Madaripur, Netrokona, Mymensingh, Chittagong and Dhaka and injured a good number of people as well as arrested many leaders and activists

The BNP leader condemned the government for arresting IOJ Chairman Azizul Haq and harassing him on charge of killing. He said the

### 30 BCL, 20 JCD leaders, activists sued under PSA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Thirty BCL and 20 JCD activists were sued under Public Safety Act (PSA) by rival groups in Godagari thana of the Rajshahi district yester-

A case was filed under Public Safety Act (PSA) against 30 leaders and activists of the ruling party backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in Godagari thana. The case was filed in connection with the clash between BCL and the opposition backed Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Godagari Degree College on Saturday last that left at least 30 students injured.

Earlier a similar case under PSA was filed against 20 JCD leaders and activists in connection with the same clash.

## Khateeb

FROM PAGE 12 Bakar Siddique and two students

of the IOJ chief Mezbah and Shafiullah who wrapped the body of the police constable inside the Abu Bakar and Mezbah have

already been arrested in the case under PSA, filed with Mohammadpur thana and are in Dhaka Central jail. Monsoor and Shafiullah are absconding since the

The 37 include Islami Oikkya Jote (IOJ) Chairman Azizul Haq and his son Mahfuzul Haq. The IOJ chief and 31 others have been arrested so

Following a prayer from Mohammadpur police, the CMM's court on Sunday placed Humayn Kabir, Akram Hossain and Hizbullah on a three-day remand. The rest have been detained at Dhaka

Meanwhile, police failed to arrest the five absconding accused. They are IOJ chief's son Mahfuzul Hag IO.I leader Maulana Arshaf Principal of Jamia Mohammadia Arabia Madrassa Abul Kalam Azad, madrassa teacher Abdur Rob Yusifi and Ismail, another student of the IOJ chief, who threw the gun of Badsha Mia in water behind Noor

IOJ chief is an aged and respected

ulema of the country. Congratulating the countrymen for observing the hartal vesterday, Bhuiyan urged the people also to observe today's hartal and launch an all-out agitation to topple the AL government

Speaking at the rally, JP secretary general Naziur Rahman Manjur blamed AL MP Makbul Hossain from Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur constituency for the killing of a police constable on February 3 inside Noor Masjid at Mohammadpur.

He said a person like Azizul Hag could never kill any human being as people say prayers standing behind the Shaikhul Hadith. He said the killing of the constable is a deeprooted conspiracy of the government to foil the current movement. Manjur said the AL is an anti-Islamic party and conspiring to remove Islam from the country.

The rally was addressed others by acting Chairman of IOJ Maulana Mohiuddin, Jamaat secretary general Ali Ahsan Mujahid, BNP leaders ZA Khan. Mirza Abbas Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Amanullah Aman, Zainal Abedin Farug, Nazimuddin Alam, Abdus Salam, Shirin Sultana and Sadiva Hag JP leaders Saifur Rahman Ismail Hossain Bengal, Taibur Rahman, Jamaat leaders ATM Azharul Islam, Jashimuddin Sarkar, ATM Masum and Rafigul islam, IOJ leaders Ahmed Abdul Qader and Abul Kashem, JAGPA leader Khandaker Lutfar Rahman and Democratic League leader Saifuddin Ahmed Moni.

Earlier, the component parties of the alliance held a series of processions and rallies in different parts of the city during the hartal hours

## Body recovered from inside drum in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an unidentified young man from inside a drum at Chawkbazar in the city Tuesday night.

Police said that a young man had hired a rickshaw van Tuesday evening from somewhere in the \_albagh area to carry a drum to Mirpur. When the van reached Chawkbazar, he asked the van driver to wait for him saying he would be back shortly. But he never returned.

After waiting for hours, the van driver called local people who opened the drum and found a dead

body.

People immediately informed the body and sent it to Mitford Hospital

Police picked up the rickshaw van driver for questioning in order to find out more about the matter. A case was filed with Lalbagh police station in this regard.

# Four injured in Rawlpindi blast

AFP, Islamabad

At least four people were injured when a bomb exploded at a crowded bus stand in the northern Pakistani city of Rawalpindi early Wednesday, police said.

"The bomb exploded in a man's luggage before he could board a bus," a police officer told AFP

### Red alert FROM PAGE 1

Hasina expressed deep shock at vesterday's train mishap and ordered immediate arrest of the She condemned "the subver-

sive act" and asked the law enforcing agencies to bring the culprits to book immediately.

The prime minister also conveyed her sympathies to the bereaved families and prayed for salvation of the departed soul of the victims

Hasina asked the authorities concerned to ensure proper treat-

# Another hartal today PM announces special funds

FROM PAGE 1 be limited to the central level but should extend to the grassroots," she told the meeting

The Prime Minister also announced a number of decisions, including introduction of a national award for encouragement of IT

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Minister for Science and Technology Lt Gen (Retd) Noor Uddin Khan, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Advisor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, member-secretary Tawfique Elahi Chowdhury, Computer Science teacher of Dhaka University Lutfur Rahman, FBCCI President Yusuf Abdullah Harun and Principal Secretary to the PM SA Samad were among others present in the meeting.

The meeting discussed possible means for removing hindrances to development of IT sector.

Separate committees were formed for development of human resources in IT sector, expansion of export and domestic market, formu-

lation of legal framework and infrastructure and for identifying "Mission and Vision".

The Task Force meeting also decided that all service-oriented government offices should put up their own websites. All government forms tender notices and recruitment notices should be made available on the web.

It also decided that the use of

computer at government as well as

private levels should be expanded

and stressed the need for development of a system to help Bangladeshi wage-earners abroad send their earnings through the Sheikh Hasina said the development of IT sector would be very effective for attracting talented youths to the line. "Our talents have made their mark internationally,"

abroad. The Prime Minister urged all concerned to bring the expatriate Bandladeshis and local IT experts under a network and maintain close

she said referring to the success

attained by Bangladesh's experts

advice and cooperation for the growth of information technology.

She stressed the need for formulating laws to guide and monitor the IT sector and advised all concerned to take assistance from the existing IT laws and rules of other countries.

Sheikh Hasina mentioned her government's steps in this field, including tax exemption on computers and introduction of the modern technology in schools. She also stressed the need for implementation of the plan for laying submarine fibre-optic cables, under the Bay of Bengal, to connect Bangladesh with the rest of the world through the information superhighway.

The Prime Minister told the meeting that the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) would be restructured empowering the body with more responsibilities to monitor and oversee the development of IT, the fastest-growing economic sector of today's world



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaking during a views exchange meet with Olema's and Islamic scholars at the International Conference Centre in the city.

# HR activist Asma Jahangir says

FROM PAGE 12 disclosure of the Hamoodur

Rahman Commission report. She also said the insensitive episode of Irfan Raja " should

> the time for change and more appropriate than ever before. In almost every country, human rights are being violated, said Asma, responding to a question on human

remind us" that the present time is

rights. However, offences like extraudicial killings in Bangladesh, "were not so many" as in other countries. Asma appreciated the perfor-

mance of human rights groups in Bangladesh but said much more needs to be done. She said besides participation of

the people in the improvement of their human rights condition, there is also need for active involvement in

"Every country of the South Asian region is suffering because they are not cooperating enough."

"Conflict within Pakistan and that between Pakistan and India are bringing themselves down."

She also referred to internal and conflicts in Nepal and Sri Lanka. "It is time now for working for a

better South Asia. We cannot depend only on the business community, but on the concerted efforts by the civic society for development

The human rights activist referred to the launching of a movement for establishing human rights in south Asia. She said an organisation called "South Asia for Human Rights" has been formed at a meeting of concerned citizens from several countries in Nimrana, Rajasthan last year. The organisation, she said "should be a voice of reason in the region" and will try to increase the awareness of human rights and contribute to its establishment in South Asia. The participants would meet again in Delhi in

November this year. The participants at the initial conference included I K. Gujral, and Kuldip Nayar from India and Justice Naimuddin and Matiur Rahman from Bangladesh and from two

other South Asian countries "The organisation will grow and I am hopeful that in 10 years it will

become a big movement.

**Judiciary** Asma said yesterday it is important to have the judiciary act with integrity in the South Asian coun-

"Unless we have a judiciary of integrity, we will not have politicians of integrity."

She described several incidents from her own life and others involving Pakistan's judicial process. She also said inaction and compromise by the judges in her country have stunted the growth of democracy in

"In Pakistan, if one goes to court, whether he or she will get justice or not is doubtful," said Asma Jahangir.

There is not a single instance of a general's son being convicted but there are many instances of politicians' sons being punished in Pakistan, she said.

Asma was delivering her speech at the Aminul Huq Memorial lecture at the Supreme Court Bar Association. The lecture in memory of the revered late attorney general was organised by Ain O Salish Kendra and Bangladesh: Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST).

Dr Kamal Hussain, chairman of BLAST, opening the memorial lecture, said Aminul Huq was totally dedicated to human rights. He fought fearlessly and relentlessly against the military rule and always came in aid of victims.

Asma Jahangir described late Aminul Hug as the "unsung hero of this part of the world who fought for ideals and principles"

The human rights activist said the lawyers too like Aminul Hug, who raised their voice against the military rule and moved for their legal conviction, must perform their duties to the society and country. Quoting a former chief justice of South Africa, she said there were two types of lawyers: the nonpartisan activist lawyers and the partisan professional lawyers.

She felt that a good lawver had a social obligation too. Establishing democracy is an

easier process than maintaining it said she. She said between 1974 to 1990.

30 countries have made a transition back to democracy

Commenting on the press, Asma said the power of the independent press is growing. However, while appreciating the vocal role of the press in her country even under a military regime, she said the electronic media are full of fundamentalist and military messages.

"One sees mainly visions of boots and beards on Pakistan television.

Speaking about Pakistan military administration she said. "Pakistan's new agenda are to create devolution at the lower level and sharing the power at the higher level.

Summing up the lecture Barrister Amirul Islam described Asma Jahangir as a voice of hope in South Asia. He said Asma's husband Malik Gulam Jilani was the only person in Pakistan who could understand the ethos of the people of Bangladesh.

"His house in Lahore was a home for the people of Bangladesh. Asma belongs to that house. So you belong to our home." Amirul said.

Amirul Islam described the late Bangladesh attorney general as a symbol of fight against military rule and injustice.

# PM urges Ulema

FROM PAGE 12

State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam Director General Islamic Foundation Maulana Abdul Awal, Islamic leaders Maulana Moslehuddin, Maulana Wahiduzzaman, Mirza Nurul Huq, Mufti Mohammad Shahidullah, Maulana Habibullah Katchpuri, Maulana Ilyas Hossain Helali, Alhaj Maulana Zahirul Islam and Maulana Abdul Jalil Miaji also spoke on the

The agitation by Biman employees who had been offered nine per cent stake also discouraged major airlines, the consultants said. After discussing the latest pro-

Strike in Assam

deportation of thousands of

Bangladeshi Chakma refugees

paralysed normal life in India's

northeast province of Arunachal

Most shops, schools, colleges,

financial institutions and offices

remained closed in the provincial

capital Itanagar, and other cities in

Arunachal Pradesh, which borders

"The strike has affected normal

The strike was called by the

powerful All Arunachal Pradesh

Students' Union (AAPSU) to pres-

surise the provincial and the federal

governments to deport some

50,000 refugees settled in the state

have been living in Arunachal

Pradesh as 'stateless citizens' after

fleeing the Chittagong Hill Tract

BCS viva voce

The viva voce of the 21st BCS

candidates, scheduled for today,

has been shifted due to unavoidable

The test will now be held on

March 15 at the same time and

venue, said an official release

The tribal Chakma refugees

life across the state," a police

spokesman said by telephone from

demanding

deportation

of Chakmas

AFP, Guwahali

Pradesh yesterday.

China and Myanmar.

Itanagar.

since 1964.

region in Bangladesh.

shifted to

March 15

UNB.Dhaka

circumstances

Biman

FROM PAGE 12

posal from the Citibank, Biman authorities sent it to the Board of Management, which met on Tuesday. The Board directed Biman authorities to refer the proposal to the World Bank for its vetting sources said.

### JP plans hartal FROM PAGE 12

Sources said the JP is now discussing the matter within the party and has decided to make a formal proposal to the BNP leadership. Senior JP leaders sat for discussion last night to finalise the They said the JP would itself call

the hartal in case the BNP and others refuse to call it jointly. But in that case, it will ask for moral support from the alliance in favour of the planned shutdown JP insiders said the BNP previ-

ously refused to call any hartal or announce any programme on behalf of the alliance to press for Ershad's release on the ground that the deposed president was jailed in a corruption case. They said that JP, by strongly

supporting yesterday's hartal in demand for releasing Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Azizul Hag, hopes that its gesture would be reciprocated by the alliance by calling a similar hartal on the issue of Ershad's release.

### Benapole customs FROM PAGE 1 Abdul Hannan.

C&F agents alleged that the shed in-charges and other people involved "in stealing goods from the warehouses and selling those outside were involved in the fire to conceal their crimes". Police reinforcements and two

platoons of paramilitary BDR personnel have been deployed in the

Port officials said the gates of the land port were locked in view of opposition-called countrywide hartal. Loading and unloading did

# Train skids off track

FROM PAGE 1 to Dhaka in a helicopter. He was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital

with serious head injury.

The train met with the accident at about 4:30 am at Alkara between Sharsardi and Gunabati stations. about 12 kms from Feni town.

Railway links with Chittagong A two-day strike demanding the

remained snapped.

One person, Mazharul Islam, a madrassah student, was arrested for allegedly removing fish plates from the track. He hails from Purbadhalia village in Fulgaji

He told police that twelve others were also involved in the "sabotage", sources said.

Two rescue trains from Pahartal and Akhaura reached the spot but it is uncertain when train communication can be re-established, railway officials said. Police and BDR personnel were

engaged in rescue operation. Police, local people and railway officials said that the accident took

place minutes before some local people attempted to stop the train rom crossing the spot. Those people who were irrigating their lands near the track before the accident told this correspondent

that they saw some persons on the track at about 2 am yesterday.

"We saw them working on the track. We heard the sound of beating of metal. When we challenged they said they were preparing for Wednesday's hartal to disrupt train communication. They left the place soon after," said one of the wit-

The witnesses also said that they put up a red cloth on the bridge to signal the train driver not to cross it. But since the train was moving in high speed, the driver could not stop

In the meantime, they ran towards Gunagati station to inform railway men. But the accident took place before they reached the

removed the fishplates. He was identified as Mazharul Islam, a madrassah student. They went to Mazhar's house, caught him and handed him over to police

During interrogation by police, Mazhar confessed that he and 12 others did the "sabotage", sources

said.
The communications ministry

formed a three-member committee yesterday to probe the incident. Our correspondent reports from Feni: Those admitted to Feni Sadar Hospital include Murad Mia, 40, of Brahmanbaria, Bindu Kanti Datta 30 of Rangamati, Shemol Datta, 28, of Rangamati, Lokman Mia, 32, (an assistant of the train driver) Chittagong, Azam Khan, 28, of Chittagong, Abul Khair (one of the two train drivers) and Abul Kashem, 35, of Dhaka (railway employee).

Communication Minister Anwar Hossain Manju who flew to the accident spot át about 11 am said, "If is a political sabotage.

A Z M Sazzadur Rahman, General Manager of Bangladesh Railway, said they hope to lay an alternative short route to restore train communication by this eve-

ning.
Railway officials said that one of the garners of the bridge was totally damaged.

### Sharon

FROM PAGE 12 announced within a week when Sharon will have 45 days to form a

coalition Sharon's crushing triumph over outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Barak in Tuesday's vote alarmed left-wing Israelis and caused deep gloom among Palestinians

But he appealed to the Palestinians in a victory speech to end their four-month-old uprising and negotiate with him for a "realistic peace".

Sharon, 72, also urged his centre-left foes to join him in a national unity government after he defeated Barak by a whopping 25 percentage points, according to nearly complete

Barak had billed the election, played out against a backdrop of violence, as a choice between war

# Pickets attack thana

set fire to a tempo, but local people doused the fire immediately.

Both pro and anti-hartal activists brought out a number of processions in the city during hartal hours yesterday. Anti-hartal procession was also brought by Muktijoddah Sangsad.

Raising several columns of barbed wires on both sides of the road, police made BNP headquarters at Nava Paltan off-limit for all modes of transport since early morning vesterday. Commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) supervised the security measures there

All modes of motor vehicles were off the roads but rickshaws plied in plenty. Educational institutions. business establishments and shopping malls remained closed while attendance in government offices including the Bangladesh Secretariat was thin.

Our staff correspondent from the Chittagong said that 30 people were injured, two by bullets in a clash between Shibir and BCL at village Aochia under Satkania, some 40 km off the port city.

Two bullet-hit activists of Chhatra League, identified as, Monir Ahmed, 20, and Shaha Alam, 22, were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. The violence erupted over an altercation between the two rival student bodies.

In another development, police arrested city BNP joint secretary Abu Sufian from his Sholoshahar residence. He was wanted in connection with some criminal cases.

According to a UNB report, Officer-in-Charge of Moheshkhali police station and two other policemen were injured when hartal activists attacked Moheshkhali police station under Cox's Bazar district.

Farid, 28, the OC, was admitted to the thana health complex.

Students of a madrassah equipped with lethal weapons attack the police station following

arrest of the superintendent, a teacher and a student of the madrassah on charge of blocking

Hundreds of religious fanatics gheraged the police station, forcing

the police to release them on bond. in Sylhet, pro-hartal activists put up barricades on rail tracks both at Sylhet station, and nearby Moglabazar station forcing rail communication stalled for the whole day. They also put the Moglabazar

railway station under lock and key. Railway sources at Kamalapur station in Ďhaka, told The Daily Štar that capital's train communications with Chittagong, Sylhet and Noakhali remained snapped throughout the day due to train accident near Feni and barricades put up by hartal activists at Akhaura and Sylhet.

In Narayanganj, ruling party activists allegedly torched a Chhatra Dal office during hartal hours yesterday.

Our correspondent from Netrakona reports: eleven madrassah students and a passerby were injured as anti-hartal Chhatra League activists allegedly attacked them with lethal weapons in the town. The anti-hartal activists also allegedly ransacked a madrassah in the town. Of the injured, two were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while others to Netrakona

Sadar Hospital. Our Khulna correspondent reports: The IOJ activists carrying sticks brought out processions in the town. Police and BDR were deployed at ruling party office and various establishments of NGOs. Hartal paralysed all activities at Mongla Port.

Hundreds of teachers and students from different madrassahs brought out pro-hartal processions in Moulvibazar town where the hartal was passed off peacefully, reports our correspondent.

the town in convoys, blaring siren.

BDR vans with mounted machine

guns were on the main roads

looking for their 'missing' relatives

in different areas of the town yes-

terday. Manik mia, a resident of

maddhapara, said he could not find

his 12-year- old son since the firing

not aware of any person missing.

The SP however said they were

Some people at the Jamia

Yunisia said they were protesting

'banning of fatwa.' A teacher,

Sajedur Rahman, said 15 people

were still missing. "We want com-

pensation for the families of the

dead and an inquiry into Tuesday's

Several families were seen

throughout the day.

on Tuesday.

firing" he said.

# B'baria remains tense

Inspector Anwar at Kurulia bridge and severed his right wrist.

Deputy Commissioner Lutfor Rahman told The Daily Star that security personnel opened fire when BDR major Nasim was hit with a brickbat. He was not wearing a helmet at that time.

"We tried to sit with leaders of the protestors before the violent incident. But they did not listen to us," Rahman said.

Some sources in the district administration said that during the clashes, policemen at Kandipara and Poirtala ran out of ammunition. Superintendent of Police

Sarwar Alam Sarkar said police

fired 573 rounds during the clashes. BDR officials said their men fired only 7 shots. Police also lobbed 43 tear gas

The DC said that in the last 12

hours, 150 BDR personnel and 340 policemen were brought to the district town from elsewhere in the country. According to local people, the situation on Tuesday deteriorated

protestors in the early morning.

BDR and armed police moved in

when police picked up two leading

Meanwhile, reports said madrassah students barricaded roads outside the town. A two-km stretch of railway line between shahpur and Harashpur was damaged. Railway engineers are still working to repair the line. A three- member probe body

headed by Gulam Kibria, Additional Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong, has arrived at Brahmanbaria to investigate Tuesday's incident.

# **US** to respond quickly

Strategic Plans Branch at the Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, headquarters of Allied Powers Europe in Belgium and as chief of staff, Allied Air Forces

Southern Europe in Naples. The air force general said Bangladesh and the United States have a joint air exercise programme under the name of 'COPESOUTH'. Joint air exercises are carried out every year with aircraft from the Pacific Command and the Bangladesh Air Force. Even huge C-130s from the Pacific Command join in the aerial exercises which include dropping of supplies, rescuing of the injured and other disaster manage-

"The value of continued training and exercise is the key to maintaining high operational efficiency of an air force." Waskow said. Asked whether the United States

ment operations

was looking forward to setting up new bases in the Pacific region, or in the South Asian neighbourhood, the airforce general replied in the negative and stated, "We'll visit bases of the host countries upon request, but

How would then the Pacific Command based in Hawaii intend to manage disaster operations by air in In reply Waskow said, "We oper-

ate from Guam. If necessary, we'll do

mid-air refuelling and there would be

no problem." When asked about the US presence at the southern tip of the Indian Ocean, he replied. "We have been in Diego Garcia with the British for the past ten years. Asked how he viewed the effi-

cacy of the seminar and the capability level of the Bangladesh Air Force and its airmen, the US Air Force general replied, "Unified Command and Control is essential for combating disaster effectively. With this international conference being hosted, a bridge of friendship would be created between the Bangladesh and the US Pacific Air Forces. It helps build personal relations which are crucial during crisis.

"It is a small airforce, but has acquired considerable skills."

BNP in grasp of extremists

FROM PAGE 1 The Liberals in BNP led by party secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuivan was vehemently opposed to vesterday's shutdown. At a recent meeting of the Liaison Committee of the Opposition Alliance, Bhuiyan clarified his position, saying that it would not be a prudent decision for BNP to take such a stance, which might distance the party from the NGO community in the election year.

The current spate of violence followed opposing stance by the fundamentalists and the civil society over fatwa (religious edict). Violence escalated as the fanatics went crazy on Saturday last in their resolve to obstruct the civil society from holding a rally in the city. However, hardliners in BNP

made all efforts in convincing the

BNP leadership to reap political

dividend from the anti-government

movement by the Islamic zealots.

They reasoned that a 'go-slow'

movement, long been pursued by the centrists and liberals, would not bring political gain for the They further argued that BNP

would do well by cashing in on the fanatics' movement. This will brighten BNP's prospect in the next general election, they argued. Taking stock of the situation, the

In decision-making, she is already missing three out of the four top leaders of the Opposition alliance. Both Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) chief Azizul Haq are in jail and

Nizami. Her close aides advised her

to postpone the trip because, in the

fast-developing political situation,

she might have to take important

of its propaganda machinery against BNP chairperson postponed her the fanatics' vandalism, the more it scheduled trip abroad for treatment.

with the zealots. Their hope of forging a greater unity of pro-liberation forces against Prof Ghulam Azam is no more Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami. the fanatics further brightened when Khaleda is now left only with new some leaders of left leaning parties Jamaat chief Motiur Rahman

the combined opposition. They believe that the more the government would show efficiency

decisions anytime.

would muster support of secular masses They are also hopeful about the possibility of NGOs taking a hard stance against BNP's joining hands

On the other hand, many of the

AL leaders are of the view that BNP's

toeing the fanatics' line of action has

brought an opportunity for the party

to unmask the 'ultra-rightist face' of

extended their support against rise of fundamentalists in the country. However, a cautious and somewhat conservative lobby in AL is in favour of taking a more 'quarded

Envoys of Muslim countries have been briefed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take them into confidence while launching more police raids on fanatics' hideouts.

mentalists into task so that religious

sentiment of the masses is not hurt.

funda-

position' while taking the

The AL leadership is now busy having consultations in party forums to chalk out a publicity campaign against the zealots and their political mentors because some of the party's previous plans did not work as AL's plan to alienate BNP from its

three other partners did not click so far. When BNP regretted Jatiya Party's appeal for waging a movement for Ershad's release, AL thought that it would strain intraalliance relations. But now that BNP has finally given in to fanatics' pressure for hartal call, AL sees a bleak prospect of any immediate rift in the Opposition alliance.

station, they said.

Later on the day, the witnesses recognised one of those who results.