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# BNP makes Jamaat smile

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

BNP didn't extend "moral support" to Jamaat's 48-hour hartal from today as part of a strategy not to demonstrate together with its key ally and "maintain distance" from the anti-liberation force for some more months.

But it now hardly matters to Jamaat-e-Islami men, who are emboldened by the stance of BNP that announced a countrywide hartal for Tuesday, protesting Thursday's police action on demonstrators following the death sentence to Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

"We feel a new strength as BNP takes to the streets," Amiruzzaman, ameer of Chittagong metropolitan [south] unit of Jamaat, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We are glad that they [BNP] are also launching protests against the government, and believe that the gap between BNP and Jamaat will be minimised soon."

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# United Nations concerned HRW urges govt, Jamaat to show restraint, avert violence

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has expressed concern over the ongoing violence in Bangladesh.

"The secretary-general is monitoring the situation with concern and is saddened by the loss of life," Eduardo

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Police use teargas and fire rubber bullets to disperse a section of the BNP procession from which homemade bombs and brick chips were being hurled at the law enforcers near Shanti Nagar in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

The parliamentary standing committee the power, energy and mineral resources ministry has asked the ministry to take measures for legalising of illegal gas connections. Do you think it is justified?

Yes (40%)

No (60%)

TOTAL VOTES: 300

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the government decision to build the Padma bridge with its own funds?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystars

PRAYER TIMING March 3

Azan Jamaat	
Fajr	5-15 5-50
Zohr	12-45 1-15
Asr	4-30 4-45
Maghrib	6-05 6-10
Esha	7-30 8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

## ESSENTIALS TO GO PRICIER

# Hartals to hit supply

SOHEL PARVEZ

People are likely to be hit hard by increased prices of essentials due to the three-day strike enforced by Jamaat-e-Islami and its ally BNP from today.

Traders said terror unleashed by the Jamaat-Shibir men across the country over the last three days has affected the supply of essentials as many truck owners refused to oper-

ate their vehicles fearing arson attacks.

Inadequate supply has already caused prices of vegetables to spiral in city markets.

"We are in trouble. Political instability and recurring strikes have affected the economy. The supply chain has already been affected as many goods-laden trucks have got stuck in different parts of the country," Mahbulul Alam, president of

Khatunganj Trade and Industries Association in Chittagong, told The Daily Star.

Many truck owners refused to rent their vehicles, but a few agreed against higher fares, he mentioned. "Consumers will have to bear the brunt of the strikes. Already, prices of vegetables have shot up."

At Karwan Bazar in the capital, retailers were found selling beans,

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## Heart in purse!

DAILY MAIL ONLINE

In most respects she's a normal teenager with a love of hanging out with friends and talking fashion, but 13-year-old Kyah DeSimone from Boston carries a purse with her

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



## Pranab due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A warm welcome awaits Indian President Pranab Mukherjee who flies into Dhaka this noon on a three-day visit.

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# BNP runs amok

## 4 vehicles burnt, at least 100 damaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP activists clashed with police, torched four vehicles, and vandalised around 100 others in the capital leaving 25 people injured yesterday afternoon.

During the clash, law enforcers fired shotgun shells, teargas canisters and charged truncheons in retaliation to homemade bombs, brick chips and shoes hurled at them.

The opposition activists torched two cars on Bailey Road and Malibagh, a bus and a lorry on Chittagong Road and vandalised vehicles at the city's Malibagh, Mouchak, Shanti Nagar, Bailey Road, Paltan, Kakrail, Moghbazar, Dhanmondi and Jatrabari areas.

City dwellers fled in panic and traffic movement got suspended in those areas for more than an hour.

Witnesses said the clash ensued around 4:30pm when some BNP men from a procession at Malibagh intersection hurled brick chips and shoes on policemen.

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir was leading the procession that began its journey from the BNP head office at Nayapaltan.

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# War trial won't stop PM says Khaleda stood against people's will

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, from Madaripur

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to stop trying to save the war criminals by announcing hartals and siding with them.

"Do not play with the fate of the people," she said. "You [Khaleda] and your husband tried but in vain to save the killers of Bangabandhu."

"I can firmly say no one will be able to stop the trial of war criminals. They will be executed on this soil," she told a rally in the AR Hawlader Jute Mill ground here.

Hasina, also the president of ruling Awami League, criticised the

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