Israeli warplanes destroy **Palestinian security Hqs**

Tanks surround Arafat's office in Ramallah

REUTERS, Tulkarm (WB)

Israel destroyed a Palestinian security headquarters in an air raid and tightened a ring of armour around Yasser Arafat yesterday after a Palestinian shot dead six people in a rampage at a Jewish

Witnesses said F-16 warplanes fired missiles at the main security compound in the West Bank city of Tulkarm, reducing the building to rubble. Hospital officials said one policeman was killed and at least 40 people were wounded.

The Israeli army said the air raid was a response to a Palestinian militant's shooting spree in the northern Israeli city of Hadera on Thursday.

The gunman, carrying an M-16 assault rifle, burst into a packed banquet hall where revellers were celebrating a bat mitzya, marking a Jewish girl's 12th birthday, and sprayed them with bullets.

He killed six people, most of them Russian-speaking immigrants, before people in the hall hurled chairs and bottles at him and police shot him dead.

"The sun has risen over another dark day in Israel." government spokesman Arieh Mekel said. Another spokesman pledged to "teach the Palestinian Authority a lesson they will not forget" after the shooting, in which 33 people were also hurt.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, attached to Arafat's Fatah faction, said it carried out the attack to avenge the killing on Monday of one

Press worker

at Habigani

UNB, Habiganj

Thursday night

stabbed to death

A press worker was stabbed to

death by unidentified assailants in

Noahati area of the town on

of terrorists swooped on Jyotish

Sarkar Jhana, 25, while he was

Sarkar, filed a case with Sadar

stopped cross-border terrorism

from its territory directed at India

and hands over to India the 20

terrorists New Delhi has asked for in

connection with terrorism and

"heinous crimes." He said 14 of the

20 are Indians and Pakistani estab-

lishment knows well their where-

visible and it is not that they are

hiding in a cave in Karachi," Singh

Pervez Musharraf's address to the

nation last week outlining steps to

crackdown on terrorism in his coun-

try were welcomed by the interna-

expecting Musharraf to do is to

follow up his promises with effective

action on the ground to stop cross-

border terrorism and handing over

of the 20 terrorists who are involved

in heinous crimes like terrorist

activities, abduction and narcotics

over of six Pakistanis in the list of 20

saving they were Pakistanis and will

be tried under Pakistan laws if India

provided enough evidence against

them. But he said he would take

appropriate action against the non-

Pakistanis in the list if they can be

Musharraf has ruled out handing

Singh said what India was

tional community including India.

Powell said Pakistan President

"They (the 20 terrorists) are

abouts.

returning home at about 10pm.

thana accusing five people.

Police and witnesses said a gang

Father of the victim, Ganesh

of its leaders. Raed al-Karmi, in a bomb blast it blamed on Israel.

"We have told you, cheap Zionists, this is what your Sharon and his extremist government have brought you. There will be more successful attacks that will plant fear in the hearts of the Zionist enemies. Revenge is coming." it

The Palestinian Authority condemned the Hadera attack. Mekel said the shooting was another indication that Arafat "apparently hopes to get through terror what he could not get at the negotiating

Arafat surrounded

In the West Bank city of Ramallah, witnesses said eight Israeli armoured vehicles, including tanks, pushed to within 30 metres of Arafat's headquarters, the closest the army has come to the building in 15 months of violence.

"The Israeli tanks have practically occupied about 55 per cent of the town now. Thirteen neighbourhoods are under complete curfew,' said Mustafa Barghouthi, a Palestinian human rights activist based in Ramallah.

Israel has kept Arafat confined to Ramallah since December, after a series of Palestinian attacks against Israelis, but has said it has no intention of toppling or harming him.

The latest violence followed a surge in bloodshed in the past week that ended a three-week lull in more than 15 months of fighting since a Palestinian uprising began

"We warn the Israeli government

Confce on Afghanistan

for Tokyo today

Ministry sources said.

BSS, Dhaka

Morshed Khan leaves

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan

leaves for Tokyo today to attend the

fourth international ministerial level

conference on stabilisation and

progress of Afghanistan, Foreign

take place tomorrow (Sunday).

development of Afghanistan

The one-day conference is set to

Bangladesh is likely to take part

under the UN umbrella, in post

Taliban stabilisation as well as

against crossing the red line and continuing the policy of assassination and incursion," said Nabil Abu Rdainah, a senior adviser to Arafat, calling on the United States to intervene "before the situation explodes.

"Terrorist murder"

The United States, whose Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni left the region 12 days ago with no firm return date, condemned the attack but gave no sign it would step up mediation efforts

"Innocent people coming together for celebration of a wonderful event in the lives of people were interrupted by a terrorist murder," US Secretary of State Colin Powell said at a news conference during a visit to India.

The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades named the gunman as Abdel Salam Hassounah, 24, from a village near the West Bank city of Nablus.

"Several young guys who saw him shooting ran at him with bottles and cans and threw it at his head while he was shooting, they hit him... then the police officer came and shot him five times in the head," a witness told reporters.

It was the heaviest death toll in any attack for a month -- since Palestinian suicide bombings prompted Arafat to order a truce on December 16 under heavy international pressure

At least 807 Palestinians and 246 Israelis have been killed since the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation began in September 2000

Hasina greets

Greeting devotees of Biswa Ijtema,

Awami League President Sheikh

Hasina wished continued peace

and progress of the country and

welfare of Muslims all over the

"I wish peace for the Muslim

Ummah and welfare of world

humanity during this time of conflict

and confrontation," she said in a

message on the occasion of a three-

day Biswa Ijtema beginning today at

of the largest congregations of the

Muslim. Biswa litema is now recog-

nised across the world. In the 37th

litema of the Tablig Jamaat, tens of

thousands of Muslim devotees will

seek divine blessings for world

peace and for the welfare of human-

are joining the congregation on the

litema venue and the land of the

spacious Kakrail Mosque were

donated by the government of

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, she

ment had also taken a number of

development initiatives, including

setting up of deep tubewells, five

connecting roads and sanitation

has become an important venue for

world Muslims," Hasina said on the

occasion and prayed for peace,

progress and development of the

Deranged mother

A group of villagers entered the

house at about 7am and found the

dead bodies of the three children.

They took away the bodies from the

house and kept them in front of a

"The eastern bank of river Turag

The past Awami League govern-

east bank of river Turag.

recalled.

facilities, she said.

FROM PAGE 1

nearby mosque.

during the tragic incident.

Devotees from all over the world

The sprawling ground of the

In the message Hasina said one

UNB, Dhaka

world.

devotees of None should put barrier in the Biswa Iitema

way of transfer of technology. This amounts to hindering people's right, he added. Dr. M Abdul Awal, an NRB, now

Sheraton Hotel yesterday. (Story on Page 12)

He said the previous govern-

Some experts demanded of the

ments failed to connect Bangladesh

with the global information super-

highway through submarine cable.

government to allow private entre-

preneurs to do the job as the state-

opposed by ministers, citing

national security, Jamilur Reza said.

Internet Protocol' (VoIP), the cheap-

est mode of overseas voice commu-

nication, Mostofa Rafiqul Islam, a

service to minimise its losses," he

"BTTB also could start VoIP

Director of Flora Limited said.

But this was vehemently

BTTB should allow 'Voice over

owned BTTB could not do it.

working as BTTB's consultant on submarine cable project said BTTB has forwarded the bid evaluation report to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MOPT) for its

He said the submarine cable network will not only connect Bangladesh with the global information super highway but also strengthen the country's economy,

create job opportunities and ncrease foreign exchange earn-

Privatise telecom sector

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda inaugurates CNG-fuelled auto-rickshaws launched by Nitol Group at Dhaka

Dr. Awal said it will also increase 'teledensity' in the country and open avenues for new business opportu-

He underscored the need for a unified policy for telecommunica-tions and ICT instead of separate policies and an independent body to plement decisions.

In the second session on 'Egovernance', experts underscored the need for launching egovernance to bring transparency and accountability in its activities and to uphold people's right to know. This will help the country step into

Dr. Atiur Rahman, noted economist and a research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), in his paper underscored the need for government initiative for launching e-governance. Private entrepreneurs could prepare models in this regard, he suggested.

The government should give incentives for establishing public kiosks and cyber cafes to inform people about use of IT and access to Internet, he said. Even online tender system can be introduced to eliminate tender terrorism and

the Centre for Policy Dialogue, a think tank, said the government should launch e-governance if it wants to ensure good governance. Speaking as special quest. The

Dr. Ananya Raihan, a fellow of

Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said e-governance would help the country establish good governance.

Mridul Chowdhury, a researcher at Harvard University, in his paper discussed modern-day ICT, its application and market opportunity.

Dr. Mohammad Zafar Igbal of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) chaired the

Plastic cases FROM PAGE 12

ries' as declared in the invoice. But in yet another move, police in Dhaka yesterday arrested the owner of Vision Trading International, the importing firm of the boxes, on charge of importing the merchandise under a false declaration from the Dhaka, sources said.

A 10-member team of DB police of CMP had already left for Dhaka in the afternoon vesterday to produce the owner, one Hasan, before the court here in the port city today although the importer claimed to have imported the items for a shoot-

AL: Political rights

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdul Hamid told reporters till vesterday that no formal talks in this regard were initiated by the government side so far.

Thursday, Abdul Hamid said they were very much willing to join parliament session but they could not do so as the words and deeds of the government were sharply contradictory. In this connection, he refereed to the government's call to AL for ioining parliament session and its 'high-handed action' against opposition leaders on the streets.

With Sheikh Hasina already asking her party rank and file to get prepared for movement, they are now looking for ward to the ALCWC meeting to see what programmes are takes up.

Party sources told this correspondent that their leaders would try to 'look beyond' traditional hartal programmes, but it is also unlikely tool for agitation.

which has been sidelined for quite long, might come to the fore this time. Bringing changes in leadership at various levels is considered very important following AL's debacle in the October 1 general elections, the sources mentioned.

ship at top level is unlikely before the party's next council, possibly in the second quarter of this year.

against AL leaders, 'repeated attacks' on opposition 'intimidation' at public rallies and processions. 'harassment' of opposition leaders, preventing AL leaders from entering the airport to receive party chief Sheikh Hasina on her return from abroad, price hike of petroleum products, gas and power and annulment of Father of the Nation's Family Members Security Act 'pushed' AL towards to the path of agitation, party insiders

across the country that showed a total of 390 party leaders and activists were 'killed' by BNP men since the coalition government took over and many have gone into hiding, fearing arrest in 'false' cases.

candidates in five parliamentary

constituencies where by-polls were held on Thursday, they later withdrew from the race alleging 'intimidation' and filing of 'false cases' against party workers.

Meanwhile, AL is now also busy organising a convention on "Crime Against Humanity" to focus the government's 'atrocities' and to drum up support for antigovernment agitation. The convention, deferred twice

is now billed for January 27-28.

KNM

FROM PAGE 12 Its loss is mounting, giving no

chance to meet even bare necessities, said an official. It lost over Tk 55 crore in last financial year, he The mill re-opened on November

27 last year after five months' closure. From November 28 till January 10 last, it sold newsprint worth Tk 52 lakh to BG Press in Dhaka and some local newspapers.

But a reliable source said the mill was in operation for 72 days since July last year. There are 1600 permanent workers and 200 employees in the 52-year old newsprint mill which needs at least over Tk one crore and twenty lakh for payment of salaries and wages, the officials

The mill might be declared laidoff shortly by BCIC, said a source.

Road accidents kill 5 in four districts

Five people were killed and 51 others injured in separate road accidents in Mymensing Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Faridpur districts yesterday.

Of them, two people were killed in Mymensing and one each in Bandarban, Khagrachhari, and Faridpur districts.

In Mymensing, two rickshawpullers were killed and five others injured when a bus hit 10 rickshaws in China Bridge area of the town at One of the dead was identified as

Dudu Mia, 20. The identity of the other, a 30-year-old-man, could not be known.

Police seized the bus but its driver managed to flee.

In Bandarban, one member of a

picnic party was killed and 35 others

were injured when their bus overturned on Bandarban-Chittagong road near Reicha Army Camp vesterday. Police said the Cox's Bazarbound picnic bus, carrying 76 mem-

bers of "Bandhan Club" of Purba Bakolia in Chittagong, met the accident after a half at tourism spot, Meghla, at about 4pm. Armymen and local firefighters

rushed to the spot, rescued the injured and sent them to Bandarban Sadar Hospital and different clinics at Keranihat and Satkania.

In Khagrachhari, a minor girl was killed and four others were injured in separate road accidents in Dighinala here vesterday

Nitol programme FROM PAGE 12 said such ventures will get all possi-

ble help from the government because it is committed to ensuring a pollution-free environment.

He said the government will remain firm on keeping old vehicles off the roads to ensure a pollutionenvironment. More buses would be provided in the city in Huda said people voted BNP to

implement its election commit-ments. "We shall implement all our commitments, from poverty alleviation to keeping the environment pollution-free and removing traffic mess in the city. The government will implement its pledges with a heavy hand, no matter whoever calls it super martial law".

Shahajahan Siraj appreciated Nitol's plan and drew the attention of the communication minister to take steps to set up enough CNG filling stations in the city and elsewhere in the country. He also urged the company to see that CNG-run vehicles do not charge more fares on the plea of new technology.

The environment minister said air pollution in Dkaha city is among the highest in the world, which is slowly killing people and damaging brains of children. All should come

forward to remove this. People welcomed the ban on polybags in the city he said and reiterated that the whole country will come under the ban from March 1. Necessary laws will be enacted in

this regard Preston said introduction of CNGrun vehicles will benefit all because this will reduce Bangladesh's import of fuel and promote use of its abun-

dant natural gas. Ms Selima Ahmed lauded Nitol's offer of 20 percent down payment rebate on CNG-run auto-

Ziaur Rahman

FROM PAGE 1 tion programme on the mazar premises on the occasion.

The party will hold a discussion meeting and cultural function at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) at 3.30 pm. BNP chairperson and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and members of her cabinet will attend the functions.

The offices of the party will be illuminated in the evening on the

Zia Parishad will place wreaths at the mazar of Ziaur Rahman at .30 am and offer munajat there. Earlier, the central committee of

the party had announced a 12-day programme in observance of the day.

The programme began on January 15 and will continue till

died when a Khagrachhari-bound truck knocked her down at Madhya Bowalkhali at about 9 am.

Four passengers of an autorickshaw sustained injuries as a ieep hit the three-wheeler from behind at Mainy Bridge of Dighinala

In Faridpur, one person was killed and seven others were injured, three of them seriously, in a road accident at Gangabardi, seven kilometres from Faridpur district headquarters yesterday, according to BSS. According to police, the accident occurred when a Dhakabound passenger coach from Jessore hit a Jhenidah-bound jeep carrying six members of a family in the morning. The driver of the jeep died on the spot.

The injured were admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

Leg pain

threatening pulmonary embolism. If pulmonary arteries remain blocked,

at noon.

the patient is at a great risk -- pulmonary infarction can develop with a They also said there are other factors which may contribute to the

development of DVT. The air in the compressed cabin is much too thin at an altitude of 10,000 to 12,000 metres. So, it is pressurised to create the same atmosphere as on the ground.

"When the air is thin veins expand, circulation slows down and the risk of blood clot rises. Another factor is moisture. The humidity in the cabin is only three per cent. As a result, blood loses water and becomes thicker and the chances of clot are much higher," one expert

Experts concluded that a combi-

nation of these factors which occur

only in the air is why the risk of clot is greater during a flight than during a train or bus journey of the same duration. According to study presented at the roundtable, about 75 per cent passengers travelling in economy

class, 25 per cent in business class and five per cent in first class passengers develop DVT. The roundtable was jointly

organised by Aventis Pharma, Channel I and Monitor, a fortnightly aviation journal. Professor M A Hadi, Vice-

Chancellor of Banghabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), in his speech said, you are over 50 years of age, a regular smoker, taking contraceptive pills, have past record of thrombosis and recently had surgery and coagulation disorder, you should check with a physician before

To minimise the risk of clots experts suggested taking low dose of aspirin tablet (aproximately 100 milligrams of acetylsalicylic acid) daily for two or three days before an

air travel, on doctor's advice. Those who took part in discussion included Professor Emeritus Nabi Alam Khan, Prof Quazi Shahidul Alam, Prof Nazrul Islam, Prof Sirajul Islam, Managing Director of Biman Air Commodore Ahmed and Dr Shishir Basak.

Mohammad Jahangir moderated the discussion.

Shibir banners FROM PAGE 12

cants for admission to the university

Earlier, ICS had put up banners on the campus on the eve of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's visit to the campus on December 29. But JCD workers had torn those.

ICS has no open activities on DU campus.
President of JCD's DU unit Monir

Hossain and general secretary Mostafizul Islam Mamun told newsmen yesterday JCD would uphold the interest of general students of the university and would not be harsh to other student organisa-

Meanwhile, different student bodies brought out processions and held rallies on the campus yesterday, welcoming the students seeking admission. These include JCD, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), left leaning Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), Biplobi Chhatra Maitree (BCM) JSD-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League

Biswa Ijtema

smuggling

More than 500 delegates from India, Pakistan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia. Malavsia. Turkey and Kuwait have already arrived at the ijtema venue. Organisers said about 10,000 devotees from 72 countries are expected to attend the ijtema this year while some 40 lakh in the Akheri Munaiat.

President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina are expected to join the Akheri Munajat to be held on

Eight special trains in addition to

the 25 regular ones would call at the Tongi station during the ijtema period to ferry devotees Some 1,500 plainclothes police personnel will be deployed at the

ijtema venue and its adjacent areas to maintain law and order. Meanwhile, two devotees died after falling sick at the crowded

ijtema ground yesterday. One of the dead was identified prevent environment pollution after as Abdul Mannan Meer, 55, of

Powell: 3-pt formula

Powell, who had had talks with Musharraf two days back in Islamabad on the first leg of his visit to sub-continent, said Pakistan did not rule out handing over of the non-Pakistanis in the list given by India.

7 awarded Zia Gold Medal-2002

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JSSS) yesterday awarded "Zia Gold Medal-2002" to seven eminent personalities in the fields of education, literature, journalism, music, drama, film and industry.

The personalities are: Sved Ali Ahsan (education), Prof Shahed Ali (literature-posthumously), Sirajur Rahman (journalism), Shahnaz Rahmatullah (music), Ashkar Ibne Shaikh (drama), Haroon-ar-Rashid Khan Monno (industry) and Gazi

Mazharul Anwar (film) Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Barrister Jamir Uddin Sircar handed over the medals to the personalities and their representatives at a function at Ramna

Batamul here last night. Earlier, a discussion was held on "National Cultural Movement and Shaheed Zia" on the occasion of the 66th birth anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

three health camps will also be set

set up special wards for treating

people suffering from diarrhoea.

respiratory problems and burn

injuries in addition to sufficient

medical teams and provisions of

installed 1.500 tubewells and set

up an overhead tank to meet the

daily demand of water of the devo-

tees. Public health Engineering

Department (PHED) is providing

15.000 gallons of water every hour

Steps will also be taken to set up

special sewerage system to

The iitema authorities have

medicine and free treatment.

through three pumps.

Steps have also been taken to

up at three points

All the bodies had been somewhat disfigured. Neighbours said they found blood in Hawa's mouth when they rushed to the house Sreenagar upazila in Munshigani hearing the cry. They also said that district. Identity of the other at the height of her illness, she deceased could not be known. would often threaten to kill her family Sources said some devotees members.

were hospitalised yesterday after Local people held kabiraj Joynal falling sick at the ijtema venue. Uddin responsible for Hawa's wrong The number of beds at Tongi treatment. Due to poverty, the family hospital adjacent to the ijtema is could not afford to see a doctor, they likely to be increased. Besides,

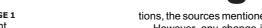
> Police from the Bandar thana went to the spot at about 9am yesterday and sent the bodies to the hospital for autopsy. On the basis of primary investi-

children died from suffocation. Police arrested Hawa. Her husband and other family members went into hiding after the incident, apparently in fear.

gation Bandar police said that the

Bandar police said Hawa gave contradictory statements about the murders. In the morning she said one old man entered her house at night and killed her children. But in the afternoon she said, "I have killed them by the order of 'Malik' (Allah) and I will kill more. A case was filed with Bandar

thana in this regard.



However, AL leaders including

Talking to newsmen on

that they would 'discard' hartal as a The issue of party overhauling, However, any change in leader-

Meanwhile, filing of 'false cases'

They mentioned that the authorities 'foiled' two AL-sponsored political programmes and besieged the party central office during hartal hours on November 15 and January Moreover, police baton-charged two former AL ministers at a peaceful sit-in programme on the latter hartal day.

AL has collected reports from

Though the AL had nominated



PHOTO: STAR Admission hopefuls under the 'Kha' unit gather on the Dhaka University campus as tests were held yesterday.

Another innings defeat

Set to score 317 runs to make the visitors bat again after Pakistan declared their first innings on 465, the home side could only manage to equal their first innings score of 148 before being bundled out in

However, this time Pakistan did not need to summon their spinners as the real fast stuff of Shoaib Akhtar and the guile of Waqar was sufficient to demolish the brittle Bangladesh batting. The home side began their

second innings an hour before lunch, but only after Yousuf Youhana had completed his second double hundred. The stylish right-hander, who was undefeated on 174 overnight, reached career-best 204 with a magnificent six off Sharif. And

the innings. In his 325-minute vigil, Youhana faced 243 balls and struck 34 boundaries and two sixes. He was latter adjudged man-of-the-

immediately his captain declared

Leg-spinner Danish Kaneria,

matches, was named man-of-the-It took only ten minutes after tea for Bangladesh's second

who took 13 wickets in two

Wagar and Shoaib shared eight wickets. The veteran Wagar started the avalanche dismissing three top order batsmen with just 24 runs on the board. Shoaib then ripped

innings to fold. The wrecking crew

Only Habibul Bashar was the lone Bangladesh player to put up a The middle-order reached his

through the tail.

ninth fifty off just 46 balls with nine boundaries. But as usual it was the signal to self-destruct when Shadab Kabir took a brilliant catch at forward short-leg off Saqlain Mushtag on 51. Pakistan won the first Test

in Dhaka by an innings and 178 Both teams will meet again at

the same venue on January 22 for the first one-day international. (More stories on Sports