Palestinians, as he met with British

Prime Minister Tony Blair near here

The US leader Monday set hard-

to-reach benchmarks for the

Palestinians to achieve to win an

independent state, including an

appeal to drop Arafat in favour of a

new leadership "not compromised

hope that Yasser Arafat can be the

one to implement reform. If it was

Yasser Arafat, it would have been

done a long time ago," White House

short of joining the call for his ouster.

Bush drew a muddled response

"I said that it is going to be the

people of Palestine who will decide

the leader, it is premature for me to

conclude who will be the leader, we

Meeting with Bush early

Wednesday, Blair did not explicitly

say Arafat must go, but warned the

Palestinians they should not expect

progress towards an independent

state unless they elect a leadership

that "resists and totally rejects

the people that they choose to

elect," he said. "But it's for us to say

the consequences of electing

people who aren't serious negotiat-

ing partners is that we can't move

After a bilateral exchange late

Tuesday, Chretien said Bush "talks

about perhaps it will be better to

replace Mr Arafat. I don't have a

specific point of view on that. It might

French President Jacques

Chirac said it was "up to the

Palestinian people, and to them

alone, to choose their representa-

tives" and called for an international

down a challenge to Bush, calling

for January elections that the

Earlier Wednesday, Arafat threw

conference to discuss Bush's plan.

this forward.'

be a good thing.

"It's for the Palestinians to elect

have to wait for the elections.'

spokesman Ari Fleischer said later.

"The president has given up

by terror.'

eaders.

he is fit or unfit."

position.

on the sidelines of the G8 summit.

# OIC countries Cyber war

Islamic Ummah, according to a message received here from the capital of Sudan.

Sudanese President Omar Hasan Bashir earlier inaugurated the conference. Morshed Khan called for making

the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meaningful by bringing the member countries into closer economic cooperation.

To achieve the objective he called for the establishment of a trade preferences regime among the OIC countries as a prelude to the creation of an Islamic Common Market.

To make OIC more effective he called for the creation of a small core group that could be called Action Group or the cabinet or some other appropriate name to ensure speedy consideration of the work confront-

President Ziaur Rahman repeatedly called for the creation of an Islamic Common Market at OIC summits in the seventies.

immediate establishment of a mechanism to ensure free flow of development funds, manpower as well as technology from the resource surplus to the resource scarce OIC

Common Investment Fund to enable member countries achieve their potentials. He also called for early imple-

He called for the creation of a

mentation of the Plan of Action for strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among the member countries. All his suggestions were well

received and the conference chairman designated the Bangladesh foreign minister to open the item on economic issues and poverty alleviation at the brain storming session said the message.

He, as an elected vice chairman of the ICFM, chaired a session Wednesday evening.

## The AJM black hole

1993, the losses shot up to astronomically high figures.

Among the 17093 permanent and 6100 temporary workers in AJM, there are about 1200 'virtual' workers who exist only in papers, and these phantom names are used by union leaders to make a huge amount of money every month Moreover, a section of officials and worker leaders have also sucked the mill dry in many different ways

The production cost of AJM is almost 30% higher than other mills of BJMC (Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation). It costs Tk 74.000 to produce a ton of Hessian jute at the AJM as against only Tk 58 thousand at Latif Bawani Jute Mills adjacent to AJM. The entire production and operation procedure is corrupt --Adamjee authorities buy raw jute showing a higher price than usual while the extra the money goes to CBA leaders and officials. Moreover. huge quantities of high quality jute are sold as 'raw jute'. Thus, the AJM has become a 'money-making machine' for some union leaders and officials despite continuous government subsidy.

The same source told this correspondent that the mill could be operated successfully with half the present manpower. He said, the extra' workers and a bulky adminis tration added to the losses each year. Every government since liberation had used this large number of workers for political benefit, he

The huge amount of money earned through corruption has tempted criminal groups into the AJM, and has resulted in a lot of bloodshed as competing groups clashed over the spoils. More than 100 people were killed in last 30 years in those bloody clashes -- 38 alone died in the 8 years of Ershad regime. Adamjee has now become one of the biggest warehouses of firearms. During the

AL regime, criminals were seen

carrying AK-47 rifles within the A.IM

As police rarely raid the mill areas, the

AJM has now also turned into a paradise for drug dealers. With patronisation from every government since 1971, leaders of the AJM workers' union have always behaved like Mafia dons, taking away a percentage of wages from every worker as toll to the union. Moreover, the arms and drug dealing in many cases are supervised directly by these leaders. The CBA (Collective Bargaining Agent) leaders have encroached upon acres of AJM lands and established different shops and other structures on them. Earnings from these shops and tin-

leaders' pockets. The AJM still has assets worth approximately Tk 900 crore including Tk 600 crore as the price of land under its jurisdiction. But with nearly Tk 1900 crore in debt and liabilities the situation can at best be described as hopeless. Also, workers have not received any weekly pay for the last four weeks.

shade houses go directly to the

## **Ashuliya filling-up**

But sources said that unless the government stepped in to protect Ashuliya, it would be difficult to stop the developer from plundering the

The move to stop the filling-up operation followed a front-page report in The Daily Star yesterday, which warned of a lurking environmental disaster in the event of filling

Recently, the Jamuna Group of Industries engaged more than 200 dredgers in dumping millions of cubic metres of earth in the vast wetland to

construct New Uttara Model Town. Rajuk officials said the area is earmarked in the Dhaka Master Plan as a flood-flow zone and off-limits to constructions. Yet, the developer

pushed ahead with the filling-up of the vast wetland, defying the law and the authorities. The Rajuk official filed the case for

the second time with the Savar Police Station Wednesday evening. The first case was filed with the same police station on September 10, 2001, accusing Managing Director and Chairman of the Jamuna Group of Industries Nurul Islam Babul

Also, the tahshildar (rent collector) of the Savar Tafsil Office filed a case

against the same person on January 12, 2002, accusing him of grabbing public property, parts of river and canal and low-lying land.

Meanwhile, the Department of Environment (DoE) has formed a five-member committee, headed by Dr Mostafa Kamal Faruque, a DoE's expert on the environment, to investigate the filling-up of Ashuliva wetland and its environmental implications.

DoE Director General Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury said that under the wetland protection act, the filling-up of a wetland without environmental clearance is totally illegal

"The committee members have visited Ashuliya several times and will soon submit the report. And we will send the report to the environment ministry for further action." said the DoE director-general.

But sources said that the land ministry, BIWTA, the environment ministry, the Water Development Board and the district administration are also directly responsible for protecting the area. They said it is beyond comprehension why none came forward to protect it.

## Musharraf seeks power

Meanwhile, politicians and analysts warned yesterday sweeping changes proposed to Pakistan's constitution will strengthen President Pervez Musharraf's grip on power and turn him into a "godfather" figure.

Critics said the measures released ahead of October general elections, would tip the balance of power heavily in favour of the president with the prime minister reduced to an administrative role.

"The president has emerged as a new godfather of the political system, too powerful and awesome for the political institutions to challenge or undermine him." analyst Nadeem Sved wrote in The Nation daily.

He added: "It seems the country is well on its way to a system where president calls all the shots, reducing the office of prime minister to play only second fiddle.

Pakistan's mainstream parties vesterday rejected the package. saying it gave the president too much power.

"The generals are seeking to use the president's office for driving from the back seat the country's security and foreign policies," said a spokesman for former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's

He urged human rights groups and the legal community to "condemn and reject the regime's bid to unilaterally alter the country's basic

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, head of the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami, said the "package will harm the national unity to great extent". A spokesman for the Pakistan Muslim League -- the party of Nawaz Sharif, who was booted out by Musharraf in 1999 -- said it would challenge the proposals if they are brought into

Musharraf has promised to return Pakistan to democracy in

Last week he said the prime minister will be "all-powerful" after the October election. "After the October elections, as far as I am concerned, the prime minister will be all-powerful... the education strategy, the economic strategy, the health strategy, who takes those decisions? The prime minister of Pakistan," he said in a BBC televi-

But he added: "I am going to retain the authority to have an overwatch on him and the power to dismiss the cabinet or assembly."

The same centre had reported al-Qaida and Taliban news and statements on a site called alneda.com for about five months, until the United States managed to wipe it off the cyber map

The daily USA Today reported on Saturday that US officials were scouring the Internet for any reappearance of alneda.com, which they believe was used by al-Qaida to send messages to followers -- including possible instructions for forthcoming attacks

The site, registered in Singapore, appeared on web servers in Malaysia and Texas this month before it was taken off at the request of US officials. the newspaper said.

Other websites, such as ehad.net, alsaha.com and islammemo.com, have been posting statements attributed to al-Qaida, but also to other "mujahedeen" (Islamic ighters), especially Palestinians and Chechens

In a new cyber twist, Islamist websites such as mwhoob.net and aljehad.online have been "flashing' political-religious songs, coupled with pictures of persecuted Muslims, to denounce US policy as well as Arab leaders, notably Saudi.

"The US enemy, unable to gain the upper hand over the Mujahedeen on he battlefield, has since September 11 been trying to gag the world media." the Center for Islamic Studies and Research declared on its website.

"The more the United States tries to stifle freedom of expression, the more determined we will become to break the silence. America will lose the media war too," it added.

But not everyone using Islamist websites is a bin Laden fan. Indeed some users have launched harsh attacks against the suspected mastermind of the September 11 suicide plane hijackings and his followers.

'Your repeated threats are nothing but hollow, desperate utterances, one Abu Hamza recently wrote on alsaha.com.

"Whatever happened to your storm of airplanes?" he asked sarcas-

The reference was to Abu Ghaith's warning last October of more jetliner attacks to come against the United States and Britain. 'The storm of airplanes will not subside, God willing," the al-Qaida

spokesman said in a pre-recorded

message broadcast by Al-Jazeera at "The storm will not die down, especially as long as you (United States and Britain) do not end your support for the Jews in Palestine, lift your embargo on the Iraqi people, eave the Arabian peninsula, and stop your support of the Hindus against

### Alam murder

Muslims in Kashmir." he said

Central Jail as there was no remand

prayer for them. CID police have so far arrested 18 people from the city and different parts of the country for their alleged involvement in the killing of SM Alam and his three maids.

They are Mohammad Yusuf Miah, Miraj Miah, Haji Md Rafizuddin alias Khathal Haji, Md. Islam, Rina, Sohel, Sohagh Bepari, Kabir, Abdur Rahman, Asma Rahman, Rehana, Noor Alam Abdul Kader, Noor Mohammad, Md. Ismail, Md Safiqul Islam and Md Nizam. CID police also recovered Tk 27.10 lakh, two cars, a microbus, several TVs. VCRs. VCPs, and audio and videocassettes worth about Tk 15 lakh from the possession of the arrested persons.

Industrialist S M Alam and his three maids were murdered by unidentified miscreants at Alambagh in the city's New Jurain on January 1 this year.

### Jail Killing Case

FROM PAGE 1 the then president Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Ăugust 15, 1975. Bangabandhu along with most of his family members was killed on the fateful night of August 15, 1975 in a military putsch and Khondakar Mushtaque became the selfproclaimed president the following

He further told the court that on the night of November 2, 1975, he was on duty at the Bangabhaban as personal assistant to Brig Mushrul Haq, military

secretary to Khondakar Mushtague. At about 7.30 pm Capt Moslem came to his (witness's) office and took him to a room on the first floor of the Bangabhaban where he saw army officers Farook, Rashid, Dalim, Huda Noor, Shahriar, Pasha, Mohinuddin Maj Sharful Hossain, Capt Majed, Khairuzzaman, Hashem, Nazmul, and Dafadar Marfat Ali, the witness

Special public prosecutors Anisul Haq and Mosarraf Hossain Kajol

before the court during the hearing.

Col (dismissed) Syed Farukur Rahman, Lt Col (Retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan and Maj (Retd) Bazlul Huda. Four other accused KM Obaidur

Rahman MP, Nurul Islam Manzoor, Shah Moazzem Hossain and Mai (Retd) Khairuzzaman now on bail. were also present in the court during the hearing. Four national leaders Syed Nazrul

Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Captain Mansur Ali and AHM Quamruzzaman were killed inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

# 3 PCBs set to suffer Bush on Arafat

transfer of the entire principal loan amount and 50 per cent of the outstanding interest to a block account to be paid in installments till

If its proposal gets through, it would mean that the banks have to count Tk 91 crore in income erosion across the board. "Since the Islam Group has

asked for interest waiver, it is easy to calculate the impact on the banks. In case of Beximco's proposal, the result would be almost similar," a leading banker told The Daily Star. Earlier, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) in 1993 detected that the

Beximco Group siphoned off Tk

118.46 crore against 112 benami

(fictitious) accounts from three IFIC

branches. And the group did it while sitting on the bank's board. Beximco also took around Tk 200 crore from the AB Bank and part of this was taken through similar

means. The BB in 1993 also detected that the Islam Group siphoned off Tk 232.58 crore against some 233 benami accounts from the IFIC and applied similar means to fetch another Tk 53.57 crore from the Uttara Bank.

Meantime, the PCBs have sent the proposals of the two groups to the central bank for its clarification.

The BB has asked the management of the IFIC, Uttara and the AB banks to let it know the impact on their balance sheets if the groups' proposals are entertained. The BB also wants to know the overall financial health of the groups. The central bank in a letter to the

IFIC Bank has said that if the Islam Group wants its proposal approved, then it has to relinquish its director-

World's oldest photo

to be preserved

for centuries

The image acknowledged as the

world's first photograph -- taken by a

French inventor in 1826 -- has

passed its first full-scale analysis

with flying colors and is now await-

ing an airtight case that will keep it

safe for centuries to come, scien-

image of the French countryside

captured by Joseph Nicephore

Niepce on a thin pewter plate, has

been undergoing a high-tech check-

up by scientists at the Getty

Conservation Institute in a joint

project with French photo conserva-

"If you think of all the history of

photographs, the development of

film and television, they all come

from this first image," said senior

of all those technologies. This is the

beginning. That is why it is so excit-

ing," Stulik said.

"This is the grand, grand-father

Using X-rays, multi-spectral

"This was the first scientific

"We are really glad to report that

imaging and infra-red spectrome-

ters, the scientists sought to unlock

the mysterious chemical processes

analysis done on the plate...and we

did it without even touching the

the object is in a good state of pres-

ervation. The Getty is also develop-

ing a new enclosure filled with inert

gas, to stop corrosion and oxidation,

so we will preserve the image not for

50 years, but for a number of centu-

a heliograph in acknowledgment of

The image, which Niepce called

by which the image was made.

The faint 8-inch by 6.5-inch

REUTERS, Los Angeles

tists said on Wednesday.

banks to explain whether the losses they may suffer if the Islam Group's proposal is entertained would be within tolerable limit.

According to bank sources, Beximco, supposed to pay a monthly installment of Tk 2 crore to the IFIC, failed to make its February and March payments. And in end-April, Beximco cleared one installment and placed its rescheduling proposal with the bank.

Back in 1993 when the loans were sanctioned to Beximco, none of them secured meaning that the loans were sanctioned without any collateral. Only after the BB detected the fraud, the Beximco Group offered 'corporate and personal quarantees' On the other hand, the Islam

Group secured its loans by mortgaging title deeds of 400 bighas of land in and around Dhaka city, the approximate value of which is around Tk 200 crore. Moreover, the group mortgaged 68,000 shares of the Uttara Bank and 2,65,000 more of the IFIC. As per the last rescheduling

arrangement, the Beximco Group has to repay the loans to the IFIC by 2005 in monthly installments. As of March 2002, it has cleared about Tk 127 crore and another Tk 127 crore has to be paid by 2005. In case of the AB Bank, the

around Tk 60 crore and still has to pay about Tk 190 crore in monthly nstallments till 2007. Asked to comment on his group's proposal, Salman F Rahman of the Beximco Group, said, "If our proposal for staggering the repayment

period gets approved, the banks will

the sun's power, was last exhibited

in 1898 and had been missing for

vears before it turned up in 1952.

Time manipulation

early afternoon.

opposition asks for."

announced.

FROM PAGE 1 down the offer. Meanwhile, being

informed of the ALPP decision the AL

members left the Sangsad Bhaban in

the floor Prime Minister's

Parliamentary Affairs Advisor

Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury

referred to the moves initiated to brind

the AL legislators back. Suggesting

two-hour time for the opposition, the

date no matter how much time the

into midnight, but we want to see the

In the evening, the deputy opposi-tion leader at a press briefing alleged

that the Chair did not keep the record

properly as the Chair did not mention

how much additional time a lawmaker

is allocated. The chair allows the ruling

Citing instances, he said

party lawmakers more time than

Communications Minister Nazmul

Huda was allowed 20 minutes on the

floor, but he spoke for 31 minutes.

However, the record shows he spoke

for only 21 minutes. Similarly, State Minister for Religious Affairs

Mosharraf Hossain Šhahjahan was

allowed eight minutes but he spoke for

20 minutes. State Minister for Water

Resources Gautam Chakrabwrat

spoke for 30 minutes against a 10-

minute allocation. State Minister for

Power Ikbal Hasan Tuku spoke for 20

minutes against eight minutes, while Agriculture Minister Matiur Rahman

Nizami spoke for 32 minutes instead

of the allocated 15.

opposition in the House." he noted.

"If necessary, the House would run

advisor said, "We would accommo-

In late afternoon, while speaking on

Beximco Group has so far cleared

get more interest from us." He also said his group has not sort of block account facility, which could have led to income erosion for

the banks. Showing reasons for rescheduling of loans, Salman said Beximco is passing through hard financial

"As the government has defaulted on paying around Tk 80 crore in cash export incentives to the textile and apparel sector this fiscal to Beximco, we are passing through difficult times. In fact, this has ruined our whole business." Salman said.

After September 11. Beximco's woes worsened as 80 per cent of its business depends on export.

On the other hand, the Islam Group repaid Tk 219 crore till January 31, 2002 to the IFIC and would require to pay another Tk 212 crore by December 2009 under the existing rescheduling facility. Of this amount. Tk 70 crore is the principal amount and the rest Tk 142 crore in interest

The Islam Group has so far paid Tk 51 crore to the Uttara Bank and will require to clear another Tk 57 crore of which Tk 17 crore is principal amount and the rest Tk 40 crore in interest.

In an earlier occasion, Chairman of Islam Group and IFIC Bank Manzurul Islam told The Daily Star that he had inherited the liabilities and never defaulted on payment.

On his proposal for rescheduling and interest waiver facility. Islam said the banks extend such facilities to different clients from time to time. As such, he only asked for similar facilities to ensure that he does not default on loan repayment in future and plans his business accordingly.

### Duty on PC

The government should patronise the ICT sector which can supplement the country's dwindling foreign exchange inflow in a short time, said President of Internet Service Providers' Association (ISPA) Akhtaruzzaman Maniu

customs duty would hinder the growth of the ICT sector, from which the government plans to earn US\$4 billion by the year 2005, he observed.

### DU tree

FROM PAGE 12

They are protesting felling of trees

were ioined by activis porters of different student bodies.

Billa, DU unit president of Jatiya Chhatra Oikka; Ahad Mina Secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Moittree, Julhas Naine from Chhatra Federation, Abul hasan Rubel from Suchana Studies Cirle, Imran Hasan from Bipplobi Chhatra Moittree and Nasrin Opi from

Ahmad expressed solidarity with the

Islam Chowdhury said he is opposed to destruction of green space, felling of trees and an unplanned construction.

### FROM PAGE 12

nication sector." Khan said.

to save greenness of the present The demonstration and the rally

The rally was addressed by Bak

The speakers said they would launch a greater movement if the

students in their protest.

## Diarrhoea vaccine developed

Pneumonia.

ries," Stulik said.

the US helped to develop the vaccine named '89-12'. They obtained the vaccine by isolating a single strain of the virus from a Rotavirusinfected infant in Cincinnati. Ohio in

The work on the vaccine began about thirteen years ago in the U.S. with Dr David Sack as a key scientist along with Dr David Bernstein and Dr Richard Ward, all U.S. scientists. They tested the vaccine in the laboratory and on a small population of infants

intussusception, a side-effect closely associated with the previous RotaSheild vaccine," Dr Sack told this correspondent. Years of successful trials have

led scientists to believe that the oral vaccine is safe for use against the virus. A few tests still remain before it can be used on a world scale. The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ethical Review

Committee (ERC) of the ICDDR,B approved testing of the vaccine about six months ago. However, the vaccine now being manufactured for research, will not

be available before the next five years, the scientist said.

The vaccine will be on a two-year trial in Bangladesh. The ICDDR.B and the Dhaka Shishu Hospital will jointly inspect its efficacy on infants and children of different age groups. starting from next month. Dr Md Khalequzzaman of ICDDR,B will be the principal investigator in the study

attained in the US may not be the same for Bangladesh or other developing countries where diarin other settings.'

hospitals. This virus is an important cause

has received much attention.

including development, laboratory trials and other costs The vaccine once available in the

process of felling trees is not halted. Meanwhile, 14 teachers of the university including Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury and Prof Muzaffor

When contacted. Prof Serajul

## markets will be administered in two

Meanwhile, the Global Alliance

for Vaccines and Immunisation

(GAVI) has given top priority to the

development of the vaccine against

Rotavirus along with Meningitis and

ICDDR,B invented oral saline some

thirty years ago saving millions of

lives from diarrhoea around world.

It is worth mentioning that

doses. The first dose will be given to a child at six weeks of age and the second at ten weeks

Dr Sack said. "The results

He also said the vaccine is being diarrhoea treated in the country's

FROM PAGE 1 of mortality among children. In the for budgetary discussion, Hasina US an estimated annual cost of one billion-dollars is incurred due to Rotavirus infections. Prevention of diarrhoea caused by the Rotavirus The cost of developing the vaccine was not available but a

estimated to cost \$200 million

posal that former finance minister last Tuesday

excelling in the information commu-

He said the government should revoke the decision. The BCS has submitted a memorandum to 300 legislators in support of its demand. The BCS would seek the prime minister's intervention in this matter.

The imposition of 7.5 per cent

Palestinian leader is likely to win and expanding on his proposed reforms. Faced with the prospect of Arafat winning re-election. Bush warned the "free world" could withhold aid to the Palestinians unless they

showed concrete progress on the reforms he has demanded. "I can assure you we won't be putting money into a society which is not transparent and corrupt and I suspect other countries won't

would judge whether the Palestinians have gone far enough. US officials hastened to explain that Bush was not referring to current humanitarian aid -- such as food or housing assistance -- but to potential future assistance to

either," he replied when asked who

Palestinian institutions. Bush said he would use "diplomatic pressure" to convince the Palestinians to abandon terrorism, but said: "I'm never ruling out mili-

tary. All options are available."

"We all have responsibilities and in this case the tool I'm using is diplomatic pressure to work with our friends and allies to convince all parties they have a responsibility to bear." he said.

European Commision president Romani Prodi later said plans for a Middle East peace conference were on hold. "For the moment. I don't see an

imminent peace conference," he told reporters in Kananaskis. "A conference was not a priority of the Bush speech, and there won't

be a conference without the US." Meanwhile, Israeli troops continuing to smash away at a Palestinian Authority building in Hebron with helicopter gunships and heavy artillery in a bitter standoff with Palestinian militants inside.

them," Bush said, referring to the second day after a relatively calm night, but elsewhere on the West Bank a 17-year-old Palestinian

gunmen was shot dead by soldiers. Troops also maintained pressure on Arafat's authority by storming a post of his personal guard in Nablus, blindfolding 20 members of Force 17 and searching the position for

And on the Gaza Strip they clashed with Palestinian gunmen near the town of Rafah that straddles the border with Egypt, wounding six of them with gunfire.

Top Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rudeina told AFP that Israel's latest Leaders gathered here generally attacks were blessed by the United echoed Bush's frustration with the States, which has given "its Palestinian president but stopped approval to the Israeli aggression and military escalation". insisting it was up to the Abu Rudeina also accused of Palestinians to choose their own

Israel of shirking calls by US

President George Bush to pull out of

Palestinian territories, and urged from Canada, with Prime Minister Washington to "assume its respon-Jean Chretien saying replacing sibility" Arafat "might be a good thing" after In Hebron, two US-made Apache Foreign Minister Bill Graham said it helicopters went into action over the was not "appropriate to say whether "mogataa" at 9:00 am (0600 GMT). Later Chretien tried to clarify the pounding it for 30 minutes before leaving, an AFP correspondent

> After a brief respite troops peppered the white-stone edifice with a barrage of heavy machine gun fire. Dozens of impacts from heavy weapons could be seen on the facade.

Palestinian sources said officials from both sides were trying to find a solution to the Hebron standoff, but an army spokesman declined to comment on the report. According to the sources Palestinian Authority officials were

building in exchange for an Israeli pledge that they would not be narmed physically. Israeli military officials told public radio on Wednesday they were looking for 15 to 20 militants from the Tanzim, a group linked to

involved in "negotiations" with

Israeli officers to guarantee the

surrender of militants inside the

Arafat's Fatah faction. "This building has become a sort of hotel for wanted Palestinians." General David Blumenfeld said on public radio, adding that he

expected more suspects to surrender soon. He said the army had arrested 40 'wanted" Palestinians since tanks rolled back into Hebron on Tuesday as part of Operation Determined

Path launched last week. The army has taken control of seven out of the eight key West Bank cities, including Hebron, imposing curfews in retaliation for two suicide bombings and an attack

on a Jewish settlement that killed 31 sraelis last week Meanwhile 17-year-old Mohammed Ayesh was shot dead by Israeli troops in an exchange of fire in the Ballata refugee camp near

the West Bank city of Nablus early Thursday Palest n sources said Ayesh, 17, fired on troops in a tank with a pistol and was killed by machine-gun fire, they said.

troops stormed the offices of Force 17. located inside a former prison known as Al-Jneid (eds: correct), to search for weapons, witnesses Four tanks surrounded the

Further north in Nablus Israeli

building as soldiers went through the premises, emerging frequently with rifles, witnesses told this news agency. In the West Bank town of Bethelehem Israeli soldiers disguised as Palestinians arrested

Nidal Abu Aker, 33, of the secular

Popular Front for the Liberation of

Palestine, at a filling station, PFLP sources said Around the southern Gaza town of Rafah six Palestinians were wounded in clashes with Israeli troops who also bulldozed 10 Palestinian buildings in the area,

security and medical sources said Tanks also fired at two buildings in the Palestinian autonomous town of Beit Hanoun in the north of the territory, causing damage in apparent retaliation for a Palestinan mortar attack on the nearby settle-

## The match-up

There's little doubt which style most fans prefer. At its best, Brazilian soccer is a painter's palette. At its worst, German soccer is a wrecking ball, shattering opponents with brute strength and bland-but-

The assault was resumed on the

levelled at us because of the lack of style, lack of flair, in actual fact we implemented the coach's instructions." Germany's Michael Ballack said after the semifinal win. Ballack, who scored the only

goals in the quarterfinal against the United States and in the semifinal, will miss Sunday's game while serving a suspension for getting two yellow cards. Brazil seems supremely confident going in. "It will be a match between the most attacking team and the most

defensive team, who has only given away one goal," Roberto Carlos said. "The game will focus on the

defensive tactics.' In the past decade, the nations have met five times, with Brazil

going 3-1-1. The Brazilians won 3-1 at home in 1992, tied 3-3 at Washington's RFK Stadium the following year, and Germany won 2-1 at home in 1993. Brazil won 2-1 in a 1998 game in Germany, then routed an understrength German team 4-0 at Mexico in the 1999 FIFA Confederations Cup, with Ronaldinho scoring with a penalty kick. The midfielder returns for the final after serving a one-game suspension. In the 1993 game in Washington,

rallied in 34-degree C (93-degree F) heat as Juergen Klinsmann scored Overall, Brazil leads the series

Germany fell behind by three goals

for the first time in eight years, then

10-4-3, outscoring the Germans 31-18. On neutral soil, Brazil are 2-1-0.

### In recognition of its work the instituappeared for the state while Advocate "I am very optimistic about the October this year, saying the constirhoea is extensive. Our goal in this tion was honoured with the most Mahbubur Rahman MP, Hazi Nazrul safety of this vaccine which has tution would be amended to ensure final stage of the investigation will be prestigious Bill Gates Award for been tested by time and is unlike the Islam. ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul. "genuine" democracy and good to examine how the vaccine works Abdul Majid Munshi and Arshadul Haq RotaSheild, a vaccine developed Global Health, last year in governance. He was handed an earlier for the Rotavirus which was Washington DC, USA. for the accused. extra five years as president in May Four of the 21 accused in the jail "Our research is not a race for later withdrawn in the US due to tested in South Africa, Finland, Peru after a referendum plagued by killing case, now detained at the safety concerns. The '89-12' vacmanufacturing vaccines, it is rather effective relentlessness. and the US. Bangladesh will be Dhaka Central Jail, were produced cine has no evidence of side-effects a race for saving millions of chilallegations of multiple voting and "Despite the criticisms that were largely benefited, as the Rotavirus like bowel obstruction or better dren," said Dr Sack. manipulation causes 30 per cent of all cases of They are Taher Uddin Thakur, Lt known in medical term as

said, "We must be given the right proportion of time allocated for the opposition for a meaningful discussion on the budget." In the last two parliaments -- the fifth and the seventh -- the opposition was given over 50 per cent of total time for similar vaccine - RotaShield was

budgetary debates, she added. Hasina also asked the government to consider her party's pro-

AL to stay off

SAMS Kibria placed in the House.