Targeted US firms

sister institution across the street, the International Monetary Fund, swept the $underside\ of\ cars\ with\ detecting\ devices\ as$

they entered the garage. Police were more visible, although not in large numbers, in a capital that has already fortified key buildings against terrorism. "I'm concerned but we have to carry on as normal," said Shirley Davies of Britain, who has worked at the IMF for seven years. The bank and the fund are among largest employers in Washington, with more than 10,000 people in both buildings, two blocks from the White

House. Along with the international institutions, authorities placed the Citigroup Center building in New York, the New York Stock Exchange and Prudential Financial Inc.'s headquarters in Newark. N.J., under heavy scrutiny after unusually detailed information identified those buildings as terrorism targets, and prompted the government to raise its

New York police closed several streets in midtown Manhattan and banned trucks from bridges and tunnels leading to Wall Street. Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Gov. George Pataki rang the opening bell at the stock exchange in a show of

 $confidence in the city's \, precautions.$ threaded through police and concrete barriers into their offices. "I'm a little nervous given the 9/11 situation, but I'm confident Prudential's doing everything they can to ensure our safety," said Tracy

finance department. A heavy contingent of authorities checked identification and bags at the 59-

Swistak, 27, an analyst in the international

story Citigroup Center, midtown Manhattan's third largest building. "It's definitely a scary building to be working in when we're a big target," said

Chip Persons, 35, who works on the 24th Officials acted on intelligence that Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge

called alarmingly specific, but he said officials could not tell whether an attack might be imminent and he encouraged

"We have to go on being America," he said on ABC's "Good Morning America." "We can't button up and be what we're A cache of recently obtained informa-

people to go about their business.

tion -- including photos, drawings and written documents -- indicates that al-Qaeda operatives have undertaken meticulous preparations to case the five specific buildings.

Ridge on Sunday raised the terror threat level for financial institutions in the three cities to orange, or high alert, the second highest level on the government's five-point spectrum. Elsewhere, he said. the alert would remain at yellow, or

"Iconic economic targets are at the heart of (the terrorists') interest." Ridge

There was no obvious boost in security at the White House, where defenses were stiffened after the Sept. 11 attacks. Pennsylvania Avenue, the street in front o the White House, has been closed for months because of a huge construction project to turn the roadway into a pedestrian boulevard. On the west side of the White House, truck traffic has been barred

for some time along 17th Street. The fresh intelligence did not give crucial details about when, where or how

Two killed in Narayanganj incidents

BSS, N'ganj

others injured with bullets in separate incidents in the district in the early hours yesterday According to police and witnesses, Din

Islam, a night guard of Laxmi Narayan

Two persons were shot dead and two

Cotton Mills at Siddhirganj, was shot dead allegedly by a gang of criminals belonging to 'Rekmat Bahini' at about Hearing the gunshot, locals chased

the criminals and caught five of them named Bazlu, Sohel, Mazharul, and Locals beat the criminals up and

handed them over to the police. They were first admitted to Khanpur 200-bed hospital and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police recovered Din Islam's body and sent it toNarayanganj General Hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with Siddhirganj

In another incident, housewife Momtaz Begum, 55, was gunned down

and her younger daughter Nurunnahar, 23, and tenant Mazhar were injured with bullets in an armed attack by a $gang\, of\, criminals\, at\, about\, 3:00am.$

Police and locals said a gang of five raided the house of Momtaz Begum at Lamapara under Fatullah Police Station and sprayed bullets on her while she was asleep. Her daughter and the tenant received bullet injuries as they were trying to resist the hoodlums.

The criminals fled the scene after the incident. The body sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy, while the injured were released after first aid from

Khanpur Hospital. A case was filed with Fatullah Police

terrorists may strike, Ridge said, but government analysis indicates terrorists may favor car or truck bombs or other

means to physically destroy targets. In Newark, police set up metal fences surrounding the Prudential Plaza building, blocked off two city streets and toted

And in Washington, Mayor Anthony Williams put the entire city on an orange alert, although the Homeland Security Department has not officially raised the threat level outside financial-sector

Officials have warned that the al-Qaida network, blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, may launch a large-scale assault in hopes of disrupting the Nov. 2 elections and demonstrating that it remains capable of offensive actions

despite international efforts to combat An example of that international operation, Sunday's warning stems in large part from Pakistan's capture of an al-Oaida operative several weeks ago, a U.S. counterterrorism official said

rould not identify the operative. That detention led to the discovery of the documentary information about the extensive surveillance of the five buildings, the counterterrorism official said. The official said the scouting was ing on before and after Sept. 11, 2001,

speaking only anonymously. Officials

but it's unclear how recently. That information was also discovered in Pakistan. Ridge would not comment on specific sources of the intelligence, but he credited strong partnerships with allies around the world, specifically citing

Pakistan's information minister, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, told The Associated Press vesterday that Pakistani intelligence agents discovered plans for new attacks on the United States and Britain on a computer seized

during the arrest of a high-ranking al-He said the plans were in e-mails on the computer of Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian arrested July 25

after a gunbattle in the eastern city of

Authorities have also arrested another top al-Qaeda suspect believed to be a computer and communications expert, and that that man was cooperating with investigators, Ahmed said

20 hurt in Rangamati

At least 20 people were injured in clashes between tribal people and settlers in and around Rangamati University College yesterday.

Police said the trouble begun in the morning when some Bangalee students prevented tribal students from

taking ganja in a room of the college. The clash later spread in the adi

cent areas, leaving 20 people injured. Bangalee Chhatra Parisad leaders Shahadat Hossain, Saidur Rahman, Imon and Dipu are among the injured.

Two of the injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Later, the angry tribal people went on the rampage, damaging autorickshaws, buses and trucks in the area, disrupting traffic. On information, army personnel

rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Floodwaters

forecast rains in the second week of

this month, raising fears of deterioration of the flood situation in Dhaka if waters do not recede quickly now. Yesterday, the Shitalakhya was

flowing 89cm above the danger level, Balu 167cm and Meghna 54cm. The FFWC however said although

the other rivers around Dhaka were still flowing above the red mark, their quick recession indicated water levels would fall below the red mark in the next few days.

The Buriganga was flowing 23 cm above the red mark yesterday, Turag $81\,\mathrm{cm}$ and Dhaleswari $17\,\mathrm{cm}$.

"We cannot say now if the flood situation will deteriorate or not as the strength of monsoon is still unclear," said Bhuivan, A 'substantive forecast is likely to be made around August 10, he added.

"Usually floods occur in Bangladesh during August and September as monsoon rains are at their peak," Bhuivan said.

Diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases are spreading fast in many of the flood-hit city areas. Mosquito menace has also posed serious health hazards and cases of dengue fever are

Dawn-to-dusk

The indefinite transport strike called by Gopalganj District Bus Workers Union was observed yesterday. The leaders of the union said they will continue the programme until their demands are

Santosh Gupta

Father of two sons and a daughter, Santosh was born on January 9, 1925 at Runshi village in Jhalokathi district. He started journalism in 1957 with the then Daily Azad and worked the Daily Purbakon before joining the Daily

Sangbad in 1965. He actively participated in the Liberation War. He was the assistant secretary of the Information Department of the then Bangladesh

Malaria strikes

government in exile.

FROM PAGE 1 mosquitoes that transmit malaria in a place like Dhaka city is quite an unusual affair. But we must remember epidem

cs of malaria in Araihazar and Raigonj Experts mentioned malaria parasite enters the bloodstream and travels straight to the liver, where it replicates it replicates itself thousands of times while staying safe from any attack by the body's own defence mechanisms. Then they are released back into the bloodstream in a form that invade red blood cells. Once inside the red blood cell, they mature into a form that

develops a tricky defence against the body's immune system. In the red blood cell, the parasites feed on haemoglobin and multiply After every 48 hours, the cell ruptures

and new parasites invade more red blood cells and repeat the cycle. Malaria kills about 3,000 children a day globally and the parasite that causes the disease is becoming harder

to treat as it develops resistance to more

and more drugs, a WHO study said.

Khaleda

efforts to extend cooperation to Bangladesh for developing a permanent and lasting flood management system. He also showed his government's intention to participate in post-flood

rehabilitation programme in

The prime minister urged the Dutch entrepreneurs to come up with investment and joint ventures in Bangladesh and also to enhance trade

elations between the two countries The Dutch envoy praised the quality of a number of Bangladeshi products including ceramics, leather, garments and processed food.

He also appreciated the successes of Bangladesh in the field of education, especially female education and women empowerment.

Khaleda recalled her visit to the Netherlands with late president Ziaur Rahman in 1979.

During the meeting, they described he relations between Bangladesh and the Netherlands as very cordial and expressed the hope that it would further enhance in the years to come.

PM reiterates

that the government would start massive post-flood rehabilitation work mmediately after the flood waters

She said rationing on VGF cards and other supports of the government to the flood-affected areas would continue until the flood victims rebuild their homes and harvest new

She said the government would provide farmers with seedlings free of cost and fertilisers at reduced rates along with other necessary supports so that they can recoup the losses.

The prime minister said there was no reason to worry as BNP and the coalition government would come up with whatever needed.

The prime minister thanked the affluent people as well as organisations for donating to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the flood victims.

She distributed relief among the flood victims at Jhaupara and Safar Ali Government College. She also visited some affected areas of Araihazar.

Water Resources Minister Mai (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, also minister in charge of Narayanganj, State Minister for Liberation War Rezaul Karim, local MP Ataur Rahman Khan, Giasuddin Ahmed MP and Narayanganj BNP General Secretary Taimur Alam Khondokar, among others, also spoke and accompanied the prime minister during relief distri-

Prime suspect

Inspector Mohiuddin Ahmed said the arrestee admitted during interrogation at the police station that he is Khorha (lame) Liton and was involved in the murder of Balu on June 27. The IO said Liton hurled a powerful

bomb at Balu in front of his office. Lalon Shaikh, another outlaw who was arrested Wednesday from Satkhira Road in Daulatpur in Khulna, gave Liton's name and whereabouts, he Liton, a professional bomb maker,

s accused of several criminal charges ncluding those for murders, police said. He was brought to Khulna yester-Deputy Commissioner (South)

Akbar Ali said the arrest of Liton is a major breakthrough in the probe into Balu murder case, as now the arrestee is likely to admit who had hired him for



Flood victims scramble for water supplied by Pran Beverage Company Limited at Mugda Stadium in Dhaka yester-

Abdullah Abu Sayeed

Biswa Shahityo Kendro or World Literature Centre, has been picked for the award for "his cultivating in the vouth of Bangladesh a love for literature and its humanizing values through exposure to the great books of Bengal

and the world", says the board of

day, as the water crisis looms.

trustees in the citation. Seven individuals from the Philippines, China, Thailand, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan will receive Asia's most prestigious prize, also known as Asian Nobel Prize.

The seven 2004 Magsaysay awardees join 236 other laureates who have received Asia's highest honour to date. The award will be formally conferred on them during the presentation ceremonies to be held on August 31. 2004 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Tahrunnesa Abdullah, Fazle Hasan Abed, Zafrullah Chowdhury, Angela Gomes, Father Richard William Timm, Mohammad Yeasin and Muhammad Yunus are the Bangladeshis to have received the coveted award earlier for their contributions in respective fields. Sayeed was born in 1939 in

Calcutta, where his father was a teacher and a well-known playwright. After partition, he attended university in East Pakistan. As a young man, Sayeed wrote poetry and fiction and led a vibrant literary movement of the 1960s. As editor of the magazine

Kanthashar; he drifted into the new medium of television and hosted a succession of popular shows. All the while, for some 25 years, he taught

literature at Dhaka College. Observing the decline of intellectual life in Bangladeshi society, Sayeed founded the Kendro in 1978 to restore interest in reading among the vouth and to "enlighten human beings," in his own words. Under Sayeed's tutelage, 25 university students began reading and discussing great works of literature in an Enrichment Program that soon grew to include high school

Currently, the Kendro has 500 branches in 54 districts and the programme has hundreds of thousands of graduates. Its well-stocked bookmobiles today make stops at 250 locations in four cities across the

as a library, serving hundreds of readers a day and also as a publishing house. Sales of its 225 volumes of verse and prose and translations provide financial support for the Kendro's

reed launched a nationwide library programme in 1998. Versatile and charismatic, Sayeed devotes himself to the Kendro and its programmes and also to urgent environmental concerns. Sayeed dreams of a new generation of enlightened Bangladeshi citizens whose values have been enriched

Imam rapes

after end of such lessons, Zohurul did not let the girl go home. Instead, he lured her by a mango to stay there. And when the other kids left the mosque, he raped the baby girl at about 4.15 pm. As the girl cried for help, locals rushed to

the scene and rescued her. They took her to local health complex. Later as her condition worsened, she was shifted to Kushtia General Hospital

Local people captured the rapist and confined him to the mosque. Later

police arrested him the same day A case was filed with Mirpur Police In Ihenidah, another five-vear-old girl

was raped at village Bhatoy in Sailkupa Police said one Russel, 22, son of Sirazul Islam, raped the girl when she went to

cut grass at a field nearby her house at about 11:00am on Sunday. Family sources said on hearing the girl's cry for help they went to the field and found her lying there with her dress blood stained. The rapist, however,

The father of the victim has filed a case against the rapist and his father Sirazul Police could not arrest the rapist, but

Police took the girl to Jhenidah Sadar

Hospital and completed her medical test.

picked up his father for interrogation.

Rab and police

with two magazines and 13 bullets and a German-made revolver with seven

Following their confessional informa-

Fair polls possible

It was bent on retaining the seat after party lawmaker Abdul Mannan resigned from the BNP and parliament to join the Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh founded by former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury.

Mannan questioned the validity of the polls for violation of the High Court order and a contempt of court case is now pending with the court. The main opposition Awami

League is holding the Gazipur 2 seat since 1996 general elections and the common man were shocked at the assassination of popular lawmaker Ahsanullah Master The ruling coalition did not inter-

fere with the polls fearing the same level of backlash that swept the constituency in the wake of the assassination and realising that Ahsanullah's son Zahid Ahsan Russell rode on a

Russell swept the polls with a wide margin of 47,933 votes and polled 13,

and college students.

Sayeed developed the Kendro itself

Responding to the woeful lack of public lending libraries in Bangladesh,

$Is lam \, with \, Sailkupa \, Police \, Station.$

managed to escape the capture.

vesterday and seized a US-made pistol

Earlier, the same team raided a scrap shop rear of the Uttara Bank in Motijheel and recovered a pipe gun and two

The Cobra, meanwhile, arrested Kala Jahangir's associates Shawkat and Babla from Kafrul in the city at around 2:00pm. tion, the team later arrested Mamur from Parbata in Senpara in Mirpur and recovered a 9mm pistol with two bullets.

500 more votes than his father in 2001

violators of the code of conduct and

The EC under Acting Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Safiur Rahman also played an active role to conduct the polls free and fair. It directed stern action against

even asked BNP-led ruling coalition candidate MA Mannan to come up with an undertaking stating that he would not violate the code of conduct. He also asked the AL, BNP and the Jatiya Party of upholding electoral

> The AL boycotted 15 parliamentary age the main opposition party to

by-elections of the Eighth Jativa Sangsad after alleging rigging in Netrakona-3 by-polls held in August The Gazipur 2 by-polls will encour-

participate in Netrokona-2 by-polls.

The seat fell vacant at the death of

veteran AL lawmaker Abdul Momin.

rules during campaigning.

land of Indian border, right on the

BSF digs bunkers

FROM PAGE 12

opposite side of Chowgacha frontier. Lieutenant Colonel Azizur

Rahman, commanding officer of 25 Rifles Battalion, asked the locals not to panic. He said BDR has put its iawans on high alert to avert any untoward incident. UNB adds: Bangladesh and India yesterday began a four-day border

like curbing cross-border crime, smuggling, drugs and arms trafficking, resisting intrusion and so on. Deputy Director General of BDR Brigadier General M Ibrahim Khalil is leading a nine-member host side and Inspector General of BSF

Alexander Daniel IPS an Indian

delegation of 12 at the talks at the

BDR sector headquarters in Comilla.

conference to sort out various issues

Govt to take

FROM PAGE 12

Cooperation) summit slated for 9-11

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar presided over the meeting. He told reporters after the meeting that holding the Saarc meet is a matter of pride for Bangladesh and he has asked all law-enforcing agencies and security forces to guarantee 'foolproof security'

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Ashraful Huda said the need for heightened security is indisputable as security threats in the region are increasing.

The heads of states and government of all seven Saarc nations are expected to attend the meet and stay at Hotel Sheraton, sources said. A whole block surrounding the hotel stretching from Matsha Bhaban crossing to Shahbagh and Old Elephant Road will be made off limits

during the three-day summit. Home Secretary Omar Farooq, the inspector general of police, and director general of Bangladesh Rifles were, among others, present.

300 killed

the basement parking lot.

center for identification.

reporters.

Gonzalez also dismissed speculation that the fire was set off by a car bomb in

have been inside the shopping center, according to witnesses. The complex belongs to the Ycua Bolanos chain and includes several fast-

At least 400 people are believed to

food outlets in addition to the store. Of those killed, only 75 bodies have been identified. Sanchez said. The charred human remains were being taken to a enclosed military sports

Paraguayan President Nicanor Duarte quickly arrived at the complex Sunday accompanied by Interior Minister Orlando Fiorotto.

"It's a painful moment," Duarte told

"The police and fire service are working to reduce the magnitude of this disaster," the president said. "We came here to offer our support to relatives as

Duarte also declared three days of national mourning for the victims. The president of the national congress, Miguel Carrizosa, said the fire was the biggest tragedy since the Chaco War," referring to the bloody 1932-1935 war with neighboring

Doctors and emergency workers from the Argentine province of Formosa, which borders Paraguay's southern border, rushed to the site on the outskirts of Asuncion in a bid to boost the number of emergency workers responding to the disaster. Argentine authorities said they

would make their hospitals available to

blaze victims, and the Argentine air

force readied a plane to speed more aid to Paraguay. "We must help them immediately, said Formosa's Human Development Minister, Anibal Gomez. "Solidarity has

US in search of new intelligence czar

AP, Washington

US President George Bush vesterday endorsed creation of a national intelligence czar and counterterrorism center-his first steps in revamping the nation's intelligence-gathering system to help

prevent a repeat of the Sept. 11 terrorist "We are a nation in danger," Bush said as he announced his position during an appearance with top administration

national security figures in the White

House Rose Garden Bush thus embraced, with some changes, two key recommendations of the Sept. 11 commission, which outlined lapses in intelligence that left America

vulnerable to the attacks. The bipartisan panel's most overarching recommendations in a 567-page report were for creation of a counterterrorism center, which the commission envisions as a joint operational planning and intelligence center staffed by personnel from all the spy

agencies, and a national intelligence czar. The chairman of the Sept. 11 commis-

sion, former New Jersey Gov. Thomas

Kean, and former Rep. Lee Hamilton have

insisted that the center and the national intelligence director position be placed in the executive office of the president to give the White House clout in dealing with all the nation's intelligence agencies. Bush

said he wants them set up outside the "I don't think the person should be a ember of my Cabinet," Bush said. "I will hire the preson and I can fire the person... I don't think that the office should be in the

White House, however, I think it should be a stand-alone group to better coordinate." Intelligence reforms to help thwart a repeat of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11. 2001 took on special urgency with the announcement Sunday by authorities that they had uncovered a plot by the al-

Qaida terror network to attack five prominent financial institutions in New York City, Washington and Newark, N.J. "The work of security in this vast nation is not done," Bush said. "The elevation of the threat level in New York

New Jersey and Washington, D.C., is a

serious reminder a solemn reminder of

the threat we continue to face.

Unicef launches

and nutrition, water and environmental sanitation, child protection, and education, the press release continued.

A large number of children and women, who have taken refuge in makeshift shelters, are dangerously exposed to risks of diseases and death as floodwaters continued to slowly recede across the country. According to latest reports, nearly 30 million people in 259 upazilas under

43 districts have been affected by the

floods. Unions hit by floods numbered

2,306 covering an area of 26,529 square miles. Government has opened 4,830 flood shelters where 2, 88,079 people have taken refuge. Primary schools affected by floods add up to 26,866. Unicef in support of the government has been providing assistance in cash and kind. Its response has been

focused on ensuring the provision of

safe drinking water, some sanitation

children and women. To help the government respond to

devastating floods, Unicef has provided a package of essential supplies such as water purifying tablets, intravenous fluid, oral re-hydration salt, safe drinking water containers and bleaching powder to flood shelters and health Unicef feels the relief supplies

magnitude of the problem, Naseem-ur-Rahman, chief of information and advocacy section of Unicef Bangladesh told The Daily Star yesterday referring to the rationale behind the global Rahman said, "We're here dealing with the issue of survival of children

and reports we're receiving from flood

shelters are somewhat disturbing

particularly those on the health condi-

worth US\$ 200,000 that it has provided

so far is inadequate considering the

facilities for the affected population Turkish hostage

FROM PAGE 12

claimed responsibility for many major car bombings in Iraq since Saddam Hussein was ousted last year and also the killing of several foreign hostages among dozens seized in recent months. **FURK EXECUTED**

In the videotape of the Turk's execution

a masked man shot the hostage while he

was seated in a chair. When he fell to the

ground, the gunman shot him twice more with a pistol while shouting "God is Greatest." The Turkish captive, dressed in a

himself on the tape as Murat Yuce from Before being shot, he urged Turkish

firms to leave Iraq. "I saw American oppression in Iraq with my own eyes. But I stayed here to earn a bit of money," he said.

It was not clear when or where Yuce

was kidnapped. Meanwhile, negotiations to secure the release of three Indian hostages held in Iraq resumed yesterday after their employer Kuwaiti company reestablished contacts with Iraqi negotiator Sheikh Hisham Al Dulaimi and the

"outlook" to free them "remains posi-

"We have been informed through our embassies in Baghdad and Kuwait that contact has been maintained between Sheikh Al-Dulaimi and the KGL company (that has employed the three Indians) and negotiations are continuing this morning," Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahamed told reporters after a meeting of the Crisis Management Group

Dulaimi was on Sunday quoted as having stated that he was pulling out of the negotiations as he had failed to reach an agreement with KGL. "We remain hopeful that these

negotiations will come to a successful

itself three times, using planetary

"What are the processes that

generation ago. It photographed about 45 percent of the planet's surface during three fly-bys in 1974 and But Mariner was traveling too

To do that, Messenger will be forced onto a long, meandering path, 15 times around the sun, flying past return. The outlook remains positive, The minister also reiterated the government's advise to Indian citizens to refrain from travelling to Iraq and said New Delhi was in touch with the govern-

patient. The Government is continuing

with all its efforts to seek the early

release of the hostages and their safe

ments of Kuwait and Jordan to prevent "We have already contacted the embassies in Kuwait and Jordan in Delhi to seek their cooperation in preventing the movement of Indian nationals

across their borders to Iraq," he said. (REUTERS, PTI, AFP)

UN calls donors

of canals and wetlands in and around the city and solid waste overwhelmed the drainage system -- the major cause of waterlogging. According to Wasa, city dwellers

use about 150 crore litres water that

produces about 100 crore litres of

wastewater in addition to waste from

several hundred tubewells and indus-

trial waste. The quantity of wastewater is much more than the capacity of Wasa pumping machines. The floods swamped much of the capital, mostly rushing in through its eastern fringe unprotected by any flood control dam, the Wasa official said, describing an embankment there

as essential to preventing the flood-The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre yesterday said the rivers and canals around the city fell a couple of centimetres on average, although they

are still flowing above danger marks. (AFP and BSS contributed to this

Nasa satellite may find

and principal scientist for the

contributed to the inner planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars) turning out so differently?" To understand that "we really have to study the most extreme of those outcomes, and that's Mercury, "Solomon said.

to visit Mercury since Mariner 10 a

quickly to enter orbit around Mercury, where MESSENGER will spend at least

Earth once, Venus twice and Mercury

A direct flight would take just three months, Nasa said, but it would also

cameras, there are spectrometers for remote chemical analysis, magnetometers to study Mercury's strong magnetic field and a laser altimeter to map

complex sensor systems. Beside

that will always face the sun. Sometime in 2012 or 2013, when its fuel is depleted, Messenger is likely to crash onto the planet's surface.

take more fuel for braking maneuvers, which would have required a bigger rocket than the Delta 2 and a higher mission price tag. Messenger bristles with seven Messenger will be the first satellite

the planet's topography. Protecting the equipment from the sun is a curved, rectangular screen

well as police and firefighters," he gravity to slow the craft with each pass. Messenger mission. Both long expo-Finally, it will enter Mercury's orbit sure to solar winds or some giant in 2011, almost seven years after liftoff. impact might account for that, he said.