yesterday Israel and the United States would not dare attack Iran since it could strike back anywhere in Israel with its latest missiles, news agencies reported.

of highlighting the Islamic state's military capabilities in recent weeks in response to some media reports that Israeli or US warplanes could try to destroy Iranian nuclear facilities in air

successful test firing of an upgraded version of its Shahab-3 medium-range

Palestinians in Israel jails on hunger strike

BBC ONLINE

have begun a hunger strike to protest at conditions they say are humiliating and unnecessary.

which more closely resemble the But Israel's security minister said they would not bow to pressure and Shahab-3.

The inmates' demands include an end to strip searches and more prison

Israel argues that prisoners con-

possible. currently taking place in several jails, and organisers of the protest say most of the around 7,500 Palestinians held

by Israel are expected to join it by the

on our dignity and treating us like

The Palestinians are presenting the strike as non-political. A spokesman for the Israeli prison

service, Ian Domnitz, told AFP news agency that the protest would not be classified as a hunger strike for 48 hours but was already being deemed contrary to regulations.

In response, prison officials have confiscated televisions and radios, stopped the sales of cigarettes and sweets, and stopped all visits.

The Israeli authorities say the restrictions are needed to prevent

strike for a day, a month, until death. We will ward off this strike and it will be as if it never happened," Internal Security Minister Tzahi Hanegbi told reporters.

activist in the West Bank, told Reuters news agency that the hunger strike would spread from the main prisons to detention camps in military bases.

place in support of the prisoners, including in Bethlehem and the Gaza

The prime minister also distributed relief, seeds and seedlings among the Palestinian stabbed an Israeli border affected small and marginal farmers in policeman near Jerusalem, who then Patuakhali. She then flew to Gouranadi shot and killed him. Israeli police said. of Barisal where she addressed another Israel Radio reported that the

Lissner stresses flood loss figure reasonable

BSS, Dhaka

Resident Coordinator of United Nations Jorgen Lissner yesterday said the government assessment on the damage of the current deluge in Bangladesh is "reasonable" in view of the UN experience in facing disasters

"The UN thinks the government estimate of \$6.6 billion damage is reasonable in view of other disasters that the UN faced or responded to in other parts of the world," UNDP spokeswoman Lisa Hiller quoted Lissner as saying while asked to com-

ment on the damage assessment.

extent of damage at this stage. Asked to comment on the damage estimates by a private policy watch-

dog, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the UN coordinator said he was yet to go through their documents. The difference between the gov-

ernment and CPD estimates matters little in terms of the UN flash appeal seeking \$210 million from the international community, he said.

"We've appealed for \$210 million

Iran's advanced missiles," the ISNA

students news agency quoted Yadollah

Javani, head of the Revolutionary

regime nor America will carry out its

carried out by angry or stupid people.

For that reason, officials of the Islamic

Republic must always be prepared to

counter possible military threats,'

Javani said in a statement, ISNA

developing nuclear weapons, a charge

system, designed to counter threats

such as the Shahab-3, passed its first live

test in July by downing a Scud missile off

tests in the near future against threats

to demonstrate the need for Israel to

maintain and further develop defensive

systems such as the Arrow II," a senior

Israeli defense source told Reuters

"It appears that Iran is rattling its

saber for fear of a pre-emptive strike by

Israel or the United States -- however

grounded in fact such fears are or are

Senakalyan Bhaban

the identity of the caller, the caller

replied Senakalvan Bhaban and he is

few occupants inside before the office

the threat leading some 15 law

enforcers and explosive experts to

carry out about two hours hectic

search in the building that houses 110

cials searched visitors and even the

staff of different offices in the build-

hoax as police found no explosive

good to the people even when they

were in power," Khaleda told a huge

gathering at the PDSA ground during

her relief mission for the flood-affected

The flood losses assessed so far

uld cross Tk 40 000 crore and the

The PM assured the people that

figures could go up further after final

massive post-flood rehabilitation

activities would begin from

September, under which significant

employment opportunities are to be

strengthen the hands of the present

government to ensure progress and

Khaleda told her Gouranadi audi-

ence the present government has done

everything possible for providing

emergency assistance to flood victims.

tive relief operations by the ministers,

MPs, party leaders and government

officials. We didn't sit idle," she said.

fertilisers free of cost to the farmers

she hoped that they would be able to

food assistance to the affected people

out. We have to change our own fate,

tance. It also decided that the

Economic Relations Division of the

finance ministry would ask for donors'

support for rehabilitation of infrastruc-

ture on the basis of proper assessment.

national aid in presence of the disaster

and relief management minister on

Thursday has not sat well with the

finance ministry, either, officials said.

The ministry believes the appeal

against the pronounced position of the

government and that too in presence of

the minister has heavily dented the

The officials fear the inflated dam-

inistries to put tremendous pressure

age estimates would prompt other

on the finance ministry to release funds

programme and make room for misuse

nation's image.

The launch of UN appeal for inter-

Saifur trashes

overcome their crop losses.

till the next harvest.

People didn't starve due to effec-

Mentioning the supply of seeds and

She also pledged again to provide

'Not an inch of land should be left

prosperity of the country.

She called upon the people to

ing by metal detectors.

Hartal

Panicked by the threat, the offi-

The threat however proved to be a

The officials informed police of

hours rushed out, officials said.

an al-Qaeda member," Kabirul said.

Israeli officials say they plan further

'Such statements by Iran only serve

Iran denies.

the coast of California.

not," the source said.

FROM PAGE 12

US and Israeli officials accuse Iran of

Israel's Arrow missile defense

"Therefore, neither the Zionis

An attack on Iran "could only be

Guards political bureau, as saving.

threats" against Iran, he said.

formed a two-member committee to probe the graft of its Brussels office reported by The Daily Star on Sunday, press release said yesterday.

On completion of the probe, necessary action will be taken against the involved staff, Biman authorities said in the press release.

The State Minister for Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin receiving a complaint on July 2 has directed the authorities to probe the matter. which is already underway, the

Shafiqur Rahman, a Bangladeshi expatriate in Brazil, on Saturday in a press conference accused the staff of Biman's Brussels office of taking bribes and harassing people.

Humayun Azad

Countering their suspicion Nicholai said, "German police recovered the body of Prof Azad breaking nto his flat which was locked from inside," adding, "The doctors are sure that the professor had died from a

The charge d' affairs ruled out any possibility of an international probe into the death of the eminent writer and poet, as Kohinoor demands, and said, "We have full confidence in our police and doctors.

by Islamist fundamentalists, Nicholai said German doctors did not find any indication of a homicide, adding, 'You can trust German doctors. They are well known professionals and you

mortem report would be given only to the deceased's family, if they make a formal request to the German prosecutor concerned. Azad's eldest daughter Mouli was learnt to have sought the post-mortem report from the German authorities concerned.

Citing a message from PEN International, Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof Thursday.

fellowship to conduct research on German romantic poet Heinrich

the proposal with their replies in seven days, according to the latest

in preparing and approving projects. Development Project Proforma will replace Project Concept Paper and Project Paper and have two chapters instead of eight and 34 items against the previous 67. Besides, more

decisions aimed to cut down on time

The government and the development partners have prepared the draft proposal to facilitate quick and easy implementation of the annual development projects.

Flood-hit villagers

Around a dozen cows raised for the Eid market, priced at about Tk 30,000 each, also died in the floods.

km- long road in the locality built at a cost of Tk 40 lakh only a few months ago, he mentioned.

Shakkar, a social organisation, distributed relief among 200 people in Lalpur on Wednesday. Earlier, a judge and a local industrialist also distributed relief alongside government food assistance, locals said.

HC asks

Bela says the petition came as the activities of Metro Makers breached the provisions in the Town Improvement Act 1953 and the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act 1995.

The petition says Metro Makers was filling flood-flow lands that would have been disastrous to the city.

Dhaka residents will be more vulnerable to flash floods and waterlogging, as the proposed Modhumoti Model Town will block the natural flow of water, Bela says in a press release.

The court also asked six top government officials to explain in six weeks why they should not be directed to protect the sub flood-flow zone near Amin Bazar from illegal earth-filling by Metro Makers.

They are secretaries of housing and public works, land and environment and forest ministries. Rajuk chairman. director general of the Department of Environment and the deputy commissioner in Dhaka.

3 more Sylhet OCs

houses and the grenade attack near an Awami League meeting venue within a space of 47 hours in this north-eastern city last week. Besides, eight subinspectors (SIs) and 25 constables are also on the list to be transferred to other ranges, police sources said.

With yesterday's transfers, Detective Branch (DB) of Police Inspector Nazrul Islam replaced Inspector Shahidul Islam as OC of Osmaninagar Police Station. Islam was sent to Chittagong The OC of Gowainghat Police

Station, Raoshan, has been transferred to Chittagong Range and the OC of Biswanath Police Station, Shahedar Rahman, to Dhaka Range. However, noone has yet been appointed as OCs at these two stations. On Saturday Kotwali OC Shafigur

Rahman was sent back to his previous assignment as OC of South Surma Police Station, while Sved Mahbubur Rahman took over as Kotwali OC. The decision of the shuffling was

made last week following allegations against some officers, who had come to Svlhet from terror-stricken Khulna region before and after the deadly blast in Hajrat Shahjalal Shrine last April. According to the allegations, some of

the police personnel while working in Khulna division had links with the operatives of outlawed political groups. It is also apprehended that these

policemen might have a hand in the recent spate of bomb attacks in Sylhet.

The speculation found a firm footing after an activist of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party named Mahbubur Rahman alias Thandu had heen caught in Companiganj upazila of the district on July 28 last, Thandu, who hails from Harinakundu upazila of Jhenidah, was wanted in a number of criminal cases, the Sylhet superintendent of police (SP) said. A major shake-up in the police

administration also followed the April-2 grenade blast at Hajrat Shahjalal Shrine, as different intelligence agencies reported flaws in the security arrangements for the British high commissioner who was wounded in the attack. The SP of Sylhet was suspended and

withdrawn within three days of the

attack. The then ASP Sylhet Police Headquarters was transferred next followed by OC Kotwali, who was also the first investigation officer of the

At that time a list of 12 inspectors, 28 SIs, 30 ASIs and over 600 constables was prepared for immediate withdrawal from Sylhet Range. But all of the shortlisted policemen had not been moved

planned shuffling would be carried out to full this time, a police source said

Meanwhile, family members of British citizen S M Nunu Miah, who was arrested in connection to the August 7 blast near an Awami League meeting venue, alleged to the British High Commission officials in Dhaka of police

Nunu Miah's brother Lucky Miah also took the matter to a deputy inspector general of police, while some community-based associations in UK have expressed concerns over the allegation.

interrogating Nunu Miah in the capital Earlier, he was remanded by Sylhet Kotwali police for three days.

Mercury FROM PAGE 1

Sporting controversies also rum bled on as Greece digested the suspensions of local sprint heroes Kostadinos Kenteris and Ekaterini Thanou pend-

tition will see Japan attempt to add to the two golds won by heroes Tadahiro Nomura and Ryoko Tani

But the action was overshadowed by the failure of Iranian two-time world champion Arash Miresmaeili to make the weight for his contest against an Israeli fighter he had previously vowed to boycott.

decided on the shooting range, Ukraine's Olena Kostevych winning the women's 10-metre air pistol event and Alexei Alipov of Russia taking the

Nation mourns

Senior leaders of the AL and its front organisations, and different political and socio-cultural organisations placed their tokens of respect next. Among them were Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leaders Hasanul Haq Inu and Syed

The waiting mourners then proceeded slowly and offered the flowers they brought with them in memory of their beloved leader. They carried black banners demanding immediate execution of Bangabandhu's killers Banners with mourning messages were also on display.

From Dhanmondi, Opposition der Sheikh Hasir Graveyard and offered fateha and placed wreaths at the graves of her kin killed on the night of August 15.

On this day in 1975, Banga-bandhu and all his family members except two daughters -- Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana -- were ruthlessly assassinated by a splinter group of the armed forces.

National and party flags were flown at half-mast, besides hoisting black flags, at all offices of the AL and its front organisations across the country to observe the day.

The AL organised a photo exhibition on Bangabandhu in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban and Awami Sechchasebak League held a blood donation programme as part of its programme in observance of the day.

AL workers organised milad mahfils and fed the destitute in various areas of the city and elsewhere of the country. The historic March-7 speech of Bangabandhu and songs on him were played at different places.

Hasina and central AL leaders will attend a mourning programme today at Tungipara, the village home of GOPALGANI

Our Gopalganj correspondent adds: The 29th death anniversary of Bangabandhu was observed at his birthplace through a number of programmes including placing wreaths at his grave, offering fateha and distribution of food among the destitute.

Senior AL leaders including Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Obaidul Kader, Mukul Bose, Faruk Khan and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah placed wreaths at the grave on behalf of the AL central $\,$

HARTAL PEACEFUL

The six-hour hartal from 6:00am yesterday passed off more or less peacefully except in Barisal where ruling coalition activists obstructed, attacked and foiled some programmes organised by the AL and its front organisations to mark the day and injured at least nine AL leaders and

The AL enforced the hartal to press home its demand for immediate execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu murder case and to protest the scrapping of the official status of August 15 as the national mourning day. During the hartal hours, opposition

The demonstrators chanted slogans demanding execution of the Bangabandhu murder case verdict, which awarded 12 people with death sentences. The case is now pending with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

by Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid started from the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban and ended at Russell Square after parading through Mirpur Road The lawmakers held a rally at the square in support of the shutdown. ATTACKS IN BARISAL

Our Barisal correspondent reports: The national mourning day with

meetings organised by the AL and its front organisations in Hizla, Sadar, Moulavir Hut and Harinathpur

In Hizla, a group of BNP cadres led Dewan Munir and Mahtab attacked destitute feeding.

Shamsul Rana alias Kismat and Didar. Among them Kismat was critically wounded and sent to Dhaka for better

The BNP men also tried to abduct some of the AL leaders and workers but failed in face of resistance from the

coalition activists organised patrol teams and erected barricades and check-posts at different points of Hizla and Muladi upazilas to prevent mass participation in the mourning day's programmes including destitute feeding and milad mahfils. In Barisal City, BNP cadres at

mahfil called by Awami Jubo League at Hatem Ali College Mosque. The attackers chased the people assembled for BNP men also roughed up four

12:30pm attacked and foiled a milad

the college at around 1:30pm. The hartal could not be observed in the district except in Uzirpur upazila.

be folded into India or merged with CHITTAGONG Our Chittagong office reports: The sixhour hartal passed off, by and large,

peacefully in the port city yesterday. Police barred AL leaders and activists from taking out two separate processions at Olonkar Cinema Hall Pakistan. Crossing and Bohaddarhat

as shopping malls, banks and commercial hubs were disrupted. Classes eaders and workers brought out at all educational institutions were mourning processions on suspended in Chittagong and the Bangabandhu Avenue and Russell Square at Dhanmondi in the capital. adjoining areas.

MK Anwar

reputation (of a public representative) as well as people's love for BNP earned over the years," Anwar was quoted as

ABM Wadudul Huq, father of BM Enamul Hug Kaiyum, commissioner of ward-25 of the Dhaka City Corporation, filed the GD on August 1 with Khilgaon Police Station accusing the minister of filing "false cases" against his son one after another by hired people.

Ward Commissioner Kaiyum hailed from Homna that falls under the constituency of Anwar in Comilla.

Mannan appeals FROM PAGE 12

which the HC order for deploying army personnel at each polling centre was

The EC had heard both sides on the petition but did not deliver its judge-Following a writ petition by ruling

BNP lawmaker Mosaddak Ali Falu

winner of the by-polls, an HC division bench on July 17 stayed further proceedings on the petition for three months. Rahman yesterday told The Daily

Star that the court will decide after hearing whether it will vacate the stay

Mob beats

criminals of Kafrul Police and is an accused in seven criminal cases. Russell, Imran, Monsur and Liton, the accomplices, however shot their way through the

Police rescued Babu and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), but doctors declared him dead Mannan, who owns nine shops in

the neighbourhood, and his staff Kalam suffered serious injuries in the head and legs. The criminals beat them with iron rods when they were sitting inside Mannan's Brother Engineering Babu's father Ali Ahmed alleged his

drug-peddlers for his taking a stand against their illegal business. Mannan is undergoing treatment at the DMCH, while Kalam was treated at a

son was killed as part of a plot by local

local clinic. Kamrangirchar police, meanwhile retrieved the body of Shahid, 35, scrap plastic trader, floating near Shaheed Nagar Bailey Bridge on Buriganga rivei at around 10:30am.

The police suspect unknown criminals strangled him with a towel that they found tied around the victim's neck before dumping the body into the river.

Quoting the family, police said Shahid went out of his Shaheed Nagar house in Lalbagh on Saturday morning for his shop in the locality and he was missing since then.

In the other incident, Khilgaon police retrieved the decomposed body of an unidentified youth from a water body in east Rampura in the afternoon. Details of the incident could not be known immediately.

FROM PAGE 1 people fell sick from dysentery yesterday bringing the number of the patients to 26,357 so far.

Skin and eye diseases also worsened in the flood shelters. As many as 21,647 people have so far fallen sick from eye and skin diseases. Snakebites in the flood-hit areas claimed 60 lives including one vesterday.

Dengue, a mosquito borne disease, has claimed five lives since June, while 36 got affected yesterday. Sources in the health directorate said 1,987 patients are now receiving treatment for dengue at different city hospitals.

US to donate

He assured the government that the US will consider further help to Bangladesh for post-flood rehabilitation on completion of its flooddamage assessment.

The US has already provided 1.6 million water-purifying tablets for the flood victims, with other funds for the rehabilitation and emergency relief currently being carried out by the WFP and Care, Bangladesh, said Thomas. Initially, \$50,000 was given as relief

by the US Embassy in Dhaka from the ambassador's discretionary funds. The ambassador also met with Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne

India's Independence to determine whether Kashmir should

Yusuf yesterday. Thomas returned

from his yearly vacation earlier this

Singh, speaking from the ramparts of the 17th-century Red Fort in the old quarter of Delhi, said cross-border violence in Kashmir could be a stumbling block to peace efforts with

"Trends of cross-border terrorism and violence make our task more difficult and complex," he said speaking from behind a bullet-proof glass.

Guerrilla violence has mounted in recent weeks in Kashmir where the main separatist alliance All Parties Hurriyat Conference called for a strike on the Indian independence day.

Ahmadiyya mosques

The KNAPB leaders said they are suspicious of motives of the statement by the Human Rights Commission of the UN that expressed concern over Ahmadiyya

The United Nations, however, keeps mum when Muslims are repressed in

Irag and Palestine, they added. "The government should not take its stance against 12 crore Muslims to protect the interest of a handful of Kadianis," Khalique told the press

conference. He observed it amounts to a gross misinterpretation of the Holy Our'an when the Ahmadiyyas identify themselves as Muslims.

KNAPB leaders also claimed that

Jamaat-e-Islami, a part of the coalition

government, who too wants Ahmadiyyas to be declared non-Muslims, has extended its support to KNAPB in its campaign against Ahmadiyyas "In 1993, a High Court bench of Justice Abdul Jalil and Justice

Mohammed Fazlul Karim declared Kadianis non-Muslims and 50 Islamic states including Saudi Arabia declared Kadianis non-Muslims," Khalique said. Our staff correspondent from Khulna adds: Security around the

Ahmadiyya mosque in Khulna city was tightened as International Khatme Nabuwat Movement Bangladesh (IKNMB) stubbornly resisted removal of the signboard they posted there on Friday night. IKNMB zealots on Friday night in presence of police hung a signboard

signboard that read "Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Khulna' They forcibly hung the new signpoard what they said was to caution the

reading "Khulna Nirala -- the Kadiani

Upashanalaya" against the original

Rab nabs Ctg criminal STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a top criminal of the city here vesterday.

The criminal identified as Shafigul Alam alias Samrat is an accused in 13 criminal offences including two

Sources said a Rab team in a pre-

dawn raid arrested Samrat from Feroz

Shah Colony under Pahartoli thana at

Ahmadiyya Mosque complex as a mosque and offering prayers there.

IKNMB on August 13 agreed not to lay siege to Ahmadiyya Mosque Complex at Nirala Residential Area and evict Ahmadiyyas on condition that they be allowed to change the original signboard, said Deputy Commissioner

Meanwhile, on Saturday morning the new signboard was found missing but later at noon it was again seen

"We are yet to identify who removed the new signboard and who hung it

again," said Mosharaf Hossain, officerin-charge of Khulna Police Station.

Nirala Residential Area

Another anti-crime drive planned in southwest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Another new tougher drive against terrorists is outlined for five crimeprone districts of Khulna division, a meeting chaired by State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar said

mously in presence of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Khulna Range Abdul Aziz Sarker and police supers of Khulna, Bagerhat, Jessore, Jhenidah and Meherpur districts. Matters related to success and

policemen in bomb attacks were also reviewed at length in the meeting. Strategy for the new tougher antiterrorist drive particularly in these five districts was discussed for about two

Babar's office. The minister sought to know from the DIG and five police supers about the root cause for recent rise in bomb

hours in a closed-door meeting at

The meeting also briefed the state minister about the latest law and order situation of the region.

Qaeda deadline

around 4:00pm.

Muslims can celebrate your exit from

The group has repeatedly threatened Italy and has claimed responsibility for attacks, including the Madrid train bombings in March, but has not been officially linked to any of them.

In the statement, the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades warned Berlusconi he would "pay with his head for the crimes his troops committed and are still committing in Iraq. "We declare Berulsconi as our target

and ... we will not stop our raids on his country and neither will it enjoy peace until Iraq is secure," it said.

Italian troops are part of the US-led multinational force in Iraq. US officials say the group's links to al-Qaeda are unclear. But Italy has

attacks on Christian churches in Iraq

In earlier statements, the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades has threatened to launch attacks in Italy similar to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks al-Oaeda staged

European states for their support for US foreign policy and vowed to launch attacks in Europe after a "truce" issued by al-Oaeda leader Osama bin Laden expired in July. That truce gave countries three

The group has denounced

months to pull out of Afghanistan, Iraq and other Muslim states or face attacks like the Madrid train bombings, which killed 191 people. Last week, an Italian interior minis

try source said secret services believed

Violence erupts

vehicles into leaving. Meanwhile, a US soldier was killed in northern Baghdad yesterday, the

home-made bomb exploded at 1:30 am (2130 GMT Saturday) in the northern part of the Iraqi capital. A Dutch soldier was killed and

several wounded in clashes between

multinational forces and insurgents in

southern Iraq, a military spokesman

"Clashes occurred Saturday night in which one Dutch soldier was killed while several were wounded," said a spokesman for the British military from the southern city of Basra.

soldiers were hit after a Dutch army

vehicle near Ar Rumaythah close to the

Dutch base in As Samawah came under attack. According to the ministry it was not clear who was responsible for the attack, but the Dutch army will open

Dutch soldier has died in Iraq. The Netherlands has some 1,300 troops stationed in southern Iraq under British command. A Ukrainian officer was killed by a

mine blast yesterday south of Bagdad, a spokesman for the multinational

nately Shiite city of Suwayrah, Colonel Artur Domanski was quoted as saying

by Polish news agency PAP. "No other soldier in the patrol unit

was injured," he added Eight Ukrainians have died thus far in Iraq, according to the commander of

the Ukrainian contingent, also quoted

10 others wounded, mostly women

Earlier eight Iraqis were killed and

and children, Saturday after US troops clashed with insurgents in Fallujah the flashpoint city west of Baghdad and warplanes struck two homes, hospital sources told AFP. "We have received eight killed and

10 injured," said doctor Ali Khamis at Fallujah's general hospital, adding that the dead included two women and two children. The US military said earlier it struck positions suspected of being used by

insurgents after they attacked a US

marine postition on the outskirts of the city at about 2:00 pm (1000 GMT) with rocket propelled grenades and machine gun and small arms fire. One home in the city's southern Al-Shuhada neighbourhood was leveled while another in the adjacent Al-Jubail

area was partially destroyed after the

US strikes, an AFP correspondent said. The homes were struck after US marines clashed with insurgents in the city's eastern Al-Askari neighbourhood, residents said.

Angry residents then buried the A pick-up truck filled with masked

fighters was seen escorting the funeral processions as people shouted slogans against the United States and the interim Iraqi government. In the last two months US forces

have conducted several air strikes in the Sunni Muslim stronghold, 50km west of Baghdad, on suspected hideouts of fighters linked to alleged al-Qaeda operative, Abu Mussab al-

Iran's missiles can hit | Biman forms anywhere in Israel

the unmodified Shahab-3 was already A senior Iranian military official said capable of striking Israel or US bases in "The entire Zionist territory, including its nuclear facilities and atomic arsenal, are currently within range of

Iranian officials have made a point

Iran last week said it carried out a

About 1,600 Palestinians in Israeli jails

the prisoners could "starve to death".

tinue to plan attacks from within jail and their contact with the outside world must be restricted as far as The open-ended hunger strike is

A statement from the Palestinian Prisoners Society announced the start of the hunger strike, accusing Israel of "robbing us of all our rights, treading

prisoners from organising further attacks from their prison cells, and the protest will not lead to a change in prison conditions. "As far as I'm concerned, they can

The stand-off could escalate in scale and political significance. Issa Qarage, a prisoners' rights

Protests have also been taking town of Beit Hanoun. Meanwhile, in the latest violence, a

attacker appeared to be mentally ill.

around the globe.

Lissner, however, said the "damage assessment is not an exact science" and no-one knows the exact

but that's a small amount compared to what will be required either way to get Bangladesh back to its feet," he

probe body on Brussels

office graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Biman Bangladesh Airlines has

FROM PAGE 12 death as a natural one.

On suspicions of Azad being killed

can trust their post-mortem report." The envoy said the full post-

AAMS Arefin Siddique said the body might be sent back home on Azad was in Munich on a PEN

Planning minister The Planning Commission will have to check the proposals out with the and the ministries are to send back

changes have been proposed in the

FROM PAGE 12 of fish at about Tk 25 lakh in Lalpur

Raging floods washed away a two-

FROM PAGE 12

shrine blast case.

Last week it was decided that the

torture on him during interrogation.

The Joint Interrogation Cell is now

ing the outcome of a drugs probe. Meanwhile Sunday's judo compe-

Two more gold medals were

A procession of AL lawmakers led

sporadic violence in different areas of the district in which at least nine leaders and workers of the AL and its front organisations were injured. BNP activists attacked and foiled destitute feeding programmes and

by Ali Ahmed Howlader alias Ali Qari, and ransacked the food gathered for The assailants beat up upazila AI President Dalilur Rahman Sikder, AL leaders Amir Hossain Talukder and Yusuf Ali Khan, and AL workers

From early morning, four-party

the mahfil and despoiled the props. Jubo League activists, including Shukkur, Mishu and Sumon, in front o

Intersection during the hartal hours. Road traffic was thin with rickshaws dominating the thoroughfares. Activities at the Chittagong Port as well

repression in the country.

(South) Akbar Ali of Khulna Metropolitan Police.

hanging there.

KMP authorities have posted a large number of policemen in riot gear at

This decision was taken unani-

failure in the previous antiterrorist drives in the southwestern region and rise in murders of journalists and

attacks, an official of Khulna Range DIG office said.

taken its threats seriously and has a single individual, most likely a north renewed security for religious sites after

military said in a statement. The soldier was killed when a

The Dutch defence ministry confirmed that a 29-year old soldier had died and five other were severely wounded but were now in a stable condition. The ministry's statement said the

an investigation. This is only the second time a

division operating in central Iraq said. The officer, Yuri Ivanov, died while patrolling the outskirts of the predomi-