PALESTINIAN HUNGER STRIKE

**Israel declares** 

# N Korea shuns atomic talks

"The present development stuns and

A senior South Korean official, who

disappoints the DPRK," he said in a

detailed statement that broke a long

asked not to be identified, said he still

expected a fourth round of the main talks

to be held before the end of September as

planned and that the working-group

"This is the North Koreans putting on

essure," said the official. "I wouldn't

Another South Korean official said

want to say that this thing is about really

quitting the six-party process or the

the North would be speaking to China

"very soon" and so it would be premature

to assume the working-level talks were

spokesman Hatsuhisa Takashima told

Reuters the six-party talks and working-

group talks -- which include Russia.

Japan, China, the two Koreas and the

United States -- were extremely impor-

round of six-party talks and we had

expected answers to them at the next

round or at the working group talks. So if

North Korea is not taking part in the

working group talks, it is truly regrettable

and we urge them to reconsider," he said.

tional relations at the People's University

in Beijing, said the United States had

hardened its position after the third

this," Shi said. "North Korea appears

unwilling to make a deal with George W.

Bush and prefers to wait until after the

But Shi said it was unlikely Pyongyang

"It's mere posturing by North Korea,"

would pull out of talks altogether because

'North Korea is very upset about

round in Beijing in June.

U.S. presidential elections.'

Netherlands,

Italy warned

An online statement purportedly from

an Islamic militant group threatened

the Netherlands and Italy with "blood-

baths" if they do not withdraw their

authenticity of the statement, which

appeared late Sunday on a Web site

known as a clearing house for militant-

European countries that have sent

troops to Iraq and Afghanistan, but also

specifically mentioned the

Dutch troops from Iraq, otherwise we

will not be responsible for the retalia

tion which will not be through the

Internet, but through our special

means," warned the Jamaat al-Tawhid

your nights into bloodbaths."

'Wait for the hell which will turn

The statement addressed Italian

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi by

name and said: "You have defied the

soldiers of Islam so wait for the Islamic

Italy has about 3,000 troops in Iraq

yesterday the Netherlands had no

plans to withdraw its approximately

1,350 troops from Iraq. Spokesman

Bart Jochems called the Internet threat

a "foggy story," adding that the govern-

ment repeatedly has said it will not be

the Omar el-Mukhtar Brigade of the

Iamaat al-Tawhid al-Islamiya, or

Group of Islamic Monotheism, Omar

el-Mukhtar was a Libvan nationalist

who fought against the Italian occupa-

of threatening statements are. The

numerous online claims and counter-

claims make it difficult to determine

the authenticity of Web threats or learn

whether those who post them have any

police (SP) of Sylhet was suspended

and OC of Kotwali Police Station

transferred after the May 21 blast at

Hazrat Shahialal shrine that injured,

among others, Bangladesh-born

blasts at two cinemas and Gulshan

Centre have meanwhile reached the

CID office, Sylhet Sunday afternoon.

The documents of three cases of

At the BOC office in Zindabazar, ar

anonymous caller told Shamsul Alam,

executive officer of the centre, at

10:40am that a bomb secreted at the

two-storey building would go off

the spot, carried out search for two

hours and found the bomb threat to be

hoax panicked the staff of the Daily

Jalalabad office in Badarbazar.

On information, police rushed to

On Sunday night, another bomb

British envoy Anwar Choudhury.

ability to carry them out.

Sylhet DIG

FROM PAGE 1

The online statement was signed by

swayed by terrorists.

The Dutch Foreign Ministry said

"We advise you to withdraw the

There was no way to verify the

The statement addressed all

over Iraq

troops from Iraq.

related material.

Netherlands and Italy.

al-Islamiya group.

quake

Shi Yinhong, a professor of interna-

"Proposals had been made in the last

In Tokyo, Japanese Foreign Ministry

working-group talks.'

irretrievable.

 $talks \, could \, immediately \, precede \, them. \,$ 

silence from the North on the talks.

North Korea has ruled out attending proposed six-way working-level talks on its nuclear arms programmes and has questioned the entire negotiating process, blaming hostile U.S. policy for Pvongvang's tougher stance.

But a Chinese analyst and South Korean officials saw a large measure of pre-talks bluster in the comments from a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman and predicted the talks would go ahead before the end of September. Pyongyang has in the past raised the rhetorical volume before attending talks or making a concession.

The working-level talks had been expected last week but failed to materialise, leading diplomats to suggest North Korea could be seeking to drag out the process as the U.S. presidential election in November approaches.

"The U.S. has destroyed itself the foundation for the talks, making it impossible for the DPRK to go to the forthcoming meeting of the working group," the spokesman said in com ments published by the official KCNA news agency on Monday.

DPRK is short for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic

"It is clear that there would be nothing to expect even if the DPRK sits at the negotiating table with the U.S. under the  $present \, situation, "the \, spokes man \, said.$ 

"Now that the process of the six-party talks is retracting from the desired direction due to the U.S. attitude and nothing can be expected from the next round of the talks, it is clear such talks for the form's sake would be helpful to no

He did not explicitly rule out attending the full talks

"IT'S MERE POSTURING"

The spokesman pointed to the airlift last month of more than 460 North Korean refugees to the South from Southeast Asia, recent human rights legislation in the United States and what he described as U.S. comments that a military option to solve the crisis was not ruled out.

#### Bangladeshi boy killed in London road mishap

UNB, London

A Bangladeshi boy was killed and 10 others were injured in a road accident near Hilton Service Centre on their way to sea resort town of Bonmouth for a short training of Bangalee youth

Azhar Ali Shamim,15, died on the spot. Son of Noor Ali alias Maznu Mia, Azhar hailed from Kamula village in Balaganj upazila of Sylhet.

The injured are Naimuddin, Abdul Sabbir, Tareq Hossain, Zubair Hossain, Anwar Ali, Mukim Kalim and Shah Alam and course officials Ahad, Koyes Chowdhury and Mostaq Ahmed. They are undergoing treatment at Hillingdon and West Middlesex hospitals.

According to a delayed report, the accident took place on Friday night when the minibus carrying them skidded off the road as the driver lost control over the steering. The driver was taken to police custody.

#### Sylhet blasts

before the blast," one witness was quoted as saying. The unexploded bomb found at Abakash and the one that exploded at Rangmahal were kept in similar bags, he reportedly

Witnesses to the Rangmahal blast said they found Anwar dropping a

bomb, which exploded immediately. tion and was hanged in 1931. But they did not confess to their On July 29, the little-known group involvement in the blasts even 12 posted a statement on an Islamic Web days into their arrest during their site warning Arab countries against treatment at MAG Osmany Medical participating in a Saudi-proposed uslim force for Iraq. College Hospital in Sylhet under It is unclear who the actual authors

police custody. Neither Sylhet Kotwali police nor the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), who are now probing the case, sought their

remand during the period. But they decided to bring the two

to the capital for interrogation by the JIC as the higher authorities blasted them for failure to make any headway in the probe, sources mentioned.

Talking to The Daily Star, newlyappointed Officer-in-Charge of Sylhet Kotwali Police Station Syed Mahbubr Rahman however said, ' They (Soleman and Anwar) have been sent to Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka for better treatment as their condition deteriorated. Soleman has gangrene in his right leg and Anwar has gangrene in his hand."

"We hope to extract from them leads to the blasts and track down people behind the incidents," he added.

Two other arrestees -- Masum and

Motaleb -- are now in jail. Kotwali police in Sylhet said all listed criminals went into hiding as 10 police teams started raiding different parts of the city Sunday night.

BANGABANDHU MAZAR

#### Hasina slams govt for suspending 15 staff

**UNB,** Gopalganj

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina esterday slammed the government for suspending 15 officials and employees of Bangabandhu Mazar Complex and

"The prime minister has suspended the officials and employees of the complex out of vengeance although she herself has spent crores of taka for erecting the mazar of Ziaur Rahman,

Hasina, also the Awami League (AL) president, was addressing a discussion meeting marking the 29th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members at Tungipara in the afternoon.

"The previous Awami League government had declared August 15 a national mourning day and a public holiday, but Khaleda-Nizami governnent cancelled it," she said. Hasina said Ziaur Rahman rewarded

the killers of Bangabandhu with jobs and his wife. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, rewarded the condemned killers again with jobs. Referring to Khaleda's remarks on

proclamation of independence, Hasina said Khaleda Zia had made a false statement on the date of proclamation of independence in parliament, violating the constitution. " If Awami League is voted to power again, she will be put on trial." Hasina said.

Chaired by AL leader Amir Hossain Amu, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Abdul Jalil MP, Suranjit Sengupta MP, Motia Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP and Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

Hasina arrived here from Dhaka at noon and placed wreaths at the mazar of Bangabandhu. She then offered fateha and attended a milad.

#### Two Dhaka roads FROMPAGE 12

The roads -- from Kalabagan crossing to Azimpur and from Science Laboratory to College Road (next to Bangabazar) via Jatiya Press Club -- will remain open to rickshaws until next month, a top DTCB official said yester-

DTCB Chairman and Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka recently postponed the decision, the official said requesting anonymity. The World Bank officials have asked to set a fresh date to make the roads off-limit to rickshaws, he added.

The DTCB chairman was not vailable for comment as he is now on a

Under a World Bank-funded project aiming to ease traffic congestion in Dhaka city by phasing out slow-moving vehicles, the DTCB earlier decided to make six other Dhaka roads off-limit to rickshaws in phases by 2006.

#### Private infrastructure

Bangladesh Bank will closely monitor project selection and a deputy governor of the central bank will sit on the

Private investors will bear all project liabilities and the government will not give any guarantee against the projects.

A project can float a maximum of 30 percent of its shares in the local capital market two years into commercial

operations The approved guidelines will have an exit clause, allowing the private investors in big projects to hand over the shares to new investors five to seven years after commercial operations. In case of small projects, the shares can be

transferred after two years. A Private Infrastructure Committee. neaded by the principal secretary to the prime minister, will primarily select projects and help in the implementa-

tion process. The line ministry will approve private infrastructure investment projects worth \$5 million and the cabinet committee will clear projects costing beyond the amount.

### Central bonded

The council recommended creation of central bonded warehouses on foreign investment initially in Dhaka and Chittagong export processing zones at private initiatives to cut lead-time and make the textile industry competitive in the duty- and quota-free era.

It also suggested floating a Tk 3,000 crore special fund for the investors in the textile sector at 7 percent interest

Meeting sources said the council came up with detailed recommendations for the garment industry but the recommendations for the textile sector were few and not detailed. The committee asked the council to incorporate views of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association and Bangladesh Textile Mills Association in the fresh recommendations making sure that interests of either side are not hurt.

It also told the council to spell out possible fallout the central bonded warehouses would have on the textile

### DoE top shot suspended

DoE, has been suspended temporarily from services.

Abdus Sobhan was tasked with responsibilities of Administration, Development and Planning. He was also the National Project Director (NPD) of UNDP-funded Coastal and Wetland Bio-diversity Management Project (CWBMP).

The suspension notification stated that the allegations against Abdus Sobhan clearly fall under the specific articles of the Public Servant (Discipline and Appeal) Act 1985.

Official sources said the removal

orders came after UNDP lodged

complaints with the concerned ministries, including finance and environment ministries. The UNDP that provided Tk 34 crore for the 7-year project, lately halted the

disbursement of fund in the face of allegations of massive financial irregularities as well as corruption especially in recruitment. In the wake of UNDP action, the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the finance and planning ministry

instructed the authorities concerned to go for immediate action against NPD Abdus Sobhan. The finance ministry also apprised the prime minister of the The Ministry of Environment following prime ministerial instructions suspended Abdus Sobhan and

initiate investigation and other departmental proceedings. "An investigation into allegations

wrapped up necessary formalities to

against Abdus Sobhan will soon be underway," said a high official of the vironment ministry

Officials at the Ministry of Environment and DoE said Abdus Sobhan had always maintained a close contact with both the governments of Awami League and current BNP Jamaat coalition.

He, however, emerged most influential during Shahjahan Siraj's stint as the environment minister.

Shahiahan Sirai despite repeated objections from high officials of the ministry gave him the responsibilities of Director of technical, administration, development and planning and made him NPD of the UNDP-funded

Sources in the ministry and UNDF said Abdus Sobhan was involved in leaking questions of recruitment test of the CWBMP project to have his favoured men recruited.

A senior official of the environment ministry seeking anonymity said the NPD intentionally issued letters for the viva-voce with very marginal time in hand for the candidates. And most of the people, who passed the written examination, could not appear in the viva-voce on June 4 as they received the  $letters\,well\,after\,the\,examination\,date.$ 

When contacted, Abdus Sobhan declined to comment saying that he had not yet received papers conveying specific allegation against him.

"I've only received the suspension letter. I can't make any comment before I get the charges against me," he

## 96,000 VGF cards

Kamal Ibne Yusuf, food and disaster management minister, at his office and submitted the plans and programme.

According to the plans, WFP would provide 1.68 lakh tonnes of wheat or rice, 11,460 tonnes of biscuits, 3,615 tonnes of blended food, 4,000 tonnes of pulses, 3,000 tonnes of vegetable oils and 500 tonnes of salt.

Under the programme, 33 lakh people will have immediate relief through non-governmental organisations (NGOs). One kg rice, 150 gram biscuits, 0.25 kg pulse, 0.15 litre vegetable oil and 0.025 kg salt have been earmarked for each of those people a day for 15 days.

Fifty lakh people or 10 lakh households would get general food ration of 30 kg wheat or rice a month under Vulnerable Group Rehabilitation (VGR) and Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programmes.

Children numbering 1.80 lakh from 6 to 36 months of age and 1.20 lakh pregnant and nursing women will get 80gm blended food every day from September

Eight lakh primary school children will get 75gm biscuit a day from September to December this year through Department of Primary Education and NGOs.

Under the total VGF programme, the government would provide 10 kg rice to each of 30 lakh flood affected families while the WFP would give 30 kg of rice to 10 lakh families.

The WFP officials at yesterday's meeting also discussed the coordination between the government and WFP food assistance programme. Food and disaster management minison alternative basis.

Sources said disaster management

#### No fresh floods

'The monsoon weather system changes frequently and it is hard to predict rains. We don't see any possibility of heavy rains in five days in Bangladesh," said Arzumand Habib, deputy director of the Meteorological metric tonnes of rice for VGF programme. Another 50,000 tonnes would be required for completing the programme.

The ministry is thinking of diverting food from other food assistance programmes of the government and donor agencies to meet the additional requirement, the source added.

#### No discrimination

Ara on May 3 last year asked the government to explain why the

circular should not be declared illegal. The court observed in yesterday's verdict that the constitution ensures equal rights to men and women and referred to their equal rights in religious books.

Once a woman is elected, she will be considered a ward commissioner and there is no scope for discrimination in authority between the commissioners from general and reserved The corporation being a corporate

for what is permitted by law, the court Because of constitutional importance of the petition, two nongovernmental organisations, Ain O Salish Kendra and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, came up as intervenors,

body, the government cannot interfere

with its powers and functions except

parties that enter a lawsuit as third parties. Dr Kamal Hossain was requested by the court to make submissions on some constitutional questions as a

friend of court, called amicus curiae in The Awami League government in 1999, amending the local government laws, introduced reserved seats to

women in the local government bodies in an effort to politically empower them. The new provision says every reserved seat comprises three wards each Union Parishad

Paurashabha and City Corporation and women are elected representatives. But the elected women representatives alleged that they were facing discrimination at work.

## BADC runs dry

busy working at their fields and seedbeds," said an agriculture economist.

"There are enough seeds in the market as farmers of the areas that were not flooded grew seeds and are now selling them to the flood-hit farmers," he added.

The BADC now has 36,000 tonnes of seeds of boro paddy, wheat, maize and mashkolai pulses for distribution and plans to import 100 tonnes of maize seeds from Thailand and India by next month. The authorities have to reach seeds

and fertilisers to the target people in time and this is really a tough job, said Quazi Shahabuddin, director general of the BIDS. "Whatever we want to give the farmers, we should give them now," he

The BADC chairman however thinks the floods have not damaged aman crop fully as there is still time for cultivation of its late variety. "Loss of aman could be covered by bumper production of boro as submerged lands gathered huge silt during the

Dr Asaduzzaman of the BIDS said

ground water was highly recharged due to the floods and that will help irrigation for farming.

Meanwhile, DAE block supervisors are preparing the list of marginal farmers with the help of union parishad chairmen and members. "Corruption is likely in preparing

the list. If only rich farmers and ruling party men get seeds, it will not work," said Dr Asaduzzaman. The BADC chairman said if floods

do not hit again, it is possible to recover 80 percent of the total loss of crops with the comprehensive agriculture rehabilitation programme taken  $up\,by\,the\,government.$ The floods have damaged 8.30 lakh

hectres of crops causing the farm sector a loss of Tk 2,291 crore, according to the agriculture ministry. Many experts however expressed

doubts on the success of the government's post-flood rehabilitation programme for agriculture sector, terming it an 'eyewash'. The coalition government has 'politically' chalked out this programme to satisfy the rural people keeping in view the next general election, they thought.

### China's gold

medals, with three silvers and two bronze, while Australia has won nine.

Zhu 19 set a new world record of 702.7 points in the men's 10m air rifle gold, shading compatriot Li Jie for China's third gold medal of the shooting competition.

Chen then beat North Korea's Ri Song-Hui in the women's 58kg category of the weightlifting.

China can also look forward to more golden performances in the pool on Monday evening when 17year-old world champions Lao Lishi and Li Ting compete in the women's synchronised platform diving event.

While the teenage wonders are regarded as virtual certainties to take gold, compatriots Peng Bo and Wang Kenan are also a chance to retain China's Olympic title in the men's synchronised springboard. In more good news for China as

they look to maintain their status as

the strongest Olympic nation in the

world behind the United States and Russia, their three top-seeded women's shuttlers made it into the semifinals of the singles badminton. In another ruthless display, world number one and top seed Gong Ruina dropped just six points in defeating

Reigning world champion and tournament second seed Zhang Ning also sealed a place in the last four, but not before Hong Kong fifth seed Wang Chen got to within two points

Taipei's Cheng Shao-Chieh, and will

now play Dutch fourth seed Mia

of victory in the final set. Chinese third seed Zhou Mi defeated unseeded Bulgarian Petya Nedelcheva for the final semifinal spot against Wang.

The women's performance helped make up for the disappointment of Lin Dan, the world number one and top seed, losing to unseeded Singaporean Ronald Susilo in the first round of the men's singles on

Lin, regarded as the game's most exciting talent for years, lost 12-15, 10-15, to the Indonesian-born Singaporean.

China's table tennis champions were also preparing Monday to launch their bid for a third consecutive clean sweep of Olympic gold, after enjoying byes in the early rounds courtesy of their top seedings.

#### Maldives

FROM PAGE 12

chaos after a state of emergency was

imposed Saturday. The unrest in the capital caused no disruption to tourism, the archipelago's main foreign exchange earner,

Holidaymakers who visit the Maldives are usually ferried from the airport island to resorts by boat or seaplane without having to go through  $the \, capital \, is land \, of \, Male.$ In the highly congested capital,

home to 80,000 people, Gayoom's sea-

front palace continued to be tightly

guarded with two heavy military vehicles parked across the main road to prevent cars entering the area. Gayoom has ruled the Maldives since 1978, turning the once fishing nation of 1,192 coral islands into a

prosperous upscale tourist spot. But he has faced mounting criticism at home and abroad for failing to tolerate any opposition. He began cautious reforms after an unprecedented riot in Male last September triggered by the death of an inmate at a

nearby prison. Dozens were hospitalised Friday when police fired teargas and used sticks and batons to break up a protest calling for the release of political prisoners.

Amnesty International appealed to the Maldives to abide by human rights in looking after detainees.

### World oil prices

FROM PAGE 12

Analysts are not ruling out the possibility that the New York oil futures contract may hit the 50-dollar-a-barrel level if unrest in Iraq continues and Russian oil titan Yukos fails to resolve its financial

Political uncertainty in Venezeula, the fifth-largest crude exporter, as well as strong demand from China, the second largest oil consumer after the United States, are additional factors, they said.

China's imports of crude oil in the first seven months rose by nearly 40 percent from a year ago as its energyhungry economy expanded at close to double-digit levels.

#### Administrator FROM PAGE 12

headquarters bombing in Baghdad on August 19.

He is currently serving his second four-year term as the UNDP administrator and earlier held senior positions in the World Bank. He is also the chair of the UN Development Group, a committee comprising the heads of all UN funds, programmes and departments working on development issues.

The administrator is also expected to hold a press briefing Thursday following his meeting with the PM He is scheduled to leave Friday.

psychological war

REUTERS, Jerusalem

supporters said.

amenities.

West Bank and Gaza

prisoners".

stop strip searches, allow more frequent

family visits, improve sanitary condi-

tions and install public telephones,

But Israeli officials call the protest

aunched on Sunday a ploy by the

prisoners to secure easier communica-

tion with militant groups waging an

almost four-year-old revolt, and have

The Prisons Service said it would

draw on psychological tactics used

against hunger strikes by Northern Irish

militants in jail in the 1970s and 1980s

which included depriving them of basic

on Monday, without giving a timetable.

More than 7.500 Palestinians are

imprisoned in Israel, their ranks swollen

by recent sweeps for militants in the

In Gaza, about 3,000 Palestinians

held a rally in support of the hunger

strikers. Khaled al-Batsh, a senior leader

of the militant Islamic Jihad group, said

gunmen should kidnap "Zionist soldiers

and settlers to be swapped for our

In new violence, Israeli helicopters

hit a rocket crew in the Gaza town of Beit

Hanoun overnight, military sources

said. But locals said two Palestinians

killed in the missile strike had no mili-

The hunger strike was praised by

vowed to fight their liquids-only fast.

has for months cast himself as a virtual Israel has declared psychological war on prisoner of Israel, confined to his West hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners, Bank compound. saving it would barbecue meat outside "The president ... hailed our heroes their cells to try to break their will.

in Israeli jails for being steadfast," said a The 1,500 inmates, seen by Palestinian government statement. Palestinians as symbols of resistance to Issa Qarage, a prisoners' rights Israeli occupation, want wardens to activist in the West Bank city of

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, who

would spread from Israel's main prisons to military detention camps. "We declare, in the name of God, our national decision to launch an open hunger strike," the Palestinian Prisoners Society said in a statement. It accused

Bethlehem, has said the hunger strike

Israel of "robbing us of all our rights,

treading on our dignity and treating us

Palestinians have held mass rallies in support of the prisoners, and on Monday were called upon by their government to hold a one-day solidarity

But Israelis remained largely "Among the various methods we unmoved by the threat of escalation by plan to employ is holding barbecues the prisoners, many of whom openly outside the walls of the affected prisidentify with Islamic groups sworn to ons," a Prisons Service spokesman said the Jewish state's destruction. "As far as I'm concerned they can

> strike for a day, a month, until death. We will ward off this strike and it will be as if it never happened," Security Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said. Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Ourie told reporters in the West Bank

> city of Ramallah that freedom for

Palestinian prisoners must be "the main

issue" in achieving any peace settlement with Israel. According to the Prisons Service, a special committee would consider force-feeding inmates who became

critically emaciated.

# Humayun Azad

FROM PAGE 1

conference at their Fuller Road house. "I think Prof Azad should be buried on Nazrul Islam's grave premises since he

was an intellectual," she added. Asked about donation of Azad's body to Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, Kohinoor said no concrete words were given to the hospital authorities either by the family or Azad himself. "The last wish of the family is to bury Azad beside the national poet,

she added. "We are also asking for immediate implementation of our demands,'

Kohinoor said. The family also wrote to the foreign ministry urging it to initiate the process of bringing back Azad's body from Germany. "We have also mentioned in the letter about handing over all the post-mortem reports to me," the wife

They also sought security from the home ministry for bringing the body from the airport to the house.

Manjur Kabir, Azad's younger brother, said the death of his brother would remain a mystery to the family "We would not believe Prof Azad died a natural death," the brother said in an

emotion-choked voice. Students of Bangla Department of the university yesterday, meanwhile, took out a silent procession on the campus to mourn the death of Azad. They submitted a memorandum to the vice chancellor demanding immediate

implementation of their 11-point

Their demands include initiating an international probe into the death, providing full security to the family, letting Azad's children stay at the university residence till the end of their study and providing financial assistance from the university if need be, burying Azad according to the family's wish, setting up Humayun Azad chair

and offering scholarship at the university to evaluate the work of late linguist. The students also demanded naming the Dhaka University Central Library or the Arts Building after Azad, taking proper initiatives to root out extremists on the campus, ensuring security of the teachers having received

death threats and families of teachers students, officials and employees. Azad went to Munich last week on a PEN fellowship to conduct research on German romantic poet Heinrich Heine. He died of heart attack at his apartment in Munich last Thursday

between 4:00am and 6:00am (German Time), according to German doctors. Prof Faiz told The Daily Star they have called an emergency meeting of the syndicate for today to discuss the demands of Azad' family. Asked if the body would be buried in Nazrul's grave premises, the VC said the syndicate, the highest decision-making body of the university, would make the final decision. He also said the demands of the students of the Bangla department

## Clashes continue

"We must work together to convince Mogtada Sadr and the dear brothers in the Mehdi Army to transform (their militia) into a political party whatever its leaning," he told the conference.

"We can come to an agreement on

this through negotiations. We are ready to defend ourselves as we are ready for peace," said Sadr spokesman. Sheikh Ahmed Shaibani, in response to the initiative. And in the southern city of Nasiriyah deputy governor Adnan al-

Sharifi said a US journalist, Micah

Garen, was kidnapped Saturday while

reporting on archaeological sites in the Garen is the founder and head of Four Corners Media, a company specialising in film, photo and written documentaries with offices in New

York and Colorado, according to its

The head of archaeological services in Nasiriyah, Abdul Amir al-Hamdani, said Garen had been living for the past few days in a hotel in the city, 375 kilometres (235 miles), south of Baghdad.

Hamdani said he had fallen foul of Italian troops in the area after accusing them of killing civilians, including a pregnant woman, in a clash 10 days before with Shia militia.

Meanwhile, three US soldiers were

Sunday during clashes with Shia militiamen, the US military said

killed as a result of enemy action in the

Najaf province on August 15," a US

military statement said. In line with Marine practice, it gave no further details of the incident, which brought the number of US soldiers killed in hostile action to 698

US forces carried out multiple bombing raids in the flashpoint Iraqi city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, on Sunday, a doctor said.

wounded," said a doctor at the Fallujah "The Americans fired seven mis-

The operation was defensive in nature

and not offensive as our marines were

being targeted and shot by small arms and RPGs," said Lieutenant Colonel "We gave air support and carried

Right now, it has stopped. We do it as and when needed," he added.

#### Monday. "Three US soldiers attached to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit were

would be considered.

since the war in Iraq began in March last vear. Earlier five people were killed when

"Five people were killed and six

siles," he added, five of which fell in Hay al-Askari, in western Fallujah, one in al-Shuhada in the south and one in al-Sinaa in the eastern part of the city. "It started at 11:30 am (0830 GMT).

T.V. Johnson. out six different sorties during the day.

killed in the Iraqi province of Najaf on