CPA chief: Hasina 'Former Iraqi

The main opposition party took a hard line by deciding to boycott the conference in protest mainly at the inclusion of prime minister's two political secretaries on the steering $committee \, on \, the \, CPA \, conference.$

Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui told The Daily Star last night that the two political secretaries, Haris Chowdhury and Mosaddak Ali, withdrew their names from the committee. However, there was no official announcement on their withdrawal.

The deputy speaker, head of the coordination committee on the CPA conference, said, "I came to know about their withdrawal, talking to Harris Chowdhury by phone.

At a meeting of party policymakers, the AL yesterday prepared a reply to Marshal's letter explaining its stance on the CPA conference boycott, Saber

The decision to boycott the conference was based on AL's three-point demand: the government has to ensure honour to the leader of the opposition in line with national and international conventions, increase the number of opposition legislators on the steering committee and subcommittees and exclude two non-MPs (prime minister's two political secretaries) from the 25-member commit-

The CPA conference steering committee headed by Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar will soon invite all envoys

the abductors contacted his family

"Although we could not pinpoint his

exact location all these days, we were

sure he was alive because our sources

kept on feeding us with bits and pieces

of information," he noted, "but for the

last 12 days, we could not gather any

have been trying to trace Jamal out now

believe that this lack of information or

communication only meant that Jamal

Following Jamal's kidnap from his

Chawkbazar office in Chittagong, the

abductors contacted his family to pay a

ransom of Tk 50 lakh. When the family

sought police help, the law enforcers

suggested that they pay the ransom.

Accordingly, a telephonic negotiation

between the abductors and the family

took place with police mediation. The

kidnappers agreed to free Jamal for a

huge sum. Police sources put the sum at

Tk 15 lakh, while the family sources

According to Jamal's family and

police sources, two policemen were

given the responsibility to deliver the

money to a remote hillside destination.

The policemen went there, returned

and said the abductors would soon

His family now believes the police-

Since that incident, the abductors

Meanwhile, Home Minister Altaf

Hossain Chowdhury on August 24 and

Inspector General of Police Shahudul

Haq had promised an immediate rescue

of Jamal. They even gave a 48-hour

returned to Dhaka," Sajia, his sister

Rana lived in a rented tin-shed at

Mirajnagar. Police said Rana did not

return home after he was called out

Wednesday evening by some

housewife, was found dead in her

bedroom in Rupanagar residential

injury marks in her throat at 6:30am

and sent it to Dhaka Medical College

Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Police said Suraiya's husband,

Police said Suraiya was sick since

Kibria Chowdhury, a taxicab driver,

has been absconding with their 7-year-

the couples hired the tin-shed seven

months back. An unnatural death

(UD) case was filed with Pallabi Police

In another incident, an alleged thief

The incident took place when the

was lynched and three others severely

beaten up at East Kachukhet in Kafrul

four youths -- Aminul Islam, Sumon,

Sajib and Abul Khair -- entered the

ground floor of 'Mostafar Mess' at 29,

East Kachukhet at around 3:00am with

thieves while they were leaving the

Boarders of the lodging caught the

One of the thieves, Aminul died on

the spot in mob beating and the others

were critically injured and taken to the

another housewife, allegedly stabbed

herself to death at Navatola sometime

that Rokeya was mentally challenged.

in the early hours of yesterday.

Meanwhile, Rokeya Begum, 55,

Her son, Awlad Hossain, told police

early yesterday morning.

an intention to steal.

At Pallabi, Suraiya Begum, 22, the

Police recovered the body bearing

2 slaughtered

men shared the money with the abduc-

 $tors\, or\, the\, abductors\, have\, betrayed.$

also stopped contacting the family.

claim this to be Tk 25 lakh.

release Jamal

FROM PAGE 1

unknown people.

old daughter.

area yesterday morning.

told police.

He and his other colleagues who

information whatsoever about him."

through third party."

was not alive.

Dhaka to brief them on the preparaons for the conference, as they sounded worried about the AL boycott,

The deputy speaker promised to take initiatives again to bring the main position to the conference. "I will try my best to ensure the opposition's participation and communicate with the Awami League tomorrow (Wednesday)," he said.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid, expressing dissatisfaction at the situation, said he was no longer interested in communicating with the speaker or the deputy speaker to end the stalemate

We wanted to join the conference but the ruling party pushed the opposition to take a hard line. Will any further initiative yield any result? Hamid said.

The ruling party completed all preparatory work, ignoring the oppoion party's opinions. Even if we join the conference now, we won't have anything to do other than being only listeners," he said.

But the deputy speaker blamed the opposition for taking the hard decision like boycott. "It's a preplanned political game. They should join the conference as we have met their all demands."

Asked about speculations over probable suspension of the conference in Dhaka, he said, "The conference will be a success. I hope the main opposition will join the conference in the greater interest of the country."

But as the law enforcers failed to

make any headway, the government

overhauled the Chittagong police

administration, transferring and pun-

ishing nearly 200 officers and personnel

including the Chittagong Metropolitan

Police (CMP) Commissioner

Bangladesh Rifles and intelligence

basis of allegation of misappropriation

of the ransom money, the police officials

who handled the deal would be guizzed

by the higher authorities. The then

officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police

Station Mohammad Ali at the instruc-

tion of ex-CMP Commissioner

Shahidullah Khan, who has been made

officer on special duty (OSD), reportedly

gave the money at the Bahaddarhat

was a difficult task requiring more US

ment had not cracked down hard

enough on bin Laden's supporters and

realities on the ground there, the reality

this, this is an inhospitable terrain.

What is required, is an intelligence

operation more than a -- more than a

litary operation," Musharraf said.

do more to assist Pakistan and resisted

US attempts to direct most of its aid

the way. I don't want it for the military

toward his nation's military.

He said the United States needs to

'We don't want it for the military, by

He also rejected claims his govern-

"People don't understand the

It also deployed paramilitary

Our Chittagong Bureau adds: on the

Shahidullah Khan.

point in the city.

Musharraf

agencies in the operation.

Jamal believed dead

number two negotiating surrender'

A Jordanian newspaper reported yesterday that negotiations for the surrender of Iraq's former number two Ezzat Ibrahim are under way and have

"Contacts under way for the surrender of the Iraqi official have reached an advanced phase," Al Arab Al Yawm daily said in a dispatch from Baghdad, quoting a "source close to the family" of

It was not clear however who was involved in these alleged negotiations. Ibrahim -- a former vice president of the once-powerful Revolution Command Council in Iraq -- is on a US

denosed regime. According to Al Arab Al Yawm, Ibrahim has lost contact with former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein and is on the move in tribal areas north and west of Baghdad.

Saitur

but returned home Monday, cutting short his visit due to a family emergency. He, however, met the ton brasses of the WB and IMF and also attended a seminar there on IMF's role in the low-income countries.

He earned assurance from the World Bank of doubling development assistance -- from around \$500 million in the last fiscal year to around \$1 billion this year -- for investment into

In his statement, Saifur expressed his disappointment at the declining flow of both Official Development Assistance (ODA) and private invest-

age of GDP of developing countries given as aid by industrial countries fell from 0.33 to 0.22 per cent, far off the agreed range of 0.7 per cent.

share of scarce ODA to the least developed countries (LDCs) -- from 32 per cent in 1990 to 24.7 per cent in 2000.

"These unhealthy trends must be reversed," Dhaka pleaded, fearing that the new expectations roused by the Millennium Development Goals may be dashed for want of adequate resources. "The world cannot afford the luxury of aid fatigue at this critical

up new opportunities for developed and developing countries alike, the gains have been offset in developing countries by barriers in agriculture, intellectual property rights (IPR), absence of special and differential treatment (S&D) and many emerging non-tariff barriers to exports

"Unfortunately the process of trade liberalisation suffered a serious, but I hope temporary, setback in the recently concluded ministerial conference in Cancun," Saifur said in the paper, hoping that new initiatives would be undertaken soon to put the negotiation back on track.

The minister also mentioned the global incidence of poverty, with more than 1.1 billion hapless people earning less than a dollar a day.

"There is however no quick fix for poverty. There are many necessary provisions for poverty reduction," he said referring to developing countries' need to make huge investments in physical infrastructures and human

Khaleda FROM PAGE 12

multifarious initiatives despite unfavourable international scenario," the prime minister told the opening

Presently, nearly 30 lakh Bangladeshis are working in foreign ntries, she informed the audience, saying that some 500,000 workers have been sent abroad during the last two

The prime minister said the expatriate Bangladeshis were making meaningful contribution to national economy through their remittances.

The country, She said, received remittance amounting to nearly Tk 16,000 crore in 2002. The amount is expected to rise to Tk 18,000 crore in

The prime minister said that some 24 more such technical training centers would be set up in the country including six for women one each in six division. A training center for women has already started functioning in Dhaka, she added.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Amanullah Aman, Prof. Shahidul Islam MP, Mehedi Ahmed Rumi MP, and local MP Sohrabuddin also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, the prime minister unveiled the plaque of the newly built technical training centre.

Built at a cost of Tk 10.67 crore by the Labour Employment and Training Bureau, the training centre is situated on 2 acres of land.

The centre will impart training to 660 students in two shifts each year, with option for two-year and sixmonth courses in six trades. These are computer operation, industrial garments, electronics (Radio/TV), electrical, automotive, and refrigeration and air-conditioning.

made considerable progress.

"The Iragi vice president is demanding that his name be removed from a (US) wanted list as well as humanitarian conditions for his detention," the report said, adding that Ibrahim has heart and abdominal troubles.

most wanted list of 55 members of the

FROM PAGE 12

major infrastructures and agriculture.

ments into developing countries. Over the last decade, the percent-

This was coupled with a fall in the

Although globalisation has opened

Al-Jazeera FROM PAGE 12

or the workings of the Coalition Provisional Authority that runs the occupied country. Major William Thurmond, a

spokesman, said the stations would still have access to military coverage.

The Governing Council statement was signed by Ayad Allawi, head of the body's security committee, and was dated effective Tuesday.

"The Governing Council is very worried about the irresponsible behavior of some media, especially Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya," the statement said.

It said the two stations are "considered to have violated the rules and criteria that the media should respect to continue to work in Iraq.'

US officials have accused the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera and the Dubai-based Al-Arabiya of giving too much prominence to anti-US attacks and providing a forum for backers of ousted president Saddam Hussein.

The council statement barring them from official functions for two weeks fell short of the vow by Entefadh Oanbar, a spokesman for the body's current president, Ahmad Chalabi, to shut down their offices temporarily.

It came after a meeting of council officials and an aide to US civilain administrator Paul Bremer on the legalities of action against the broad-

Officials of both stations, which compete for the world Arab audience and deny accusations of bias, said they had not been informed of any action against their operations in Baghdad.

Six more city roads Indian smugglers

Road from Mohakhali to Maghbazar has been partially off-limits to rickshaws, the official added.

Besides, the DTCB recently placed angled iron rods on one side of Bangla Motor to Maghbazar Road to discourage rickshaws, said DTCB officials.

Ansar Uddin Khan Pathan, deputy commissioner, traffic (north), said no deadline has been set for the drive to seize illegal rickshaws and it will continue through the rainy season as the number of rickshaws without licence increases during the season.

Another official said 320 unauthor-

ised rickshaws from the traffic division,

north and 312 from the traffic division

south have been seized so far since the start of the drive. Sources said the rush of illegal rickshaws has increased and the worst affected areas are Maghbazar, Mouchak Malibagh, Kakrail, Motijheel, Paltan, North South Road, Green Road, Science

Laboratory, New Market, Jatrabari,

Savedabad and all roads of the old town.

According to the Wheel Taxation Department of the DCC, there are around 80,000 licensed rickshaws in the city and about three lakh rickshaws ply the city streets without valid papers and mostly with fake licence allegedly issued by a section of the DCC staff.

An official of the department denied any involvement of the DCC staff in providing fake licence in connivance with rickshaw owners' associations. He said an organised gang outside forge the licences and number plates issued by the DCC.

M Ali Akbar, secretary general of Dhaka Mahanagar Rickshaw Malik Oikya Jote, a forum of registered rickshaw owners associations, said, "Considering the growing number of people in the city we held talks with the com-

discrepancies in the GSA agreement

the BB served the show cause notice on

Talking to The Daily Star, Farid

Ahmed, managing director (MD) of the

SCSI., acknowledged receiving the

notice and said, "We will give our reply

It is mandatory for any firm to

Earlier, the central bank initiated a

probe into the SCSL's affairs after a

complaint was lodged against the firm.

A Malaysian lawmaker Dato Mohd Zin

Bin Mohamed signed the original GSA

agreement with the airlines as chair-

man of the SCSL on September 21,

2000. Concealing the presence of a

foreign national on its board, the SCSL

BB as the company is incorporated in

Bangladesh with the Registrar of Joint

Stock as a fully Bangladeshi-owned

obtain permission from the central

bank to become local agent of foreign

principals, officials said.

the SCSL, officials said yesterday.

munications ministry this year for 50,000 new licensed rickshaws and the ministry agreed, but it has not been implemented as yet.

The manufacturing of rickshaws is continuing at some city points including Jurain, Jatrabari, Maniknagar Mugdapara and Madhubag and the rickshaws roll on the city streets without valid papers.

The DCC has not issued licence to rickshaws after 1986 and the term of licences has ended on June 30 last year.

However, the DCC is yet to renew the licences. A DCC official said the renewal of licence would be complete in June next. The rate of licence renewal fees has been increased to Tk 100 from Tk 70.

Charges framed against 5 in Adv **Babar murder case**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Speedy Trial Tribunal-1, Dhaka Division, vesterday framed charges against five accused in Advocate Sved Babar Elahi murder case.

The accused are Khandker Navem Ahmed alias Liton, Md Rashedul Islam, Dr Babu, Md Nazrul Islam and Shafiqul Islam. Of them, Liton and Rashedul are now in jail while the rest still at large.

Judge Shaheed Noor Uddin fixed September 27 for trial of the case.

In the case filed with Dhanmondi Police Station, it was alleged that Babar was shot dead by a gang of assailants at Road no 14 in Dhanmondi on March 3, 2000. The case was filed the following day. The investigation office of the

case pressed charges against the five on July 14 this year, showing 26 people as prosecution witnesses.

An opposition lawmaker of

Malaysia, Teresa Kok Suh Sim lodged

the complaint with the governor of the

BB on July 28 this year through her

counsel in Dhaka, Advocate Hasanul

According to the complaint, Zin,

who claims to be the chairman of the

SCCL, illegally received funds equiva-

lent to \$7 million from Bangladesh. He

also comes to Dhaka occasionally to

collect his profit and honorarium

Zin is not the chairman of the SCSL,

as his name has not been registered

with the Registrar of Joint Stock in

Dhaka, "The SCSL has disbursed

honorarium and 49 per cent of profit

sharing money to Mr Zin every month

since the inception of the GSA," said the

The main opposition Awami League

(AL) yesterday demanded an inde-

without permission from the BB.

Illegal money transfer

attack BDR at Hili

Indian smugglers attacked the members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) during an anti- smuggling drive on a running train near Hili Railway Station in Hakimpur upazila on Monday night.

The BDR opened fire to disperse the smugglers and arrested one of them who was injured, official sources said vesterday. BDR sources said about 50 Indian

smugglers were loading goods and drugs onto the inter-city 'Semanto Express' at 10:05pm in the outer signal area of Hili Railway Station Drivers of the Khulna-bound train

coming from Parbatipur junction slowed its speed near the border pillar no 284/32S and the smugglers started loading Indian sugar, saree, phensedyl and other contraband items onto it. As the BDR patrol team resisted the

smugglers, they attacked the BDR men

with sharp weapons, bricks and

stones. In the face of attack, the BDR

opened fire, injuring one of the smugglers while others fled to India. The injured Indian smuggler Tapan Malu, 25, son of Tarun Malu under Gangarampur Police Station of South Dinajpur district in West Bengal, was admitted to Hakimpur upazila health complex. A huge quan-

tity of smuggled Indian sugar, saree, phensedyl and other drugs left by the smugglers inside the train was seized. The BDR filed a case with General Railway Police (GRP) at Santahar.

When contacted, Commanding Officer (CO) of Joypurhat Rifles Battalion Lt Colonel Zoaherul Islam told BSS vesterday that the BDR men maintained restraints to avoid human casualties when they were attacked by the Indian smugglers. "Our jawans are engaged in curb-

ing border smuggling and crimes and they will continue to do so," he said.

WB dev policies

AL chief's suggestion.

told reporters quoting Sheikh Hasina. "The AL chief identified development as a continuous process," Saber said adding that Wallich welcomed the

The opposition leader told Wallich that after assuming power the present government halted several development programmes initiated by the previous AL government, Saber said.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Member of the Advisory Council A M A Muhit and Jawadul Karim, press adviser to the party president, aided Sheikh Hasina during the meeting. Wallich told reporters after the

meeting that she discussed different

issues including Bangladesh's eco-

nomic programmes and poverty alleviation strategies. There was no discussion on political issues and export of natural gas, she

Saber told reporters that the previous AL government established about 12,000 community health clinics for rural people. He said another 6,000 clinics were in the process of being set up, but after coming to power the present government stopped the

The meeting also discussed shutdown of state-owned mills and industries. The AL position on the issue is that before closing down a factory the government should identify the reasons behind its incurring losses and take the initiative to make it profitable, Saber

There might be problems in the factories, but wholesale closing is not the answer, the AL representatives observed at the meeting.

Saber said Hasina stressed the need for investment in the social sectors like health and education Saber Hossain Chowdhury said

Wallich expressed concern over corruption in the government when the ssue was raised at the meeting.

Saber said the AL would develop relations with all donor countries and

agencies through dialogue and opinion sharing, "Such an effort will help both sides -- the donors will be informed of the main opposition's expectations and at the same time the AL can familiarise itself with their views on the country's development programmes," he added

Ctg Port accident

The MV Eagle Strength was carrying 774 containers, the sources added.

A three-member committee formed earlier to probe the incident was reconstituted vesterday with two more members. Lt Col Sarwar Shaheed, director (Security) of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) is heading the probe body.

Other members are Lt Commander Lokman Hossain, deputy director (Security) of CPA, Captain Kamrul Islam, harbour master, Engineer Aminul Huq of Hydrography Department and Mashiur Rahman Beg of Traffic Department of CPA. The committee will submit its report

Zulfikar Haider Chowdhury, secretary of the shipping ministry yesterday visited the accident spot and directed officials of the CPA and other departments concerned to take necessary steps to salvage the containers. He also asked the inquiry team to submit its report timely.

Sources said the CPA already served show cause notices to Kim Waigee, captain of the MV Eagle Strength and its local agent Neptune Orient Line, and two navigators of the

Meanwhile, the MV Bangabiraj anchored at the MPB Jetty-1 of CPA vesterday evening to shift its containers to another vessel MV Bangabarthi which was called in at the port jetty from the outer anchorage. The step was taken to send the exportable items to foreign buyers timely.

Saudi hostage

The gang, wanted by police, had holed up in an apartment in a staff residential building at King Fahd (hospital) in Jizan with the intention of carrying out acts of terrorism," the statement said, making no mention of hostages. "They were armed with sub-machine-guns and "Tuesday morning the security

forces laid siege to the building and asked the terrorists to give themselves un. But they opened fire on the security forces," the spokesman said.

had earlier told AFP by telephone that four members of a large group of wanted gunmen had been shot dead after taking Two other gunmen were seriously

wounded and being treated in intensive care, the source said by telephone from inside the hospital compound on the edge of the city of Jizan. "Four of the attackers have been

others have been wounded and taken into intensive care," after an exchange "They are terrorists," he said

killed," the medical source said. "Two

There's a lot of them. The gunmen had barricaded themselves into the block, taking as hostages staff and patients of various nationali-

ties, the source added.

Security forces had at about 1100 GMT warned the hostage-takers "to give up or face an attack on the hospital", he

Security forces had attacked at dawn a nearby farm where the gunmen had been holed up, local residents said.

The gunmen fled from the village and attacked the housing block, taking an unknown number of staff hostage.

Sources close to the London-based opposition Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia also reported that hostage had been taken by the gunmen who were fleeing from security forces.

Saudi Arabia has launched a major crackdown on presumed al-Qaeda militants, notably since May 12 triple suicide bombings of residential compounds in Riyadh that left 35 people

Since then, repeated shootouts have taken place in which several security men as well as militants were killed or

wounded. More than 170 presumed Islamist militants have been detained for suspected links with terrorism since the

FROM PAGE 12 Powell made the remark in an interview with the Charlie Rose Show on public television while talking about Washington's vision of what kind of

Judeo-Christian.

The remark was likely to antagonize

millions of American Muslims, most of whom want to be included in the mainstream.

Some American Muslims have coined the term Judeo-Christian-Islamic to reflect their ideal of what the United

ments regarding Block 9 also needs prior concurrence of the GOB."

"We request you to explain under what provision of the PSC you made the sale to Niko Resources (Cayman) Ltd," the letter read.

pullout by transferring shares to Niko has enraged the Block 9 operator Tullow that felt the 'opaque' deal made operations in the block uncertain. Niko was disqualified in the same bid that gave Γullow and Chevron-Texaco the licence for Block 9 to explore oil and gas. Though Tullow appeared as the best

strike a partnership with Chevron-Texaco 'under American pressure', the frish company claimed. The biggest problem in the changeover bid is that Niko will become 60

percent stakeholder despite the fact that t has been disqualified once and is still a very small company compared to The section 31.3 of the PSC that

all of its rights, interests and obligations to a non-affiliated third party clearly demands prior written approval of the One of the conditions for such a deal suggested by the PSC says, "the pro-

ment of its or their financial and technical competence.

Ironically, when the PSC enters the development stage of gas field Niko, in place of a giant like Chevron-Texaco, will become the block's operator straightaway after April next year.

Industry insiders also term this deal 'most uneven' that could dry up the investment flow in Block 9. The oil companies have spent \$20 million so far and were set to spend another \$20 million by April, 2004.

Some of the callers reportedly

introduce themselves as Jisan, Sumon,

said a telephone operator at a clinic at

Criminals buzz FROM PAGE 12 get tips in return.

paid Tk 15,000 in telephone bills for calls to Kolkata made from five telephones at their hospital. He or his staff

The BTTB officials said they connect any number abroad sought by a subscriber from a BTTB number.

Annan blasts Bush

Annan said.

'Now some say this understanding is no longer tenable since an 'armed attack' with weapons of mass destruction could be launched at any time,"

tal challenge to the principles, on which, however imperfectly, world peace and stability have rested for the last 58 years," Annan said. However, Annan said the 15member Security Council, in charge of

"This logic represents a fundamen-

war and peace, might need to consider rewriting the rule book for the use of "Its members may need to begin a discussion on the criteria for an early

authorisation of coercive measures to

address certain types of threats -- for

instance, terrorist groups armed with

weapons of mass destruction," Annan He said he was establishing a "highlevel panel of eminent personalities" to examine current challenges to peace and security and recommend ways the United Nations could reform its insti-

"Excellencies, we have come to a fork in the road," Annan said. "This may be a moment no less decisive than 1945 itself, when the United Nations Annan again berated UN members

for not being able to agree on an expan-

sion of the Security Council, which has remained nearly the same for 58 years. "I would respectfully suggest to you, excellencies, that in the eves of your peoples the difficulties of reaching agreement does not excuse your failure

Jan Kavan, the outgoing assembly

to do so," Annan said.

president from the Czech Republic said earlier that UN ambassadors alone for all of us that the outcome is a stable could not resolve Security Council and democratic Iraq - at peace with reform after a decade of trying. "For that, you would need a major political breakthrough in the capitals of certain key member states," he said.

itself and with its neighbours, and Bush is expected to make a similar appeal for global unity when he

Malaysian High Court.

gathering danger" of Saddam Hussein's Iraq - or stand aside as the United States acted alone In the months that followed France, Germany, Russia and other nations opposed the war and were

approval. This year, with mounting bills and US casualties, Bush wants help from the United Nations and support for a US-backed resolution that Washington hopes will encourage countries to contribute troops and money. But France, Germany and Russia want a larger UN political role and a much

than Washington is prepared to accept. The friendship between France and the United States will always prevail over the countries' political differences, French President Jacques Chirac said Monday.

Nations over Iraq. "Events over the past few months

devastating bomb attacks against its headquarters in Baghdad in the past month have plunged the world body into mourning - and raised questions about its future role

the United Nations system is prepared to play its full part in working for a satisfactory outcome in Iraq, and to do so as part of an effort by the whole international community," Annan said in his prepared text.

scam and resignation of three ministers for allegedly taking bribe in exchange for aiding and abetting in the act. AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil in a statement vesterday expressed deep

illegal remittance of \$7 million to

people involved in the money flight

It also asked for punishment to the

Malaysia from Bangladesh.

concern at a news published in The Daily Star on September 21 about illegal money transfer to Malaysia, He demanded resignation of three ministers, who he said, were reportedly associated with the money transfer. He also alleged that several minis-

ters, a certain powerful quarter and their foreign partners have formed a corruption clique under state patron-

The AL general secretary noted that the country's image abroad was tarnished as the issue of illegal money transfer has been raised in the

addresses the UN General Assembly shortly after Annan, during the first

complaint.

meeting of world leaders since the invasion of Iraq. His message was clear: The world should collectively address the threats from terrorists and weapons of mass

destruction that spur such "pre-

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld developed an argument for taking pre-emptive action against enemies who could launch a surprise chemical, biological or nuclear attacks.

The policy of using such strikes

"could set precedents that resulted in a proliferation of the unilateral and lawless use of force, with or without credible justification." "But it is not enough to denounce unilateralism, unless we also face up squarely to the concerns that make some states feel uniquely vulnerable, and thus drive them to take unilateral

In his address to the UN meeting Bush will make "a call to action" for the international community to work together "to support the emergence of a democratic, peaceful and free Iraq which is at peace with its neighbours in the Middle East," said US Ambassador John Negroponte.

"We think the international com-

effectively through collective action,

being a success," Negroponte said Monday. "None of us want Iraq to fail." Annan virtually echoed those words in his prepared text. "Whatever view each of us may take of the events of recent months, it is vital

contributing to stability in the region, Last year, Bush came to the General Assembly to challenge its member states to confront the "grave and

pendent probe into the allegation of

incensed when the United States attacked Iraq without Security Council

quicker transfer of power to the Iragis

action. We must show that those concerns can, and will, be addressed Chirac's comments, made as he inaugurated a French school in New York, came as the two nations try to

avoid another showdown at the United

have led to tension in relations between our countries. I want to share my personal conviction with all of you however, that the friendship between France and the United States is deeply rooted in our history," Chirac said. munity has a strong interest in Iraq The key UN meeting comes after

> "Subject to security considerations posed assignee or assignees must produce reasonable evidence to govern-

A medical source inside the hospital

Islamic country by faith, just as we are a "We, it's hard to tell any more, but we

bidder for the block, it was forced to

Powell

government Iraq should have. He said he expected it to be "an

are a country of many faiths now," he added quickly.

States should be

Petrobangla rejects

Announcement of the Chevron

allows the partners to assign any part or government and Petrobangla.

A hospital owner said in July he had

Kawser, Biplob, Sujon, Bikash and Quaiyum The BTTB operators allow them to talk for about 18 minutes on average,

did not make any of those calls, he