Series of attacks

youth and labour fronts of the party, were converging there at 4:00pm to constitute a human chain, according to eyewitnesses. At least eight people were injured in the attack.

Formation of human chains on the banks of the Buriganga in Dhaka, Surma in Sylhet, Karnaphuli in Chittagong, Padma in Rajshahi and Kirtankhola in Barisal was part of an AL-sponsored 'Save environment' campaign

Following the attack, the Jubo League workers led by some of its Dhaka city unit leaders tried to regroup and held a protest rally instead of forming the human chain from Sadarghat to Badamtali in the west and up to Shyampur Ghat in the east, the witnesses added

When the pro-government activists attacked again, the opposition activists retaliated by throwing brickbats at them, forcing the attack-

Dinajpur people

FROM PAGE 12 alone, 4,043 acres were acquired

from the indigenous people. According to the project, the stakeholders would get 60 percent of the profit and the forest department the rest after the trees were felled. The trees were planted in early 1990s.

But this year the forest officials sold some trees and did not give any share to the indigenous people claiming that there was no such deals. When they protested, the forest department officials filed false cases against them.

The indigenous people said they were the owners of the land and looked after the trees for more than 20 years.

The rally was organised by the Jatiya Adivasi Parishad. Pankaj Bhattacharya of Gano Forum, Rupayan Dewan, vice-president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), Chandra Shekhar Chakma, general secretary of the PCJSS, Mesbah Kamal, Rabindranath Soren, secretary of Adivasi Parishad, Babul Rabi Das, Rafigul Alam, Hamidul Hague and other local leaders addressed the

CityCell

FROM PAGE 12 His company is the first to eliminate

inter-zonal call charges, he mentioned. Earlier on July 19 also, the com-

pany announced tariff reduction. It introduced a post-paid pack-

age 'Ammar Phone' with call charges as low as Tk 0.75 per minute. This is the lowest cell phone charge in the country. Under the package, per minute

call charge is Tk 3.00 in peak hours and off-peak hours and Tk 1.50 in super off-peak hours from 11:00 pm to 8:00 am.

The PBTL has over two lakh subscribers in 50 districts in Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions. It plans to Division

Meanwhile, the GrameenPhone slashed call charges for its pre-paid subscribers recently. Earlier, it reduced those for post-paid sub-

Sub-registrar

FROM PAGE 1 the court the petitioner applied

properly for the post but the PSC arbitrarily cancelled his registration and issued no admit card in his favour. He termed it a clear violation of the fundamental rights. Submitting some newspaper

clippings, Barrister Islam also alleged that the question paper of the preliminary examination had been leaked out

Assistant Attorney General Sayeda Afsar Zahan appeared for

Trade unionism

The government is likely to go to the Appellate Division against the

ruling, she said.

EPZs, the government formed a

Workers' Welfare Committee

(WWC), which has now been intro-

duced at almost all factories inside

the EPZs to address labour related

issues, said a high official of BEPZA

(Bangladesh Export Processing

But sources said the US is

reportedly still unhappy with the

WWC because it does not fully

comply with all the criteria of the ILO

(International Labour Organisation)

meeting chaired by State Minister

for Labour and Manpower Aman

Ullah Aman yesterday observed

that it will take three more years to

complete a workers' training

programme ahead of introducing

trade union activities in the EPZs,

lakh workers and employees at 180

mills and factories located in coun-

try's six EPZs have already been

trained under the programme jointly

organised by the government, the

Sources said the meeting

ILO and the US embassy in Dhaka.

decided to strengthen welfare

activities for workers at the six EPZs

that accounts for a fifth of the coun-

More than 8,000 of some 1.30

the meeting sources said.

An inter-ministerial committee

Zone Authority).

convention.

Addressing the impromptu protest rally, AL leader Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya blamed the BNP for the attack and alleged that police did not co-operate with them in the formation of the human chain.

In the other incident, police clubbed and teargassed the AL's women activists when they tried to bring out a procession following a rally of Mahila Awami League in front of the Bangabandhu Avenue office to protest Saturday's police excesses on fellow party workers during hartal in Dhaka.

Ending the rally, the women activists marched to the western side of the police barricade on Bangabandhu Avenue at about 5:45pm. There they engaged in an altercation with the law- enforcers. After a few minutes, police swooped on the opposition activists when they tried to break through the

Police from the eastern side of the Avenue attacked the women workers at the same time. Police showered them with hot and coloured water from water cannons and lobbed over a dozen teargas

The opposition activists also elted stones at the police. At least women activists including Nasima Mantu, Tuhin, Doly, Shabnam, Sheela, Shirin and Momtaz were badly injured in police clubbing, party sources said.

River-link

stage. We have not yet discussed it with different states and the prefeasibility study has not even been completed so there should not be any apprehension on the part of Bangladesh," Sethi told reporters after his meeting with Hafizuddin.

He said India would take Bangladesh's interests into account but it was too early for in-depth bilateral discussions on the project.

A taskforce headed by former Indian power minister Suresh Prabhu will examine the project in detail. Sethi said, adding: "When that stage comes, we will certainly look into how much interests are affected within and

Hafizuddin led a 12-member delegation to the 35th JRC meeting, including Mohammed Sayef Uddin water resources secretary, and Mukhlesuzzaman, director general of Bangladesh Water Development

The Indian team led by Sethi ncludes Water Resources Secretary AK Goswami and Chairman of Central ater Commission R Jeyaseelan.

The third and final session of the JRC meeting will be held today before the Bangladesh minister leaves for Kolkata on October 1 and flies to Farakka Barrage project and joint observation sites on October 2.

Dewan threatens

FROM PAGE 1 wanted to speak, but the chairman

refused him the opportunity Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. also

in charge of the CHT affairs ministry and a member of the committee, did not attend the meeting. The meeting was informed of the

situation of the CHT task force on repatriation of refugees that fell virtually inoperative with the expiry of the chairman's term before the October 1, 2001 general elections. The committee expressed its

desire to hold meeting with different bodies in the Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati highlands including the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Shanghati Samity (PCJSŠ) and the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) to ease

It urged the local administration to step up the drive to rescue Rupam Mahajon whose abducted on August 24 sparked the Mahalchhari violence and asked the ministry to probe into the attacks.

The committee visited the area

earlier this month and held the local administration's ignorance culpable for the violence

try's exports worth \$1.2 billion.

Around \$103 million of fresh invest-

ments were also made there last

increased to 10,000 last year from

best possible ways to uphold work-

ers' rights on the one hand, and to

safeguard national interest as well

as that of investors on the other.'

Aman told newsmen after the meet-

ing, but didn't elaborate on the

government strategy to deal with the

Ahmed and BEPZA Executive

Chairman M Mofizur Rahman were

also present at the inter-ministerial

formulate within three months a

comprehensive strategy regarding

TU at the EPZs, has so far failed to

come up with such a strategy. The

tenure of the committee has been

previous Awami League govern-

ment had committed to begin the

process of introducing trade union

activities from January 2004, and

also issued a gazette notification in

Under strong US pressure, the

extended till December 15.

that regard

Commerce Secretary Sohel

The committee, formed in April to

an average of 6.000.

committee meeting.

Fresh annual recruitment also

"We are still looking to find the

Dhaka ready FROM PAGE 12

a successful outcome.

Expressing deep concern over the current developments in the Middle East, he said the Road Map that the Palestinian side accepted with great courage "has not been seriously accepted or implemented by the other side."

"Preconditions have been mposed making peace difficult," Khan said, adding, "The Israeli practices -- that are well known to this Assembly -- are being applied in occupied Palestine."

Implicitly denouncing the Israeli policy, he said, "The vicious and criminal pronouncement to expel and even assassinate President Yasser Arafat calls for global condemnation in the strongest terms.

"They run counter to global demand for a peaceful settlement and establishment of a Palestinian State to exist side by side with its neiahbours.' Calling for establishing a sover-

eign and independent State of Palestine, the foreign minister urged the UN to play a more active role and asked the Security Council to assume its due responsibilities toward the people of Palestine.

"We urge the diplomatic Quartet to intensify their efforts to prevent further escalation, address the threats against President Arafat. We urge that the peace process be restored to its track. We call for renewed efforts toward a comprehensive solution of the Middle-East issues in a given timeframe."

Touching upon the burning debate on the legitimacy of the United Nations, particularly after the US-led war on Irag that did not wait for UN sanction, the foreign minister categorically said the world body is indispensable as the centre organ for the collective management of world affairs. The greatest strength of the UN

s its legitimacy founded on the bedrock principles of international law, he said, adding, "There is no substitute for such legitimacy. It is in this gauge that we look to the United

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina upon his arrival in the capital on October 3. Mahbub, along with the CPA

liaison officer, met the president of the 49th conference, Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar, and discussed the verall situation. "We'll continue our efforts to

bring the Awami League to the conference and we hope they'll join us," Mahbub said.

Sircar also wished the AL to join the conference. "I don't think the Awami League will stay away. I am fully confident of their joining," he told newspersons at his Sangsad

The AL decided not to join the October 4-12 conference of the argest forum of lawmakers in protest at what it said was the government's arrogant attitude toward the opposiion in preparing for the ever

The main opposition party is still unbending on its decision to boycott the conference. "What is final is that we will not join the conference," AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said

The steering committee on the conference, headed by Sircar, will sit at 4:00pm today to review the progress in preparatory work.

Asked about the schedule of the inaugural session on October 7, Sircar said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, vice-patron of the CPA, and the leader of the opposition are expected to attend the event and speak.

The seven-session conference will be joined by 522 delegates from 154 parliaments in 48 countries, with the highest number -- 174 from 34 parliaments in India.

TIB corruption

FROM PAGE 1

Prof. Murshid said confidence level of the common people is going down in the administration due to "widespread corruption".

The TIB observed that "political will" is needed first for removing corruption. The watchdog also suggested independent anticorruption commission, appointment of ombudsmen, speedy trial of corrupt people, press freedom, separation of the judiciary and administrative reforms as the reme-

Transparency International's global report in 2002 ranked Bangladesh for the second year straight as the country with the most perceived public sector corruption.

The ruling alliance shrugged off that report, blaming the findings on the previous administration which was voted out in 2001.

"The overall corruption scenario compared to the previous year has remained unchanged with some sectors showing less incidents, while in others it has gone up," Prof. Murshid said.

He said the problem would not be eliminated without exemplary ounishment for corruption. The Daily Star newspaper

reported earlier this year that about 20,000 police were punished for corruption or criminal links in 2002, up from 16.654 in 1997.

It said another 14,069 police were rewarded last year for their good performance.



This car windshield was smashed in an attack on the Awami League demonstration in Sadarghat by the ruling party activists vesterday.

PSC credibility

FROM PAGE 12 leakage. The PSC flatly denied the

The question paper of the 24th BCS preliminary test held on February 28 this year was also allegedly leaked and the PSC had to cancel the test

PSC Chairman Prof. ZN Tahmida Begum first denied the allegation and termed it absolutely false and baseless.

But later, the PSC formed a three-member committee to probe the allegation and cancelled the test, saying this was done to meet the students' demands. No action was taken yet against the persons responsible for question leakage. "The PSC found about 10 of its

leakage but did not publish the probe report," one source claimed, requesting anonymity. Against this backdrop, some DU teachers and PSC members have suggested deployment of intelli-

gence agencies round-the-year at

officials involved in the question

all the places concerned to prevent question leakage The PSC should probe allegations that some of its members or employees were involved in question leakage to regain its credibility,

A PSC member, requesting anonymity, said, " University teachers who prepare questions, PSC members who conduct examinations, PSC chairman who looks after the whole process, and persons who carry the questions to the press, computer composers and others involved in publishing the

BNP delegates

FROM PAGE 12

neurs and duty-free access of Bangladeshi products to Chinese market.

The delegation visited several provinces in China and held meetings with top CPC leaders and agreed to strengthen ties between the two parties and relation between Bangladesh and China.

The delegation held meetings with Vice-chairman of National People's Congress of China Jiang Zhenghua, CPC politburo member and Chairperson of the People's Political Consultative Standing Committee of China Jia Qinglin Vice-minister for Foreign Affairs Dai Bingguo and Secretary General of Communist Youth League Shou

standards of East and South-East

Asia in the last few decades." the

study said, urging policy-makers to

support growth in non-tradable

Saifur Rahman launched the study,

the Macroeconomics of Poverty

Reduction -The Case Study of

Bangladesh, at the IDB Bhaban in

The pace of poverty reduction

The population living below

poverty line dropped from 52 per cent

in 1983-84 to about 50 per cent in

1991-92, but then fell relatively

sharply to about 40 per cent by 2000,

The proportion of population living

below the poverty line was as high as

71 per cent in 1973-74, the earliest

survey year after Bangla-desh's

tion are to be consolidated in

Bangladesh, policy-makers must

support growth in 'non-tradable'

sectors like small industries and

invest in opportunities for the rural

incremental growth in the 1990s

originating from what economists

call the 'non-tradable' sectors, mainly

services, construction and small-

scale industry, a fact confirmed by the

changing composition of the labour

force -- from farm activities to 'non-

The report found most of the

If recent gains in poverty reduc-

accelerated in the 1990s compared to

the 1980s, the United Nations

Development Programme study said.

Dhaka yesterday.

independence.

poor, the study added.

farm' activities.

Finance and Planning Minister M

Poverty wanes

questions -- all should be blamed for the question leakage." The cancelled BCS preliminary

test was held on August 8 this year again amid allegations of question leakage. This time also, the PSC denied the allegation and published the test results only after nine days. Six people were arrested with

sets of photocopied questions allegedly of the BCS test and subregistrar recruitment examinations. The question papers of recruitment test for sub-inspectors under the Local Government and Rural

Development ministry held on March 7 this year were also allegedly leaked. Expressing concern at the repeated question leakage under PSC, Prof. Serajul Islam Chowdhury told this correspondent that those

who process the questions are not

involved in leakage but those might

be leaked by PSC or BG Press

employees at lower level. He suggested stepping up security at these Prof. Abul Khaer, acting president of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association, said, "Someone in the PSC seems involved in question leakage to make money or to defame the PSC in a planned way." The panel of examiners should be changed and, if necessary, the PSC should

AL unbending

the chair in absence of party president Sheikh Hasina, who is sick.

also be reformed, he thought.

Jalil said the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government was not sincere in AL's participation in the conference. "What the government is doing now for our participation, is doing it under international pres-

He said the ALCWC, the highest decision-making body of the party, approved the boycott decision taken by the AL parliamentary party and also approved by the presidium

The ALCWC meeting alleged that the four-party coalition government reduced the CPA conference into a party programme, exposing the 'meanness' and undemocratic character of the government.

The AL leaders urged all to join hands against the misdeeds of the government and launch a massive movement to dislodge it from power.

The driving forces behind this

growth were acceleration in crop

production, readymade garment

industry and workers' remittances.

Crop was by far the biggest driving

growth, poverty alleviation and in

social sector development. Poverty

reduction by one percentage point is

good, but not enough," said

Wahiduddin Mahmud, professor of

economics at Dhaka University and a

member of the study team at a brief-

not be possible to achieve the millen-

Bangladesh's position was second

next to China. We have done well in

dissemination of the ideas of immuni-

zation, birth control and child mortal-

alleviation and social indicators

many areas, he said. Citing the

example of child mortality rate. Prof.

the rate further, we have to improve

to bring about a qualitative change

Binayak Sen, senior research fellow

at the Bangladesh Institute of

Development Studies (BIDS), were

In order to benefit the poor -- who

comprise nearly 40 per cent of the

Jorgen Lissner, UNDP resident

further to sustain at this level."

without good governance."

also present at the briefing.

"We have to improve our poverty

Governance is a big problem in

nium development goal (MDG)."

"If it continues in this pace, it would

"In human development,

ing after the launch.

ity," he added.

"Bangladesh has done well in

NY-based HR body asks PM to withdraw SQ Chy from OIC race STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Human Rights Watch (BHRW), a New York-based organisation, in a letter yesterday asked the prime minister to withdraw Salauddin Quader Chowdhury from the race for the post of secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). The BHRW cited SQ Chow-

dhury's alleged involvement with the Pakistani occupation army during the independence war for its request for the withdrawal. The BHRW letter also said the

nomination of SQ Chowdhury will taint the image of Bangladesh. It added it would launch collec-

tively a worldwide campaign to speak out against the nomination of SQ Chowdhury if his name was not withdrawn.

Lawyers urged to boycott court tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Convener of lawyers' Six Point Demand Implementation Committee and vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council vesterday asked the lawvers across the country to observe court boycott and work abstention tomorrow. 'The government has resorted

to conspiracy and is creating confusion among lawyers to split them when they are agitating in a body to realise their demands," Barrister Amir-UI Islam said. In the face of lawyers' protest, he

said quoting reports, the government would repeal the amendments to the Civil Procedure Code and Bar Council Order, as they are 'illegal and 'illogical'. "We have to keep in mind that the government is reluctant to ensure

autonomy and separation of judiciary." he said, warning of the ongoing deceits to capture the court. "Appointments have been made by violating longstanding constitutional tradition, and party affiliation

has become the main qualification for appointment of justices to the higher courts," he alleged.

Bangladesh population -- the incen-

the study said Otherwise, the demand-driven pattern of growth that succeeded in reducing poverty during the 1990s will come to a halt, to the detriment of

the poor, it added

tive structure generated by macro-

economic policy must strike a bal-

ance between tradables (such as

export production) and non-tradables

(such as services and construction),

The poor must be equipped with adequate human capital, especially in terms of education and health, if they are to take advantage of the opportunities to be opened up by propoor macroeconomic policy. Budgetary spending must be increased, it added.

The study was prepared by a

group of eminent national and international economists and is part of a regional initiative between national governments and UNDP to seek alternative policies for poverty reduc-

Mahmud said: "If we want to reduce In Bangladesh, the study analysed the impact of macroeconomic the health sector and it is not possible (fiscal, monetary and exchange rate) and adjustment policies (trade, finance and privatisation) on growth representative in Dhaka, and and poverty

Binayak Sen said expenditures in health and education were stagnated. He called for greater investment in agricultural research to provide more technological support.

15 Kashmiri FROM PAGE 12

Indian army detect the rebels. Gurez has also been under artillery fire from the Pakistani zone for the past two weeks, he said, accusing Pakistani gunners of shelling the sector to help rebels sneak into Indian Kashmir.

India-based military attaches from 20 countries including Britain, France, Japan, Israel and the United States, meanwhile, reached Gurez Monday for an on-spot assessment of the situation. "The visiting attaches were

tured from dead militants and also from those who in the past have been caught alive in Gurez," an army official said. The army in Indian Kashmir's winter capital of Jammu also reported renewed firing from

Pakistan into southern Rajouri

district, which left a boy and two

shown arms and ammunition cap-

Indian soldiers dead since Sunday The violence erupted as Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee returned from New York Sunday with comments that peace moves with Pakistan had been damaged by Pakistani President Pervez

Musharraf's remarks at the UN General Assembly. "There are problems and these need to be resolved through talks," said Vajpayee, who during a trip to Kashmir on April 18 set in motion the new peace initiatives by extending a 'hand of friendship" to nuclear rival

"Yes, the peace initiative has suffered a slight setback and greater vigour should be imparted to this process now," he said.

The two South Asian foes, who have fought two of their three wars since 1947 over Kashmir, clashed in the UN with Vajpayee and Musharraf hurling allegations at

Graft case

FROM PAGE 12

The prosecution opposed the petition arguing that the case could not be transferred at that stage They prayed for rejection of the petition

Later, the defence lawyers submitted another petition seeking time to submit more higher court decisions on the issue, but the prosecution did not oppose it.

After hearing the two sides Mohammad Azizul Hag, judge of the Special Court for Dhaka Division fixed the date for the disposal of the

Meanwhile, Ershad along with his lawyers, Sheikh Serajul Islam and Mohammad Ali, appeared before the court at 12:00 noon and the judge took his seat at 12:25pm. The hearing took place for about an

The prosecution and defence had their arguments completed or September 21. Earlier, the court recorded state-

hour at a jam-packed courtroom.

ments of three out of seven prosecution witnesses in the case In the case filed with Ramna

Police Station, it was alleged that Ershad, while in power, paid Tk 7,43,416 as income tax for six years (1983-1989). Later, he withdrew Tk 2.76.324 from the income tax money without submitting any documents in favour of his action. The Bureau of Anti-corruption

filed a corruption case accusing Ershad and three tax officials on July 27, 1992.

The investigation officer of the case submitted the charge sheet against Ershad as the lone accused on December 19 the same year

The court framed charges against Ershad on January 26, 1994 and the trial began on June 26

Additional police forces were deployed on the court premises yesterday to avoid any untoward incident. A large number of leaders and supporters of the Jatiya Party (Ershad) gathered to hear the verdict. They brought out a procession on the court premises demanding withdrawal of the cases against

US convoys ambushed the convoy of three or four vehicles

Pakistan.

nine days, authorities said Monday. They said Jalal al-Din al-

Sagheer, a prominent Shiite, escaped unhurt when his car was fired upon about 3:00 pm (1100 GMT) Sunday as he was driving home, located in a Baghdad suburb. The firefight outside Khaldivah

lasted more than four hours, with American helicopters firing six rockets and spraying machine-gun fire, an AFP correspondent said. Witnesses said several US soldiers were wounded, and some

appeared to have been killed. before the four US tanks, half a dozen Humvee vehicles and a troop transport withdrew along a back road under heavy fire. "RPGs were fired against two of the vehicles that caught fire," Mohammad Mahmud, 18, said at

dead, including five taken away by Jassim Mohammad, 23, a nurse, said the convoy of four military vehicles and a tank was attacked on a secondary road between Khaldivah and Ramadi further to the west. He saw what appeared to be

the start of the battle. He said he

saw several soldiers who appeared

An AFP correspondent in Khaldiyah saw two helicopters patrolling the skies, joined by another two shortly after midday. The thud of RPGs and cannons and the rattle of gunfire echoed throughout the morning

six bodies helicoptered away.

Another US convoy was attacked with at least one bomb in the town of Fallujah, 30 km to the east, Iraqi police and US officials

Police officer Ismail Ibrahim said

came under assault and "the Americans opened fire blindly."

Witnesses said they saw several US soldiers wounded, some seriously, but there was no official confirmation. An AFP journalist at the site saw one Humvee military vehicle damaged.

a vehicle was damaged. He said he saw two Americans who appeared to be dead and were carried into a Ayad al-Issaui, 28, said he saw

Khaled Abed, 32, a local worker.

reported three explosions and said

what appeared to be one body. 'Several wounded soldiers scrambled out of the car screaming and feeling their wounds." he said. In northern Iraq, US forces killed

10-year-old Iraqi boy and wounded a 25-year-old man when they opened fire Monday on hundreds of demonstrators who pelted them with stones in Hawiia, west of Kirkuk, a hospital director said

The US army did not immediately confirm reports of the shooting near the major oil center in the north.

The casualties occurred when around 500 protestors carrying portraits of Saddam took to the streets of Hawija and began pelting US soldiers with stones, an AFF correspondent at the scene said. An Iraqi police officer said that

unidentified assailants fired four

mortar rounds Monday at a US

position in the centre of Kirkuk, an Iragi police station and an army rehabilitation centre. Police Colonel Khattab Abdullah

said the mortars apparently failed to hit their targets and caused no casualties or damage.

Blair faces protest

ahead with labour market reform employment service reform and regional reform.

"Our Labour values have served

us well. It is that same commitment

to these Labour values... that is the

way forward for us," Brown told BBC

Radio on Monday. Brown also defended the decision to attack Iraq, just as anti-war delegates hijacked the start of the conference on Monday to demand a full debate and vote on the Iraq war.

defeated on Sunday in favour of debates on domestic issues like pensions and employment rights. "It is ludicrous if opposition parties all debated it (Iraq) in their party conferences and we didn't.'

A motion to vote on Iraq was

Labour member of parliament Alice Mahon told the conference. Brown, though, may appease some conference-goers when he stresses the need to get World Trade Organisation talks back on track and abolish farm subsidies that price farmers from developing

He will particularly attack Europe's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), calling it a "scandal". Electoral asset?

countries out of world markets

The collapse in public trust in Blair and the Government is dominating the conference. Blair's trust ratings have slumped following the war in Iraq and the failure to find any weapons of mass destruction -- his primary justification for the war.

The suicide of an Iraq weapons expert and the inquiry into his death has raised more questions over the

case for the military campaign

Scientist David Kelly killed himself after he was named as the probable source of a BBC report that claimed the Government 'sexed up" a pre-war dossier on the threat posed by Iraq lair said on Sunday he had nothing to apologise for over his support for the US-led invasion of Iraq, and said even with hindsight he would take the same decision.

Morshed

FROM PAGE 1

action would cause great damage to the environment, agriculture, industries and overall economy and ecology of other countries," Morshed said. In today's world, he said, per-

haps the most potential sources of

conflict of interests within countries

and among them would centre on natural resources, fresh water in particular He suggested that all actions in such areas conform to international law and norms of equity, justice and

fair play. "Any decision with regard to shared natural wealth should be through consultation among all the countries concerned," he told the global forum. The foreign minister has raised

Dhaka's concern at the UN when a Bangladesh delegation led by Water Resources Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed is attending the three-day meeting of the Joint River Commission in New Delhi.