Nasa eyes in the sky 3-year rolling to help global conservation

REUTERS, Bangkok

Space agency Nasa, which first put man on the moon, will now help to map the Earth in the name of conservation, the agency announced yesterday.

Nasa and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) signed an agreement to use the space agency's satellite system to monitor global environment change in the hope of

preserving the planet.
"The mission of Nasa is to understand and protect our home planet Earth and also to use its space-based observation to serve humanity," Dr. Ghassem Asrar, Nasa's deputy associate administrator for science,

told reporters in the Thai capital. What better way to serve humanity than to help understand how our home is changing and what the consequences of that change are for us and for our children," he said.

The IUCN, which is the world's largest environmental umbrella group, said the remote-sensing technology would revolutionise the

conservation struggle.
"The potential for the beneficial use of this information in the area of the environment and conservation is enormous," said Achim Steiner, IUCN's director-general.

'Yet until now, it has remained largely untapped, particularly in the developing world," he said.

Asrar said Nasa's 30 research satellites in orbit would be focused on monitoring natural and manmade changes around the world and assessing their impact.

The satellites, worth an estimated \$14 billion, promise to chart a new frontier in conservation by discovering unknown species of plants and animals, and pinpointing their habitats.

There are about 30 million species on the planet. We have only managed to identify two million of them and out of that we know the habitats of just one out of every ten,"

"Nasa can help close some of these gaps. We can now examine every habitat for every species around the world based on this satellite observation and do it

seamlessly on a daily basis," he told Reuters. Nasa said it is keen to share its space technology with communities around the world, a notion that would have been unthinkable just 30 years ago during the height of the

"One of the benefits of these 21st Century technologies is that they have brought us all together," said

'We no longer view ourselves as citizens of countries alone, we see ourselves as citizens of the globe,"

FROM PAGE 12 room with Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman in the chair. State Minister for Finance and Planning Anwarul Kabir Talukder and senior officials from different ministries were present.

"The midterm plan will have a long-term vision, and our vision at this moment is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by the year 2015," Saifur told reporters after the meeting.

He further informed that the 3year plan would be under the 15year perspective plan besides being inclined to the PRSP.

"This will facilitate ministries in working out advance planning for their development programmes as an indication of budgetary allocation for three years will be given earlier," he said, explaining the advantage of the new programme.

Now, ministries know how much

they will get next year for development programmes.

Saifur said the government will have to make three-year revenue projection to support the rogramme.

Meeting sources said the rolling investment programme would be in addition to the Annual Development Programme (ADP). The meeting recommended incorporating important and priority projects in the rolling programme and identified 429 of those.

Few of the projects have already been adopted in the ADPs of 2003-04 and 2004-05.

There are 726 investment proects out of 869 that got ADP allocation for 2004-05 under the ongoing development programme.

In a written statement the 11-

Party said it would launch simulta-

neous movement with other demo-

cratic forces while pursuing its own

Samad, Haider Akbar Khan Rono,

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Pankaj

Bhattachariya, Dilip Barua, Fazle

Hossain Badsha, Nurur Rahman

Selim, Asit Baran Roy were, among

others, present at the press confer-

ence at the office of the Workers

JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu at

a press conference at its office said

the opposition political parties so

far observed their programmes

separately, but now they are set to

move jointly to oust the alliance

entire state administration and the

ministries subservient to the BNP

and destroyed the neutrality of the

permanent," said JSD joint general

secretary Shirin Akhter. "That is why

the alliance government is denying

reform of the caretaker government

system and strengthening of the

Janata Party also declared similar

programmes at separate press

the police. Many of them eventually

drift into prostitution," said a former official of Aparajeya Bangladesh, an

NGO that works on street children,

sion, customers dare not to have

sheaths, thus greatly increasing the

threat of spreading HIV and other

sexually transmitted diseases, the

On the eve of hartals, police pick up both girls and boys to shun hartal-hour picketing and keep them at

different vagabond refugee centres.

police, kept at a centre and repeat-

edly raped by the cops and staff," the

official said quoting a girl, who stays

in a drop-in centre in the capital, as

cases and send them to prisons, says

by Save the Children UK, an NGO.

Deprived of parental love and

affection, street children strongly feel

the urge to make friends. They have

The police fit them up in criminal

"A girl was thus picked up by the

Finding them new to the profes-

7 lakh street

asking not to be named.

official added.

The National Awami Party and

Election Commission."

conferences.

"All this is to make their p

The government has made the

Party of Bangladesh.

ISDAND OTHERS

Rashed Khan Menon, Abdus

efore the Victory Day.

Hunger strike on cards

FROM PAGE 12 what to do about them."

The government spends about Tk 10 crore a year for the stranded Pakistanis that includes some Tk 4 crore for their electricity and water supply bills. It pays nearly Tk 2 crore to Power Development Board and Dhaka Electric Supply Authority annually, sources said.

But the camp-dwellers said with the monthly rations they used to meet various camp expenses including maintenance of drainage system, salaries of imams and muazzins of mosques, medication and even burial. With the suspension of the rations all this activities have come to a halt leading to a serious decline in the standard of living in these camps, they added.

Once I had my own land and home in this country. But now I am forced to live on government rations and that too has stopped," said Mohammad Mostofa, 65, of Chamragudam Camp, one of the 20 camps in Syedpur where 60,000

According to camp sources, after suspension of monthly rations, illegal activities have also soared in the camps. Many dwellers are running businesses in the camps using illegal power connections. Some camps have even become dens of criminals and drug-peddlers.

The Urdu-speaking stranded Pakistanis were lodged in these camps as they sided with West Pakistan during the Liberation War. Some of them even took arms

against the Bangalees.
Though Dhaka has repeatedly asked Islamabad to take them back. the latter has skirted the issue. International Red Cross took an initiative to repatriate the

Pakistanis after the Liberation War At that time 540,000 of them wanted to go back to Pakistan, though only about 127,000 actually could. Later, in 1993, Pakistan accepted another 325 refugees.

FROM PAGE 12 that the fax mes

that the fax message was sent from the E-Post Section of the GPO. "Interrogating some officials and employees of the E-Post Section it

was learnt that Mahbub sent a mes-sage to the US Embassy on November

After his arrest on Wednesday, CID Inspector Nurul Absar Bhuiyan,

investigation officer (IO) of the case

The IO argued the postal operator

'needed to be interrogated to know his intention and the identities of

others involved in sending the mes-

sage'. The court granted a five-day

FROM PAGE 12 arrested 45 of them for having no passports. They were released on bail the next day after airport police

took them to a court.
"We've asked Cox's Bazar police

to inform us about their names,

addresses and other identities so we

can find out the truth," said the investigation officer (IO) of the case.

A sub-inspector of airport police

was sent to Cox's Bazar to find out

whether four girls among the 53

Hosne Ara was going to her parents in Saudi Arabia, the IO said,

adding that the others were also not being trafficked.

India to remove

FROM PAGE 1 problems of trade with Bangladesh

and suggest remedies so that he can

take measures before his visit," Altaf

told the news agency.

The Indian minister shared the

view with Altaf on the bilateral trade

potential, which could grow as high as \$5billion within a short span of

time from the current both-way trade volume worth \$2 billion if they could

remove the roadblocks.

Altaf said the Indian minister also

directed the officials to develop

infrastructures like roads, customs

and banking facilities, security and transportation of 13 land-ports

through which bilateral trade takes

Bangladesh, can tap the co-

operation network of Saarc and

He pointed to the water-sharing treaty between India and Bangla-

desh and said common forums can

be in place for shared ecosystems

extraction of natural resources and

mindless development progra-mmes that do not take ecosystems

into account for environmental

harnessed indiscriminately for

livelihood and lack of proper plan-

ning in use led to an overall decline

and degradation in the quality of

revealed that the number of depend-

Their value has not been recog-

nised in development planning, although it has been estimated at

trillions of dollars a year, said Dr Ashok Khosla, lead presenter from

His presentation explored how individual efforts can be co-

ordinated at the regional level to

contribute to meeting global targets for conservation and environmental

Mountains are under threat from climate change, resource exploita-

tion, air pollution and invasive spe-

Seventy-five percent of all fresh-water is stored in glacial ice, much of

which is in mountain areas, crucial to

providing water for drinking, irriga-

tion, industry and many other pur-

poses.
"To conserve this globally impor-

tant function of mountains, they

have to be protected and managed effectively," said Dr David Sheppard,

head of IUCN's Programme on

Protected Areas at the launch of the

MOUNTAINS UNDER ATTACK

ants will grow to 5 billion by 2030.

tems and their interactions.

services," the state minister said.

Natural resources are being

Chowdhury blamed the over-

such as the Sundarbans.

degradation.

and water.

roundtable was told.

Minister

FROM PAGE 12

"The meeting with Indian com-

people were being trafficked.

in the city's Khilgaon area.

for a seven-day remand.

Cox's Bazar

read the first information report

The new generation of the stranded Pakistanis, however, does not want to return to Pakistan. About 10 of them born and brought up in Bangladesh received voting rights last year after the High Court declared them Bangladeshi citizens.

Cops look

FROM PAGE 1 Asked about the counterfeit money, she only said her husband knows it,

investigation officer (IO) of the case Sub-inspector Rezaul Karim said. Earlier, Khairunnesa told the mediaWahed was in Tangail.

On local and foreign currencies, she claimed they kept the money for iakat, sources said. Police have asked her to give the

numbers of their bank accounts. They will produce her before court today on expiry of her remand.

The couple has been living in Bangladesh since 1978 and Wahed got Bangladesh citizenship. Tipped off, a team of Rab-2

arrested the Pakistani woman and recovered about Tk 2 lakh in counterfeit local currency and Indian, Pakistani, Thai and local currencies worth Tk 8.9 lakh from the couple's seventh-floor apartment in Karnaphuli Garden City in Ramna. They also arrested eight girls including a daughter of a ruling coalition lawmaker and a security guard.
The Rab later released four girls

including the lawmaker's daughter.

Sharon apologises

FROM PAGE 12

stationed along a volatile Israeli-controlled "Philadelphi" corridor on Gaza's boundary with Egypt fired off a single shell across the border into the Sinai peninsula, a senior Israeli security source said.
Colonel David Menachem,

Israel's acting commander in Gaza, said soldiers had targeted "terrorists" who had slipped into the narrow corridor under cover of darkness and were laying a mine

But he said the Israeli fire had mistakenly hit Egyptian security men on their side of the border about 200 meters (yards) from the suspected "This area is a central point for

arms smuggling, attacks and many infiltration attempts," the army said in a statement that also expressed regret for the incident. The area near the Palestinian town of Rafah, a militant stronghold,

has been the scene of frequent Israeli-Palestinian fighting during the past four years of conflict. Militants spearheading a four-

year-old uprising have used a network of secret tunnels to bring in

arms from Egypt.
Israeli Deputy Defense Minister

Zeev Boim said Egyptian security forces had recently stepped up efforts to prevent arms smuggling on their

'So, of course, it just makes matters worse and we must find ways to ensure it won't happen again," he told Israel Radio.

The Egyptian government had no immediate comment. An Egyptian Wednesday to discuss the Gaza pullout.

Egypt and Jordan are the only two Arab states to have a peace treaty with Israel, which captured the Sinai during the 1967 Middle East war and returned it to Egypt under a 1979

Elephants from India, foraging for food, are trapped in Sherpur in Bangladesh and are now stranded on edges of the two neighbouring coun-tries because of the loss of biological Relations between the two countries have been chilly since the out-break of a Palestinian uprising in corridors, he told the roundtable on "Ecosystem Services in the Asia-Pacific Region -- Planning for the September 2000, with Egypt accusing Israel of heavy-handed military tactics in the occupied West Bank and Talking to The Daily Star after the session, Chowdhury emphasised that South Asian countries, including

Pirates make coasts

Incidents of piracy in cargo vessels in the outer anchorage of Chittagong port are recorded and monitored. But many such incidents in inland coasters and fishing boats in the coastal belts are not reported. Pirates in disguise sometimes move around in sea by high speed fishing boats, he mentioned.

"Despite surveillance and patrol by Coast Guard and navy teams, pirates in high speed mechanised boats arrive in the outer anchorage and attempt to attack cargo ships," headded.

Port officials said a North Korean flag vessel came under attack by over 100 pirates at the outer anchorage on Sunday. The gang looted valuables from the vessel MV Amazan brought from an Indonesian port for scrapping here. Navy personnel nabbed five pirates as they were fleeing by a mechanised boat loaded with looted goods.

On October 31, pirates attacked a lighterage vessel at the outer anchorage, injured 13 crew and

coastal belts are hardly covered by

cannot cover the entire coastal belt how maintaining patrol in the outer

due to lack of high speed patrol boat and other logistic support.

Navy sources however said their ships routinely patrol the sea to

owners association Salauddin Ahmed said attacks on inland fishing boats in the coastal belts take place frequently as patrol teams hardly move to interior areas

EC plans no move

existing laws, they asserted. "Everybody says the election com-

missioner needs more power including the power to cancel polls if he finds gross irregularities in the polling process. It needs an independent secretariat to conduct election management," Election Commissioner AK Mohammad Alisaid.

black money are dominating the electoral system, but the Election Commission has no mechanism to face these negative aspects," he All the governments have been

reluctant to empower the EC in line with the constitution. The constitution ordains that the EC should discharge its duties independently, but it is dependent on the government for logistics support, as its secretariat belongs to the govern-

reform programme before the 2001 parliament elections, but the move has failed to yield any result due to opposition from major political parties and the then government. Electoral laws were amended hurriedly during the last caretaker government ahead of the general elec-tions, but the interim administration did not empower the EC to cancel election in case of gross irregularities in the polling.

The then caretaker government also brought some amendment to the proposed reforms programmes by the EC. It did not agree with the EC's proposal on controlling election expenses, registration of political parties with the EC and barring a candidate from contesting in more

School textbooks

FROM PAGE 1 however improved in the last couple of

For the first time, seven books for class plementation of the deal is yet to start.

up and managing new protected areas in mountainous regions that occupy 2006 and 2007 in phases. over 25 percent of the earth. Senior officials of the NCTB at a parliamentary committee meeting had earlier assured that students

They house an exceptional amount of species, including half of the world's 24 biodiversity hotspots and provide home to a 10th of global would get books for the next academic

| Postal operator | UN launches international

Nonetheless, the United Nations is counting on microcredit in 2005 to help galvanize implementation of the 2000 Millennium Goals, which aim to halve the proportion of the world's population living in extreme poverty by 2015.

9, 'read the first information report filed by CID Inspector Nazir Hossain Dewan on November 10. Mahbub, son of Shawkat Ali Bhuiyan of Puradia, Belabo, Narshingdi, lives at South Banasree It is also hoped that the mobilization behind microcredit will prod governments to step up financial and political support for private enterprise, said Marie Nowak, founder of the Association for the Right to Economic Initiative (ADIE), produced Mahbub before the CMM launched in France in 1988. From Asia to Africa, "banks of court, Dhaka, yesterday with a prayer

hope," as they are known, find credit - which they sometimes guarantee themselves - for small farmers or service providers who have been deemed ineligible for assistance from traditional banking institu-

"Microcredit is first of all financed by local savings," Novak explained. "The second source of financing is the transfer of funds from immigrants, which the UN estimates globally to be worth 93 billion dollars. Then comes public development aid."

The Grameen Bank founded by Yunus in Bangladesh -- "grameen" means "farmer" or "rural" in Bengali - sought to do away with a vicious circle -- low earnings, weak savings, inadequate investment -- by sheltering poor farmers from money

With microcredit, there would be more credit available, leading to more savings and more investment and ultimately higher earnings.
Grameen Bank today has 3.7

million borrowers, of whom 96 percent are women and who control 90 percent of the bank's capital, the rest being in the hands of the state.

The bank's example has been copied around the world, and not only in poor countries. In France, the ADIE association has granted 25,000 loans in 15 years, mainly to unemployed entrepreneurs.

The survival rate for such "microenterprises" is 54 percent after three years, according to Nowak.

31 Iraqis killed

FROM PAGE 12 know their nature."

US troops are sweeping through Mosul in an operation against insur-

gents in the mainly Sunni Muslim city. On Wednesday, 14 people were killed, most of them women and children, and 26 wounded in a bomb explosion and clashes Wednesday in

Nine Iraqis were also killed in clashes between rebels and US troops in Ramadi, which has been wracked by unrest since last week's

the town of Baiji, north of Baghdad,

US-led assault on nearby Falluiah. Earlier in the week 36 insurgents died when a day-long battle broke out in the city of Baquba, the military said.

AP adds: American forces pursued their search-and-destroy mission against the remaining holdouts in the former insurgent bastion of Fallujah, and to the north, American forces pressed an offensive to reclaim part of the city of

November became one of Iraq's bloodiest months as the US death toll in the war in Iraq reached 1,214, according to figures released by the

Defense Department. On Wednesday, a suicide attacker drove his bomb-laden car into a US convoy during fierce fighting in the town of Beiji, 155 miles north of the Baghdad, killing 10 people and wounding 12, including three American soldiers. Another attack on a convoy of civilian contractors in Beiji caused no casualties.

Elsewhere, a three-hour gunbattle between militants and US forces after nightfall left seven people dead and 13 hurt in Ramadi, a city west of

Evidence

FROM PAGE 12

of the other Degree (Pass), Subsidiary, LLB and BEd results. Chowdhury presented detailed documents on the 281st and 287th

Syndicate meetings that dealt with rescinding or correcting the results.
In 2000, the Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) had filed a case on tampering with LLB certificates against the 111 lawyers, including a recently appointed Additional Judge of the High Court Faisal Mahmood

Shun violence

Singh was on the second and final day of his first visit to volatile Kashmir since becoming prime

more violent northern region of Srinagar and unveiled a 5.3 billion dollar economic package to help

rebuild the insurgency-torn state. He continued the message of economic development in Jammu and announced the lifting of a freeze on recruitment in government jobs that led to loud cheers from the crowd. The ban had been imposed two years ago due to severe financial constraints the state was facing.

Earlier Singh chaired a meeting of the Unified Command -- a security body comprising army and civil officials -- and reviewed the security

He was briefed that the level of infiltration of militants from

India accuses Pakistan of sending armed militants into Indian Kashmir, charges Islamabad denies.

Next week, Singh is due to meet his Pakistani counterpart Shuakat Aziz in the Indian capital to continue peace talks started by the

including the Line of Control -- a de facto border dividing Indian and Pakistani Kashmir -- was unaccept-

few hundred metres (yards) from the venue of his public rally in Srinagar. Two militants were killed in the encounter while four Indian soldiers were wounded. On his arrival in the mainly

proclaimed the mantra of a "new" Kashmir, He said he had a "dream and a

firm belief" that a new Kashmir could be built. "The time has come to put for-

war, want and exploitation," he said. Singh's visit came as India staged a high-profile pullout of some troops from the state, its first since the revolt broke out in 1989, and the

prime minister renewed his pledge to pursue the peace process with Meanwhile, Kashmir's main separatist alliance Hurriyat was due

to meet to discuss a renewal of peace talks with New Delhi and give its reaction to the prime minister's visit. Moderate separatists held two

sets of talks with the previous Hindu nationalist government in 2004 before its election loss.

LoC PART OF PROBLEM Musharraf expressed Pakistan's readiness to show flexibility if it was

be one-sided, but must be displayed bilaterally and mutually if we are to move forward," Musharraf said at

the dinner meeting, according to the Associated Press of Pakistan. There is a need for demonstration of flexibility by all sides, Pakistan, India and the people of

a dinner meeting did not make any

reference to Singh's visit to Srinagar but quoted Musharraf as saying that LoC was a "part of the problem and

"Flexibility and sincerity cannot

could never be the solution."

The dinner meeting was attended among others by Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, who is paying a two-day visit to India next week, PoK President Muhammad Anwar Khan and PoK Prime Minister

Sikandar Hayat Khan. The General's comment was apparently in response to Singh's assertions that any redrawing of international borders was not

acceptable to India. Musharraf said that there was a need for demonstration of flexibility by all sides, meaning Pakistan, India

and the people of Kashmir. He said flexibility and sincerity cannot be one sided but has to be displayed "bilaterally and mutually if we are to move forward and Pakistan is prepared to do so if there is reciprocity from the Indian side." Musharraf said Pakistan would

continue to pursue a solution acceptable to the Kashmiri people. He also informed the Kashmiri leaders of his meetings with the Indian leadership, which he termed as "positive" and said he felt that they were interested in arriving at a solution of Jammu and Kashmir issue, which was the "root cause of strained relations between India

Reiterating that no solution of Kashmir was possible without taking into account the views and aspirations of the people of Kashmir, Musharraf said his remarks outlining options to resolve Kashmir issue made at an Iftar dinner on October 25, was aimed at stirring a debate in the media.

He said he had asked the media to debate the options on Kashmir and added it was imperative to understand that Pakistan had not stepped back from its principled position on the issue.

In his speech at the Iftar dinner, Musharraf had suggested identifying seven regions on both sides of the LoC, demilitarise them and change their status through independence or joint control or under UN mandate to resolve Kashmir issue

Musharraf said that following his remarks, a debate had "begun on different aspects of Kashmir issue, which was a proper way for ascertaining the viewpoint of the people representing various shades of opinion." He said this could also be of help to the negotiating parties during the course of dialogue process on Kashmir.

For his part, Aziz said that during his visit to India next week he would meet the Indian leadership and discuss bilateral and Saarc related

PoK leaders also expressed their satisfaction at being regularly consulted on the Kashmir issue, the statement added.

Opposition announces 9-point the common nine-point and the the collaborators of 1971 from the Another major demand is the next course of joint agitation administration and government

programme through a series of discussions after the August 21 grenade attacks on an AL public meeting on Bangabandhu Avenue. Yesterday's declaration came as a

sign of success of the opposition parties' efforts towards forging a common ground for movement and giving it a concrete shape. Two components of the 11-Party alliance -- Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (Khalequzzaman)

and Krishak Sramik Samajbadi Dal -- however kept aloof from the combined antigovernment movement. Declaring the programmes at separate press conferences in Dhaka yesterday, top leaders of the opposition parties urged people to unite on

the nine-point demand and topple the government through a mass upsurge to establish rule of law. The first-ever across the country human chain, about 1,000 kilo-

metres long, will touch 57 points in 17 districts and capital Dhaka, they On September 22 this year, the opposition parties formed a 50kilometre human chain from Gazipur to Narayanganj. Earlier, the AL on March 30 formed a 22-

kilometre human chain in the capital, from Pallabi to English Road. The idea of human chain has widely been appreciated by the business community and commoners as an alternative to hartal and

The opposition parties through the December 11 human chain are determined to prove that people have no trust in the present government. They worked out the programme as the beginning of a vigorous movement to oust the government.

Key leaders of the parties concerned meet tomorrow at the ISD office to finalise their strategy to make the programme a success and ensure maximum participation of common people along with their leaders and activists.

The central leaders of the parties

will make preparatory visits in

groups in the 17 districts to mobilise people to join the human chain, opposition camp sources said. This is a united move of all secular and democratic forces to free the countrymen from the clutches of BNP-Jamaat alliance government," said AL General

Secretary Abdul Jalil declaring the programme at a press conference. He said the opposition parties will announce tougher programmes after December 11 to oust the government through a mass upsurge.

"We have tolerated enough. We don't want rajakars (collaborators of 1971) to be more powerful in this country," said Mujahidul Islam Selim, secretary general of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), a component of the 11-Party.

"We don't want to see them in the administration anymore," he said. ISD President Hasanul Haque Inu said the coalition is about to establish a one-party 'autocratic and permanent' government by taker government. destroying all the democratic, pro-

gressive and non-communal political parties and the pro-liberation culture and history. The opposition leaders warned of tougher programmes if the government tries to foil the programme by launching crackdown on opposition leaders and activists.

NINE-POINT DEMAND The combined opposition's key demand is the ouster of the coalition government and holding of a free and fair election under a non-party and neutral caretaker government after making reforms in the electoral

ouster of war criminals from the cabinet and administration to save the country from the religious militant groups, imposing ban on fundamentalist politics and trial of war

The opposition demands proper inquiry into the August 21 grenade attack, bomb blasts at rallies of CPB, Udichi, Chhayanaut and other places, arrest and punishment of the criminals involved in the Chittagong and Bogra arms hauls,

They also demand that the gov-

ernment identify the criminals and their godfathers and try them. They want expulsion of the criminals from political parties. The opposition demands an independent anti-corruption commission to root out corruption and

people, and ensuring optimum utilisation of national resources including oil and gas. They want the government to check the price spiral of essentials and keep the prices within the purchasing capacity of common peo-

forfeiting resources of the corrupt

reduce prices of agricultural inputs. The opposition also demands implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace treaty. THE ROUTE OF HUMAN CHAIN Starting from Teknaf, the planned route of the human chain is Ukhia-Ramu-Cox's Bazar-Chakoria-Lohagara-Satkania-Chandanaish-

Comilla-Burichang-Chandina-Daudkandi-Gazaria-Sonargaon-Araihazar-Rupganj-Siddhirganj towards Dhaka City. It will touch Demra, Sutrapur,

Patia-Chittagong City-Sitakunda-

Mirersharai-Feni-Chouddagram-

Sabujbagh, Khilgaon, Ramna, Badda, Gulshan, Airport and Uttara in the capital. From Uttara, the human chain will run through Tongi-Joydevpur-Kaliakoir-Mirzapur-Shakhipur-Kalihati-Sirajganj-Dhunat-Bogra-Gobindaganj-Palashbari-Pirganj-Mithapukur-Rangpur-Taraganj-Saidpur-Dinajpur-Dashmail-Khanshama-Birganj-Thakurgaon-

Boda-Panchagarh towards Tentulia. ALPRESS CONFERENCE AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil at the press conference criticised the government for law and order downslide, corruption, politicisation in the administration and judiciary, skyrocketing prices of essentials and rise of religious mili-

antigovernment movement and time will say whether we will participate in the next election jointly or not," said Jalil. "The government has turned the parliament into a party platform where the opposition members are

not allowed to speak for people," he Referring to the rigging in the byelection of Dhaka-10 constituency, Jalil said, "It proved that free and fair election is not possible unless reforms are brought in the electoral system and the formation of care-

Jalil however did not elaborate his party proposals regarding reforms of the caretaker government system. "We will place elaborate proposals later," he said. Senior party leaders were present

at the press conference at the party's

Dhanmondi office.

11-PARTY The leaders of the 11-Party alliance at a press conference urged all to make the human chain a success to gear up the oust-government move-

the BIDS study. However, it finds We have agreed to launch joint many of them involved in theft, pickpocketing and other crimes. There are over 1,000 children in different prisons, according to a study

> made their own 'cult' -- they go for minor cuts in their bodies and share blood with each other, which they believe deepens the relations. Md Mizanur Rahman of Appropriate Resource for Improving Street Children's Environment (Arise), a government project, said few of these children return home. Those

who return cannot reconcile them-

selves to their homes. In most of the

cases, the girls' families cannot wel-

come them fearing social reaction. Dr Shamim Matin Chowdhury technical support consultant of United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime, described the situation as 'critical' to the country.
"Many of these children later

enter criminal world. There should be a concerted effort to rehabilitate them and create facilities in the villages so that they do not head towards urban areas. Awareness among parents and society is also a They said people want the must," she noted.

place to make the ports more effecofficial said it was unclear whether the killing of the policemen would upset Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul merce minister was very fruitful Altafsaid. Gheit's plan to visit Israel next

peace treaty.

Egypt withdrew its ambassador from Israel shortly after the revolt

looted cell phones and other costly things. They fled before coast guards reached the spot. Coast Guard sources said the

patrol teams due to shortage of logistic support. The authorities had earlier taken up a plan to set up a Coast Guard base at Cox's Bazar to ensure surveillance and patrol there but the plan still remains shelved. " We with limited facilities. We are some-

anchorage of Chittagong port only." Cox's Bazar police officials said they could hardly combat sea crimes

ensure security. Vice-president of fishing trawler

FROM PAGE 1 enforcing them. The EC must be empowered through amending the

"Criminalisation of politics and

The EC launched a massive

new "Guidelines for Planning and Managing Mountain Protected IX and X will be prepared by private sector under a privatisation deal in a move to The new IUCN publication, released at the third IUCN World upgrade curriculum, bring dynamism in the sector and ease pressure on the NCTB. Conservation Congress, provides specific recommendations for setting The NCTB will hand over printing of 71 textbooks to private sector in

Mosul from militants.

minister in May. On Wednesday, he visited the

situation.

Pakistan had gone down sharply, an officer who was present at the meet-

He said development activities directly and indirectly impact air, soil previous Indian government. The ecosystems of the Asia-Singh, however, reiterated in Pacific region are among the richest Kashmir that redrawing the border, and most diverse in the world, the

About 60 percent of the world's population, which translates into about 3.5 billion people, depends on them for sustenance. The roundtable Singh's visit was punctuated by a fierce gunbattle Wednesday just a Basic structures of human civilisation, ranging from agriculture to industrial enterprises, rely on ecosys-

> Hindu city of Jammu flak-jacketed soldiers stood on every corner toting assault rifles. Throughout his trip Singh has

> ward a new blueprint, a fresh vision for Kashmir... free from the fear of

The scenic Himalayan region, held in part by India and Pakistan but claimed in full by both, has sparked two of the three wars between the nuclear-armed rivals since independence from Britain in

reciprocated by India. An official statement issued after