# METROPOLITAN/NEWS

# **'Resist move to delay** power transfer'

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilita Ainjibi Samannya Parishad yesterday called on all to lawyers to resist any move to delay power transfer to the caretaker government.

DHAKA SUNDAY OCTOBER 29, 2006

At an emergency meeting, the Parishad leaders said there has been a national consensus on the appointment of former chief justice Mahmudul Ameen Chowdhury as chief adviser of the caretaker government, but vested quarters have been hatching conspiracy against it. These quarters are trying to

GM Quader

likely to float

intention to desert Jatiya Party (JP)

new party

led 4-party alliance.

UNB, Dhaka

### delay the transfer of power in violation of the constitution, they said. They also called on the lawyers forge unity with the people and

join the peaceful movement to safeguard the constitution and democracy. Presided over by Khondkar

Mahbub Uddin, the meeting was addressed by Supreme Court Bar Association President Barrister Amir-ul Islam, Md Laikuzzaman Mollah, KM Saifuddin Ahmed, Yusuf Hossain Humayun, AM Aminuddin, Md Nuruzzaman Nani and Mokhlesur Rahman Badal.

The Parishad leaders also protested the withdrawal of Special Security Force (SSF) members from Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's residence in the early hours of yesterday

They demanded immediate steps to arrange security measures for Hasina.

The leaders also called on members of the law enforcement agencies and all employees in the administration to perform their duties impartially.

when asked if they were scrutinised.

The 2nd German-Bangla Poetry

Festival jointly organised by Meghdut

Abriti Sangsad and Goethe Institut,

Dhaka has been postponed due to

unavoidable circumstances

held from November 10 to 12.

gage at the check post.

postponed

BSS, Dhaka

Poetry festival

3 killed in road accident in Cox's Bazar OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's

Bazar

At least three people were killed on the spot and ten others injured in a road accident in Cox's Bazar district vesterdav

Two of the deceased were identified as Aminur Rashid, 28 and Abdur Razzak, 35. The identity of the other victim could not be known immediately.

Police said the accident occurred when an Ukiya-bound private car, driven by a son of district Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary Shahjalal Chowdhury, hit some rickshaws in front of Hotel Sea Place at motel road

Two of the injured were rushed to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

# One dies while making bomb in Chuadanga

## UNB, Chuadanga

A man died and another got injured when a bomb, which they were Customs officials said they have checked the tourists and their lugallegedly making, exploded in a village about 10 miles from the town vesterday

> Shahabul, 35, died on the spot while Asabul, 30, was admitted to a hospital with severe burn injuries. It is alleged that the explosion took place when they were making bombs in a house at Putmari village in Alamdanga upazila in the morning. The tin roof of the house was blown away following the aftermath of the explosion, witnesses said.

Police suspect that the victims The festival scheduled to be held were linked with an underground from October 27 to 29 will now be terrorist group.

# Shushashoner Jonney Nagorik (Shujan) forms a human chain at Manik Mia Avenue in the city yesterday demanding immediate peaceful solution to the current political stalemate. 5 Rajshahi BNP MPs President urged to appoint CG

chief immediately

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

accept the post.

Khan

chy across the country.

deepen and the independence,

situation continues," said the state-

and civil administration to play a

neutral role to ensure the security

chief acceptable

and interest of the nation.

'Appoint CG

to all parties'

**DU CORRESPONDENT** 

# STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Expressing deep concern over the anarchy and killings in the country, 29 former officers of armed forces The 14-party opposition combine yesterday urged the President for yesterday declared Mayor Mizanur immediate appointment of chief Rahman Minu and four other BNF adviser to the caretaker government lawmakers unwanted in Rajshahi according to the constitution as saying a white paper on their corrup-Justice KM Hasan declined to tion would be published today.

The nation is going through a They also threatened to suspend all activities at Sona Mosque land serious crisis ... there is no security port if any untoward situation to life and property, they said in a statement adding that clashes endangering the democracy preamong the supporters of different vails in the country political parties have created anar-

The 14-party combine leaders were speaking at a rally at Shaheb "Political and economic crisis will Bazar zero point in the evening.

Workers' Party politburo member sovereignty and democracy of the Fazle Hossain Badsha, Awami country will be threatened if this League leader AHM Khairuzzaman Liton and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal ment signed by Col (Retd) Faruk leader Abdullah Al Masud Shibli addressed the rally. The statement also urged the

They said BNP lawmakers Minu, armed forces, BDR, police, Ansar Nadim Mustafa and former telecommunication minister Aminul Hague have build up their fortunes illegally. "They must be tried for corrup-

> tion," said Badsha. The 14-party will hold a meeting this afternoon for publishing the white paper.

Meanwhile, the local four-party alliance in a separate rally termed two BNP lawmakers Abu Hena and "They (Kabir and Hena) fear

Thousands of tourists, who went to Cox's Bazar on Eid holidays, got

Bazaı

stranded there due to political violence and strike. For the last week, all the hotels motels and tourist lodges have been

jam-packed with visitors from home and abroad, with some innkeepers making hefty sums by charging three to four times the regular fares.

The posh hotels have arranged Eid musical concerts and other shows to celebrate Eid day with their quests

Administration sources said they took adequate security and safety measures by deploying police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members in all sensitive areas, including the beach and tourist zones

Closure of Jai Jai Din condemned BSS, Dhaka

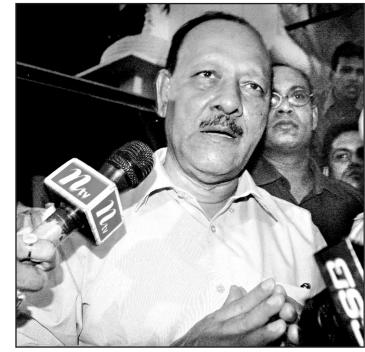
# Scores cross border in fear of political wrath GM Quader today indicated his

#### **UNB.** Benapole

and float a new party if JP Chairman HM Ershad decides to join the BNP A record number of people, believed to be political activists, left for India Jatiya Party presidium is set to through Bernapole land port during the last three days for fear of reprimeet on November 5 at Diploma Engineers' Institution where a decision sals by the opponents, immigrant about joining the alliance will be taken, officials said party sources said They said 2,200 went to India on

"If the meeting decides to join the Thursday, 2,700 on Friday with valid alliance, I will immediately quit Jatiya documents, which is quite unusual Party and form a new party," said The figure stood at about 1000 until Quader, a lawmaker of now dissolved 3:00pm yesterday despite people parliament and brother of Ershad. could hardly reach here from different He admitted that he did not

parts of the country due to disruption receive invitation for the presidium in communication. meeting. "I don't know anything "We have the list of restricted about the meeting nor do I have political leaders, not the political contact with the party chairman," activists," said an immigrant official Quader told UNB.







declared unwanted

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's** 

political persecution by BNP and

Jamaat," said a source reasoning their delay in joining LDP.

# FEMA, JANIPOP concerned

FEMA and JANIPOP have expressed serious concern at the current political impasse caused by the failure of major political parties and their coalition partners to resolve the differences over the formation of a caretaker government to conduct a free and fair election, says a press release

This has led the country to a path of violent and destructive confronta-

tional government.

the name of politics.

ment.

maintaining order in public life and

preventing destructive activities in

FEMA and JANIPOP have again

appealed to warring political leaders

to resolve their differences over the

formation of the caretaker govern-

The inability of the political leaders to amicably resolve the differences reflects their unwillingness to put national interest above their partisan interests by opting for confrontation and uncertainty that indeed is resulting in the loss of lives and properties of the citizens all

The Daily Star

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, left, and Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil talk to journalists after emerging from a meeting with President lajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

# Taliban say no to peace talks

### REUTERS, Kabul

Fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Omar has rejected the latest conditional offer of peace talks by Afghan President Hamid Karzai, a rebel spokesman said yesterday.

Instead, the one-eyed leader with a \$10 million bounty on his head has repeated his threat to prosecute Karzai in an Islamic court for the "massacre" of Afghans.

"The infidels of the entire world

have gathered in Afghanistan, occupied it and taken the Afghans hostage," spokesman Tayyab Agha said by satellite phone from a secret location.

There can be no talks with the Afghan puppet government in the presence of foreign occupying forces

"Neither will the Mujahideen lay down their weapons.

"Hamid Karzai and his colleagues should first free themselves from the slavery of foreign infidels

and then invite us for negotiations." Karzai had realised the Taliban would eventually defeat NATO and

US forces and was looking for an escape. Agha added. Karzai on Friday repeated his

offer for talks if the Taliban leadership met several conditions, including ending support from elements in

Pakistan and the involvement of foreign fighters.

The Taliban has rejected all previous offers.

"The Taliban will not negotiate in the presence of foreign forces and will continue their armed iihad under Mullah Omar's leadership until the ouster of foreign forces, 'Agha said.

Speakers at a rally yesterday demanded a person acceptable to all political parties to be appointed chief of caretaker government and urged all to press home the electoral reforms of 14-party alliance for a free, fair and impartial election.

Sammilita Nagorik Andolon, a combine of seven professional and cultural organisations, organised the rally at Central Shaheed Minar. Around 75 organisations joined the rally to express solidarity with the demands of Nagorik Andolon.

Speakers, most of them university teachers, journalists, cultural personalities and civil society members, said an impartial chief of caretaker government and electoral reforms are the demands of mass people and a pro-liberation government is a must for a secular and democratic Bangladesh.

They urged all to launch a mass movement to press home the demands and to vote for a proliberation party in the next general election. Hundreds of people from all

walks of life thronged the Central Shaheed Minar to succeed the daylong rally.

Former Dhaka University (DU) Vice-chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, former DU Teachers' Association (Duta) president Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, incumbent Duta general secretary Prof Dr Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman. Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee Convener Shahriar Kabir, Sammilita Nagorik Andolon Convener ASM Shamsul Arefin, Prof Sheikh Abdus Salam, Prof AKM Nur-Un-Nabi, Prof Abdus Salam, Ramendu Mojumdar, Principal Kazi Faruque and others spoke at the rally.



## Roundtable

The daily Samakal will hold a roundtable on 'Current political crisis: A way out'. Venue: Samakal office. Time: 12:00noon.

# Human chain

Bangladesh Manabadhikar Samannaya Parishad will form a human chain demanding peace and justice. Venue: Panthapath intersection. Time: 11:00am.

Advocate Kabir Hossain unwanted in the city for joining the newly floated LDP (Liberal Democratic Partv)

According to reliable sources, the two lawmakers who are still to appear in public are likely to formally join LDP along with many other party leaders.

The 4-party alliance held their rally at Sona Dighi Square at Shaheb Bazar

Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP, Jamaat Amir Ataur Rahman, district BNP President Azizur Rahman and a number of Shibir leaders spoke at the rally.

Sources close to BNP lawmaker Kabir Hossain and ousted BNP stalwart Abu Hena told this correspondent that they would leave BNP and join LDP publicly only after the 4-party alliance steps down from the power.

e country The political leaders have dem-

onstrated a lack of political acumen Bangladesh Federal Union of and farsightedness in terms of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka upholding the national interest. Union of Journalists (DUJ) yester-FEMA and JANIPOP have also day expressed deep concern at the cautioned the political parties that

sudden closure of the daily Jai Jai the prevailing anarchic situation is Din likely to give rise to the ambitions of In a statement, BFUJ President extra-constitutional forces to inter-Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul and fere in the hard-earned democratic Secretary General Abdul Jalil process thus trampling the constitu-Bhuiyan and DUJ President Altaf Mahmud and General Secretary The two organisations have also Omar Farugue, condemning the urged law enforcement agencies to enforce law without fear or favour for closure, said over 100 journalists

and employees became jobless due to the closure of the daily. The leaders urged the authorities of the daily to resume its publication immediately and withdraw all termi-

nation letters already served to the newsmen and employees



PHOTO: STAF

### Sammilita Nagorik Andolon, a combine of seven professional and cultural organisations, holds a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding appointment of an impartial chief of the caretaker government.

# Saudi Arabia sets stage for younger rulers

#### **REUTERS**, *Riyadh*

Saudi Arabia's move this month to formalise the royal succession paves the way for the eventual emergence of younger rulers and aims to prevent infighting among the next generation of princes, analysts

A royal decree on Friday announced the setting up of the Allegiance Institution, a panel of 19 sons and 13 grandsons of late King Abdul-Aziz al-Saud, founder of modern Saudi Arabia and father of King Abdullah and Crown Prince Sultan.

The panel, among other roles, will vote in secret ballots on the eligibility of future kings and crown princes. It was the first step by the 74-year old al-Saud monarchy to formalise a hitherto traditional succession process. The new system will take effect after the current crown prince becomes king.

Analysts say the move was aimed at ensuring stability when the succession moves from Abdul-Aziz's sons -- the youngest of whom are believed to be in their 60s -- to his grandsons

King Abdullah, the fifth son of Abdul-Aziz to rule Saudi Arabia, was at least 80 when he became king

at least 78.

step," said Khalid Al-Dakhil, professor of political sociology at King Saud University.

"Succession is the most critical issue for the continuity of a political system... The decree fulfils a constitutional void after the leadership realised that the new generation of rulers will need a more sophisticated mechanism," Dakhil added.

sympathisers angered by the mon-States

century by conflict over leadership. MORE PRETENDERS Up to now, only the king could name

the crown prince but Western diplo-

mats say such decisions were often

last year and Crown Prince Sultan is "It's a positive and long overdue

Stability within the royal court is crucial for the future of the house of Saud, which has managed to tame a campaign led by al-Qaeda archy's close ties with the United

"They have realised that the major threat to their rule now is infighting," a Rivadh-based Western diplomat said. He noted that an earlier Saudi state was brought down in the middle of the 19th

agreed upon within the royal circle. But as the sons of Abdul-Aziz

grow older, and given the large and still growing number of his grandsons, the monarchy had to come up with a more formal succession system

"It (the decree) opens the door for Abdul-Aziz's grandsons. It sets up a platform and mechanisms to avoid infighting over power, which ... is more probable among the grandsons than among the sons of Abdul-Aziz," said Mai Yamani, a Londonbased Saudi political analyst.

"This is the only country in the world where you are considered young when you are 60," Yamani said.

Although the new system gives younger princes influence over the succession, diplomats say two of Abdullah's elderly brothers --Interior Minister Prince Navef and Riyadh governor Prince Salman -still consider themselves strong candidates to rule.

There are no exact figures on the number of Saudi princes but diplomats estimate there are up to 6,000. King Abdullah is believed to have 20 sons and daughters.

The decree also provides for setting up a medical commission. spearheaded by the Allegiance Institution, to decide on the eligibility of a ruling king or the crown prince. "This is quite a major and

sensible development ... It will build up the influence of the younger generations," a Western diplomat said

"Many of (Abdul-Aziz's) sons are getting older and older, so the risk of another prolonged medical crisis as happened with (late) King Fahd becomes higher," he added.

Abdullah's predecessor, King Fahd, suffered a disabling stroke which left him little more than a titular monarch for nearly a decade before his death last year.

"There will be a bigger and increasing number of younger princes involved in this so it will bring a broader range of perspectives to be considered ... other than the age," the diplomat said.