# The Daily Star

# NEWS

# Abbas sets conditions

vigorate a stalled peace process.

"I say to our people that we have

"I repeat here my call for all

those doctors involved in the

matter to fully cooperate with

(investigators) so that our people

and the whole world can know the

truth of what happened to Abu

BPI DG in charge

Meanwhile, three out of five key

posts of Petrobandla remains

vacant mainly due to inappropriate

appointments during the BNP-led

appointed Nazrul, ex-managing director of Bangladesh Gas Field

Company Ltd (BGFCL), in the

finance wing of Petrobangla and

gave him an extension of service

under a one-vear advance contract

for the post in the middle of last

month. He retired on November 3.

This advance contract was made

possible because of his close family

connections with the BNP, the

Nazrul was also given unusual

The posts of director finance,

Though Petrobangla still has a

number of competent senior offi-

cials, the coalition government that

politicised and divided different

public entities since 2001, refrained

from giving regular promotions and

In the last five years, a good

for the public exchequer.

The alliance government in June

Ammar." he said.

FROM PAGE 1

sources said.

four-party alliance rule.

### favour any particular political party. There are a lot of issues to be

Military

and credible election, he noted.

with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia

and Awami League (AL) President

Sheikh Hasina, he said both the

leaders want free and fair elections

and it would be better for them to

reach a consensus on the issues

respecting the constitutional pro-

Asked how the election could be

credible without participation of AL

that seeks resignation of the CEC.

the visiting US official said he hopes

all political parties would participate

in the polls and the EC should make

sure that the people trust its deci-

Boucher said both the political

He said the US would send

Terming the Dhaka-Washington

observers to monitor the upcoming

relations excellent, he said his

country would continue co-

the US government would carry on

healthcare and economic progress.

Acid-fed baby

elder brother has two daughters

According to the Hindu property

law, girls are not entitled to inheri-

tance. Suffering from jealousy at the

idea of Durjoy becoming the heir to

the family property, wife of

Ashutosh's brother fed Durjoy acid

when he was just one month and 19

days old, Iti said at the news confer-

After being treated in Jessore,

Khulna and Dhaka Medical College

Hospital (DMCH) for more than a

year, in February 2006, Dr Ron

Hiles, a British doctor, met Durjoy's

Hiles talked to the doctors and

that has the necessary facilities.

mouth. His oral cavity was totally

blocked. It was difficult to put the

tube for anaesthesia through the

Dr Hiles performed a

tracheostomy to put in the tube for

anaesthesia. Then he opened

Durjoy's lips and his oral cavity

through a surgery that lasted for

almost seven hours.

parties have a lot of experience in

politics and they could easily settle

many of the controversies.

general election.

power in future.

FROM PAGE 16

ence

mouth.

mother at DMCH.

FROM PAGE 1

cess.

sions.

settled by the caretaker government Impotent against Israel and embroiled in factional unrest today, that needs more time to set up the groundwork for a free, fair. peaceful more than ever Palestinians miss the patriarch who symbolised their When asked about his meetings dreams.

realised great progress on the road critics miss the man remembered toward forming a national unity as a survivor who excelled in the government that can break the art of triumphing in the face of siege and open the way for a politiadversity, thanks to a natural cal solution that will end the occupolitical instinct. pation forever," Abbas said.

"I expect, God willing, that this government will see the light of day before the end of the month." Abbas and other speakers also touched on suspicions that con-

querre. tinue to surround Arafat's death in a Paris hospital. Conspiracy theories that Arafat was poisoned still abound despite doctors finding no trace of toxins. Abbas said an investigation into Arafat's death was continuing.

He now finds himself locked in a power struggle with Hamas, which won unexpectedly won parliamentary elections in January

The Islamists' rise to powe

The West, which brands Hamas as a terror group, cut off the aid that once kept Palestinian coffers afloat, and subsequent efforts to end the boycott by forming a Fatah-Hamas unity government have not borne fruit

Arafat was criticised in later

discipline in socioeconomic life and facilities, which his post did not justify. His contract was however cancelled last week

planning and production sharing ment noted that necessary instruccontract (PSC) of Petrobangla are tions to this effect have already now vacant though it is a vital revebeen given to the law-enforcement nue earner for the government, fetching over Tk 2,700 crore a year agencies, including the police.

stop supply of essentials for about 1.20 crore people living in Dhaka city and disrupt public life. Particularly, the livelihood of the poor and the working-class people will be difficult for price hike of essentials following the siege

the basis of lobbying and potential The press note further said the candidates' political affiliation siege programme will disrupt transsources said. portation of exportable industrial goods and the export process as number of competent officials and well as transport of essential agriexperts retired from Petrobangla cultural products and Industrial raw there had been no new recruitment materials. Besides, current examifrom 1999. Besides, many officials left the organisation due to deterionations at different educational ration of working condition amid institutions will be postponed. posing a threat to students' future.

5 killed ROM PAGE 16

MMCH.

the state's emir.

FROM PAGE 16 ment with Hamas was likely by month's end. That would hopefully not only lead to an end to the punishing boycott, but also help rein-

Even Arafat's most fervent

Palestinian newspapers plastered Arafat's photos on their front pages, with the Al-Quds daily proclaiming "How much we miss you Abu Ammar", Arafat's nom de

Abbas, his moderate and uncharismatic successor as Palestinian Authority president, has repeatedly advocated but failed to achieve a return to negotiations with Israel.

weakened Abbas and led to a series of events that plunged the already suffering Palestinian territories into a deeper political and financial crisis.

operating with Bangladesh, no matter what party gets elected to He said despite Republican debacle in the midterm elections, its efforts to strengthen democracy,

vears for his authoritarian rule, but no one has been able to fill his gargantuan shoes. The Palestinian state he promised until his dving day is still a dream, and Gaza and the West Bank are in the throes of anarchy. However, Abbas added to growing political optimism Saturday by saying a unity govern-

## Press note FROM PAGE 1

to ensure security of public life and property.

In the press note, the govern-

said the child needed a lengthy "Such programme like siege will complicated surgery, which could be performed at an ASF hospital ASF immediately took the responsibility of Durjoy's treatment and Hiles operated on him. At the time the doctors were not aware of the extent of damage inside his programme," it said.

postings. It filled up vital positions on

severe politicisation. "Moreover, Dhaka will be isolated from the rest of the country

Non-stop blockade

FROM PAGE 1 We will withdraw the blockades only when we see the caretaker government take effective initiatives to implement our demands to create a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair election." Hasina said at a crowded press briefing at her Dhanmondi office last night.

On the caretaker government press note. she said a non-party caretaker government cannot take stand against the countrymen and a peaceful programme of any political

party. The BNP also urged the 14-party to withdraw its blockade programme, saying the AL will have to take the responsibilities for any untoward situation that foils the upcoming elections.

Rumours ran high in the capital yesterday that the chief election commissioner (CEC) has resigned. Hearing the rumour, journalists rushed to the residence of CEC MA Aziz but he did not allow them.

Meanwhile, US Assistant Secretary of State of the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Richard A Boucher arrived in Dhaka yesterday. He met both the AL and BNP chiefs, asking them to resolve the deadlock through a constitutional process

Boucher, who was believed by politicians and general people to play a vital role in resolving the current political stalemate, is scheduled to meet President and Chief Adviser lajuddin Ahmed today and may request him to reconstitute the Election Commission (EC), sources said 14-PARTY MEETINGS

To make the blockade programme a success, the 14-party alliance held a series of meetings yesterday while its senior leaders visited different districts adjacent to the capital. Rallies were also held at different places across the country.

The central and Dhaka city committees of the alliance held separate preparatory meetings, accusing lajuddin of conspiring to meet the political agenda of the immediate past BNP-led four-party alliance govern-

## Blockade

## FROM PAGE 1

people to save a 'corrupt and plunderer family'

ing with the leaders of AL's youth front Jubo League on the occasion of its 34th founding anniversary, Hasina said the blockade programme will have to be observed peacefully for the sake of country's democracy, constitution and people's right to vote.

Pointing to the CA to the CG, Hasina said. "Whose directions is he implementing? It seems that he does not have any conscience. People are in doubt about whether he is implementing Hawa Bhaban's prescription after being super powerful with two posts.'

Terming the CEC a liar, she said a free and fair election is never possible under his jurisdiction. The country and nation must be freed from all conspiracies of BNP-Jamaat coalition. She urged all to be

While briefing newsmen after a meeting of the 14-party alliance at the AL Dhanmondi office, its Coordinator Abdul Jalil also accused the president of pushing the country towards confrontation by "taking stand against the

Following requests from all quarters, the 14-party alliance later extended the deadline up to November 11.

police administration.

## 22 hot spots FROM PAGE 1

Terminal, Mirpur-10 roundabout,

programme.

to use the armed forces against the

Earlier in the morning, at a meet-

countrymen" Hasina on behalf of the alliance placed an 11-point charter of demands to President lajuddin on October 30, urging him to prove his neutrality by meeting the demands by November 3

The AL-led alliance's demands include reconstitution of the EC, removal of the CEC and three other election commissioners. correction and revision of the updated voter list, ancellation of political appointments of 300 upazila election officers and all contractual appointments, and withdrawal of all officials loyal to BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami from both civil and

Pallabi-12 Bus Stop. Dhanmondi Russell Square, Azampur, Kuril level crossing, Mohakhali, Moghbazar, Jurain Rail Gate, Jatrabari intersection, Dayaganj Bus Stop, Sadarghat, Raisa Bazar intersection in Sutrapur, Babu Bazar Bridge under Kotwali, Kamalapur Railway Station, Motifheel Shapla Chattar, Shahjahanpur level crossing, Noor Hossain Square in Gulistan, Shahbagh intersection, Lalbach Kellah intersection. Nawabpur and North South Road. Senior leaders of the alliance

asked their workers to remain alert against any move to sabotage the "We will observe the programme peacefully and our leaders and workers have been instructed in that

way. But, we apprehend that a vested quarter may try to create a volatile situation," City Unit Coordinator of 14-party Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya told newsmen following the preparatory meeting.

## Colossal hurricane FROM PAGE 16 Reuters adds: Michael Flasar, an

astrophysicist involved in the mission at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, said the storm looks just like water swirling down the drain in a bath tub, only on a gigantic scale.

"We've never seen anything like this before," Flasar said in an inter-"It's a spectacular-looking view. storm."

Saturn, the second-biggest planet in the solar system with an equatorial diameter of 74,000 miles and the sixth from the sun, is about 746 million miles from Earth.

Its south pole storm is much bigger than Earth hurricanes. It has ell-developed eve ringed by not sav anvthina towering clouds that soar 20-45 "We've extended our deadline miles above those in the dark centwice to help the president reduce ter, two to five times higher than gaps among the political parties and clouds in our thunderstorms and the Election Commission. But, now hurricanes, NASA said. we are observing the reverse situa-A distinguishing feature of hurrition," he told the journalists. canes on Earth are the eye-wall Commenting on the November clouds that form when moist air 12 ultimatum, the AL leader said that flows inward across an ocean Boucher was informed that the 14surface, rising vertically and releasparty combine does not want any ing a heavy rain around a circular confrontation, rather it wants peace. region of descending air that repre-Replying to another query, Saber sents the eye. Scientists said it was said Boucher has also expressed unclear whether Saturn's storm was his opinion on peaceful resolution of a water-driven system. the crisis. "We also want the same." It differs from Earth hurricanes in he added part because it remains stuck at the Awami League General pole rather than drifting as such Secretary Abdul Jalil, Jafarullah, storms do on this planet and Salman F Rahman and Sheikh because it did not form over a liquid Helal were, among others, present water ocean, with Saturn being a at the meeting. gaseous planet, NASA said. "It looks like a hurricane, but it **BNP** wants free doesn't behave like a hurricane.' Andrew Ingersoll, a member of FROM PAGE 1 Cassini's imaging team at the general elections California Institute of Technology in Briefing newsmen after an hour-Pasadena, said in a statement. long meeting, former foreign minis-"Whatever it is, we're going to focus ter M Morshed Khan said Boucher on the eye of this storm and find out told the BNP chairperson that US why it's there." Flasar said scientists have more wants to see a peaceful and fair election in Bangladesh as per the work ahead to understand the constitution Saturn storm. "I'm hoping that as we puzzle He also said fair and peaceful election with participation of all over it, it will become even more political parties will strengthen the exciting as we start to connect the dots in our brains. But right now, the existing democratic process in wheels are a little creaky," Flasar Bangladesh. Khaleda informed the US assissaid. "We're all arguing with each other about what it might or might tant secretary of state that she has not be." already gave directives to her party leaders and workers to maintain

Ershad FROM PAGE 1 Ershad said, adding that they will

also consider taking cooperation from any political alliance if needed. At the meeting, the party presidium members were in favour of taking part in the election individually while most of the party members, who voiced against joining the BNP-led four-party alliance. criticised the activities of the alliance during the last five years, sources said Ershad's younger brother GM

Quader, who is also a JP presidium member, was a conspicuous absentee at the meeting attended by party leaders.

## Non-govt teachers FROM PAGE 1

president/chief adviser and for not cancelling the contractual appointments.

The hunger strike will also be observed seeking withdrawal of the rule that educational institutions have to submit their incomes to the government and for allocation of Monthly Payment Order (MPO) for those who were deprived in the budget of fiscal year 2006-2007.

NFTE Chief Coordinator and Convenor Prof Quazi Faruque Ahmed alleged that NFTE is not being permitted to meet the president, who holds the education ministry, to solve their problems.

There seems to be no difference between the rule of the four-party alliance government and the caretaker government, he said.

He also pointed out that the president, upon taking the charge of caretaker government, failed to exhibit any noticeable progress in reforming and reconstituting the Election Commission.

"Constitutional experts have said the president has committed an impeachable offence by his recent comment regarding the form of the government," he added.

NFTE central leaders Mohammad Azizul Islam, Prof Asadul Haque, M Arzu, SMA Jalil and Bilkis Zaman were present at the press briefing.

## AL fears

## FROM PAGE 1 at Sudha Sadan.

Party sources said the AL chief briefed him on her party's views on caretaker government and 11-point demand during the 50-minute meeting.

The US assistant secretary, who arrived here earlier in the day on a two-day visit, did not make any comment after the talks. Sheikh Hasina's Political

Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury briefed the reporters the situation under control. after the meeting.

'We briefed him about our stance and 11-point demand placed before the president after he took over the charge of the caretaker government," Saber said.

Replying to a question whether Boucher asked anything about the November 12 deadline or requested them to extend their time. Saber did

# Sports body chiefs

"We think the caretaker gov-

ernment should also bar the fed-

erations from holding elections

until a government is in the seat. It

should also not allow any new

appointments, reshuffles or make

any financial deals locally or

they are worried about BCB's

Worldwide Marketing Agency

Rights deal, which awaits the nod

from the Ministry after an open

public the clauses of the deal. The

huge difference of the bid

between two companies has

raised questions about its trans-

parency. It is also surprising to

see why only two companies

joined the bid although six had

Asghar) at the helm of the board,

we don't think it would be fair if he

manages to sign the deal in the

end. A neutral person should be

the BCB chief when the deal is

finalised. It is a matter of princi-

tary Dewan Shafiul Arefin Tutul

programme enforced by the 14-

party from today, BGMEA

President SM Fazlul Haque in a

winter wears, the shutdown of

port will squeeze orders and

As a result, the \$8 billion worth

He noted that the garments

of garments industry may reach

the brink of destruction, Haque

sector alone suffers a loss of Tk

200 crore for per day closure of

the Chittagong port. This

becomes double considering the

losses in other related industries

like bank, insurance and transport

due to such blockade

garments sector, which shares 76

percent of the country's total

export earning and employs 22

lakh workers, is the worst victim of

any kind of political agitation

commerce and economy, the

existing political impasse

should be resolved through dis-

cussion and dialogues, he

In the greater interest of trade,

The BGMEA chief said the

programmes, he pointed out.

reduce export in next season.

also attended the briefing.

BGMEA

FROM PAGE 1

said.

AL's Youth and Sports secre-

"With an ex-MP of BNP (Ali

bought tender forms.

ple

"We want the board to make

tender was held on Thursday.

the games."

internationally apart from running

Quader particularly told that

FROM PAGE 1

sports ministry has been in the process to prepare a list, but the unnecessary delay cast growing concern among the sports lovers who feel the current adviser to Youth and Sports, CM Shafi Sami, should immediately remove those 'hand picked' faces including the president of Bangladesh Cricket Board Ali Asghar.

Asghar is not only an influential BNP lawmaker but also the custodian of the famed 'Hawa Bhaban'. Besides, he has been in the centre of controversy ever since the board started its campaign to find a future TV sponsor of all the international home matches for the next five years. It may be mentioned that the board is now in the process of striking the biggest TV deal worth nearly Tk 400 crore (56.88 million dollars) but his presence evoked widespread criticism because of his previous shady affair with little known Aston Moore and the 'infamous' revised contract he signed with ESPN-Star Sports after being appointed by BNP at the hot seat

of the most affluent federation. Awami League also demanded a similar move from the caretaker government as soon as possible.

"All the appointments at sports federations by the last government under political consideration have to be removed in resemblance to the neutral character of the caretaker government," told Awami League joint-secretary and former Youth and Sports Minister Obaidul Quader at a press briefing at the AL Chief's office vesterday.

statement last night said that "Last time, the caretaker government did it pretty quickly but since the peak season in garments industry already began now, it has been over two weeks and we have seen no action." he with the manufacturing of the

18 injured in AL-BNP clash in Khulna

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A clash between activists of Awami League (AL) and BNP left at least 18 people injured last evening in Khalishpur Industrial Area.

According to police, the clash erupted at around 6:15pm when two processions of BNP and AL were passing each other and some BNP activists threw brickbats at the AL procession. Police charged batons to bring

Khalishpur Thana unit BNP

Evewitnesses said attack on the

accused AL of the attack, while AL

AL procession was carried out first

from the BNP procession without

denied the allegation.

united and launch a greater move ment to resist all conspiracies for election rigging.

Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanak and General Secretary Mirza Azam among others were present at the meeting.

## Ctg port

FROM PAGE 16 parliamentary election under a

caretaker government. This time around BNP-led four-

party alliance, which recently relinquished state power, is not ready to allow the rival coalition to gain an upper hand at Chittagong port.

According to sources, BNP leaders asked its labour front to keep a continuous watch on the developments at the port.

Meanwhile, business leaders expressed deep concern over the volatile political situation in the country.

"The garment sector alone will suffer Tk 200 crore loss per day if Chittagong seaport is blockaded," said SM Fazlul Haque, president of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). The loss will be doubled considering the losses in other related industries like banks, insurance companies and the transportation sector.

The RMG sector which brings in 76 percent of the country's total export earnings, is the worst victim of such blockading of railways, roads and ports, he added.

BGMEA leaders observed that the existing political impasse should be resolved through discussions and dialogues for the sake of economic progress in the country.

## EC ambassador FROM PAGE 16

to be done for a fair election, he said,

"We all hope that the election will take place in time.....I am verv optimistic that the election will be held peacefully," he said.

He said the EU is going to send 150 election observers. Of them, a team of long-term observers comprising 60 members will come five or six weeks before the election while the rest will come a week before the election

The long-term observers will look into the pre-election issues, while the other team will observe polling, he added.

## lajuddin's comment FROM PAGE 16

Badruddoza claimed the chief adviser has created distance between himself and the advisers by saying that presidential form of government is prevailing in the country.

He also claimed that the president/chief adviser is doing his tasks like a doll in a puppet show.

You were not like the way you are behaving now," he said adding, "Still there is time to prove yourself neutral and save the country form a serious situation."

take all necessary steps.

vesterday

peace and discipline

Khaleda as saying.

future.

during the meeting

"We will give priority to strength-

ening local government, eliminating

corruption and completing their

unfinished development activities in

the four-party alliance returns to

power," Khaleda told the US official.

Boucher praised BNP govern-

ment's role in curbing terrorism and

hoped that her stand against inter-

national terrorism would continue in

and BNP Secretary General Abdul

Mannan Bhuiyan were also present

US Ambassador Patricia Butenis

of 14-party combine, the BNP chairperson said her party is concerned about security of the people. "But we will resist if they (14-party combine) attack the workers of BNP and fourparty alliance," Moshed quoted

Badruddoza, however, urged the chief adviser to act neutrally and Advocate Akhter Hossain

Maiumder, assistant private secretary (APS) to the immediate past prime minister, was among hundreds of others who joined LDP

FROM PAGE 16 Sangsad organised the roundtable on "The role of the freedom fighters during the political crisis of the country" at the National Press Club "Why does the chief adviser

direct the army to be prepared? Is the situation so bad that the army should be deployed to maintain law and order of the country?" Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah Bir Bikram posed the question.

The police are enough to maintain the law and order in the country, he said, adding that the president and chief of the interim government made no consultation with the police, rather asked the army to be prepared for any crisis.

The people will reject the 'arms' of lajuddin as they did during the Liberation War, he said.

He urged all the freedom fighters and pro-liberation forces to be united to uphold the spirit of independence through movement.

Major (retd) Akbar said it will be a bad news for the army if they are deployed to resist the demonstration in the streets.

There will be a worldwide reaction if the army is deployed, he said, adding that the UN will stop appointing them in the peace missions, he said, adding, "Ultimately, the army will be affected -this should be explained to the high officials of the army."

Nazmul Hasan, a leader of Muktijoddha Sangsad Central Command Council, said the country will be in deep crisis if the army's role is debated following their Replying a query from Boucher deployment. regarding the countrywide blockade

Maj Gen (retd) Helal Morshed Bir Bikram said the country's army is democratic minded but there is possibility of their being influenced when they move to remote areas and when the civil and police administration lose neutrality.

"The army, if deployed during the polls, should be provided with unbiased information and the politically appointed officials should be transferred." he said.

The army personnel are deployed to assist the police, Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah said, adding, "They are to execute the orders of the magistrate. But during the last general elections, the army was given the 'magistracy power', which became a matter of concern to people."

Arrest of people by the army is against democracy, he said. Principal Abdul Ahad

# Ex-servicemen

provocation.

Chowdhury, chairman of the Muktijoddha Sangsad Central Command Council, said they are not in favour of any political party, but they agree with the demands of

programmes

added.

the 14-party combine and will be in the streets in line with the combine. Abdul Ahad, who presided over the roundtable, said democracy that the nation achieved is now threatened. "This time we shall move to perpetuate democracy. he said.

Brig Gen (retd) Giasuddin A Chowdhury, Col (retd) AKM Rakibul Islam, Maj Gen (retd) Syed Rafiqul Islam, Lt Col (retd) Saifur Rashid and Prof Nim Chandra Bhowmik also spoke at the roundtable moderated by Muktijoddha Sangsad Secretary General Mohammad Salauddin.

## RU teachers from page 16

The rally was addressed by PTS convenor Prof Abdus Sobhan and professors Entajul Haque, Mizan Uddin, Mozaffar Hossain, Ananda Kumar Saha, Mokhlesur Rahman and Rabiul Islam, among others.

Meanwhile, the student wing of Awami League (AL) Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) RU unit vesterday met with RU VC Prof Altaf Hossain and pro-VC Prof Mamunul Keramat. Led by its General Secretary Ayeen Uddin, they demanded the authorities put an end to the recruitment in the varsity at the earliest. Protesting the unscheduled closure of the varsity and extension of vacation period they warned the authorities of tough agitation if their demand is not met within the present period of closure. Besides, RU Fourth-class

Employees' Union yesterday in a news conference at central cafeteria also demanded cancellation of the ongoing recruitment. They also placed a 12-point demand and threatened to go for work abstention. if they are not met.

Talking to the reporters, RU VC Prof Altaf Hossain said that any organisation has the right to demand his resignation, but they have to consider whether it is logical or not. He also described the demand for cancelling the recruitment as irrational, claming that it is going on in accordance with the university rules.

## DMP slaps ban FROM PAGE 1

14-party alliance's countrywide siege programme on electoral issues

Leaders of the immediate past ruling BNP also announced on Friday that their activists would remain in the streets wielding scythes

The DMP commissioner told The Daily Star last night that around 13,000 law enforcers--about 10,000 from police and the rest from Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)--will be deployed at 30 points in the capital "to thwart any untoward incident".

"Different political parties have announced various programmes, including blockade, on November 12 and thereafter. These political parties have asked their leaders and activists to gather in Dhaka with sticks, oars and scythes, which has created fear among the people. And this may hamper security of Dhaka," says a DMP notification issued yesterday

Signed by Bazlur Rahman, the notification said the restrictions were imposed under sections 28 and 29 of the DMP Ordinance for the imperative of maintaining law and order, and public security, and protecting government establishments.

The DMP commissioner at a press briefing yesterday urged all not to create any obstacle to the free movement of public and transportation of goods.

# Pentagon

fought the Mahdi Army militia in 2004 at Karbala, the newspaper reported.

Greenwood, the director of the Marine Command and Staff College who oversaw efforts to train Iragi security forces in Anbar, the Times said. In all, more than a dozen military officers are on the team, which is overseen by Capt Michael Rogers of the Navy, a special assistant to Pace, the report said.

The review, which includes the participation of Gen George Casey Jr, the top commander in Iraq, and General John Abizaid, the head of the United States Central Command, is meant to be completed in early December.

The authorities urged the political parties to refrain from any unconstitutional programme in

of all citizens.

note said.

Hospital (MMCH) later. The bodies are kept in the

MMCH morgue for autopsy.

Omar al-Baghdadi: I have put

12,000 al-Qaeda fighters at the

disposal of the Islamic state of Iraq,"

Muhajer said, pledging allegiance to

The al-Qaeda chief appealed to

Muhajer slammed US President

forces occupying the country were

under the blows of the

Mujahedeen... and preparing to

worst president America -- the

country of slaves and drugs -- has

ever had for giving us this great

historic opportunity," said the voice.

taken the first step on the right path

in order to get out of their impasse

and have started to realize the

treachery of their president and his

subordination to Israel, voting for a

measure of reason in the latest

like your defence minister (Donald

Rumsfeld, who resigned

Wednesday). We have still not

Bush's policies had enabled Shia

Iran to spread its influence in

Afghanistan, Iraq and other coun-

Muhaier also charged that

quenched our thirst for your blood."

"I tell (Bush): don't hurry to flee

elections," Muhajer said.

"The American people have

"I thank the most stupid and

"The enemy is now teetering

preparing to cut and run.

pack up and flee," he said.

order to ensure fundamental rights In another accident, 15 people were injured when a passenger bus "The government under no tumbled into a roadside ditch at circumstances can allow indiscip-Ukilbari of Trishal upazila. Two line and chaotic situation," the press critically injured were sent to

# al-Qaeda threatens

FROM PAGE 16 the proclamation of an Islamic state in Iraq, he said.

The authenticity of the message could not be independently confirmed

"The location chosen by your major Iragi Sunni insurgent groups, Mujahedeen brethren to set up their notably the Army of Ansar al-Sunna, state ... is but a stepping stone for the leap." Muhaier said, referring to the Islamic Army of Iraq and the the "Islamic state of Iraq" pro-Mujahedeen's Army, to endorse the claimed last month. self-styled state and pledge alle-

Intelligence agencies have been giance to its emir. warned that al-Qaeda may be planning to attack air and rail travel George W Bush, gloated over his in Europe during the busy holiday Republican party's defeat in midtravel season, CBS News reported Friday term elections widely attributed to US involvement in Iraq, and said US

Citing unnamed intelligence sources, the television network said the warnings came from interrogations of al-Qaeda suspects, who recently left Afghanistan and

Pakistan "One suspect said plans for repeating the (London) Heathrow (airport) attempt were all prepared. It is now a matter of taking action," CBS News quotes one Arab official as saying. "al-Qaeda's strategy appears to be raising the pressure in Europe."

In a move that has been puzzling intelligence agencies, al-Qaeda has been withdrawing well-trained Arab fighters from the mountains and battlefields of Afghanistan over the past six months while handing over its militant activities in Afghanistan to that country's resurgent Taliban movement, the report said.

An alliance of Sunni insurgents headed by the Iraq branch of al-Qaeda announced the creation of an independent Islamic emirate in Iraq in a video posted on the Internet on October 15, after parliament in Baghdad approved a federal constitution for the war-ravaged country. In Friday's message, Muhajer said he had mobilized 12,000 fighters for the Islamic state and was grooming 10,000 more.

White House spokesman Tony "I tell the commander of the Snow declined to comment on the faithful, the honourable Sheikh Abu recording

FROM PAGE 16 commanded an Army brigade that

Also on the team is Col. Thomas