Dhaka, Manila

16 Al leaders get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted a three-month anticipatory bail to 16 top leaders of the Awami League (AL) including General Secretary Abdul Jalil in 11 defamation cases filed with courts in different districts.

A Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Joynul Abedin and Justice

Chowdhury, SAMS Kibria, ASHK Sadek, Obaidul Quader, Mukul Bose, Abdul Mannan, Abdur Rahman, Faruk Khan, ABM Mozammel Haque, Shafi Ahmed, Abdus Shahid and Abdul Mannan Chowdhury.

The cases were filed after the AL announced a list of 102 leaders of the ruling coalition branding them as

A court in Natore on Wednesday issued warrant of arrest against 14 top

leaders of the AL in a defamation case lodged by Deputy Minister for Land Ruhul Ouddus Talukdar Dulu

Chief Whip Khondker Delwar Hossain filed a defamation case with the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka. The other cases were filed by Nazimuddin Alam in Bhola, Shahjahan Chowdhury and Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin in Chittagong, Gholam Sarwar in Khulna, Syed Abdullah Abu Taher in Comilla, Shahidul Haque Jamal in Pirojpur, Hannan Shah in Gazipur Moreover two leaders of the BNP's youth front Jubo Dal filed two cases in

The alliance leaders alleged the AL had put them on its list of 'godfathers for political gains by tarnishing their

the HC the accused are prominent leaders of the main opposition party and the cases were filed to harass them

Barrister M Amir-Ul-Islam and Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder moved the bail petitions. President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Rokanuddin Mahmud and Advocate Sudhangsu Sekhar Halder were present in the court.

Deputy Attorney General Advocate Golam Kibria represented the state.

Doc postings

their assignment although it is a generally accepted practice that one has to serve at least three years in their respec $tive\ positions\ in\ non-training\ posts.$

"The BMA leaders are targeting us for revenge. We are simply victims of political vendetta," said one of the

His colleague, now serving in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, said, "Many of my colleagues have chosen to take up $post\text{-}\,graduation\,in\,the\,capital\,to\,escape$

In less than a year of his service Prof Nilkanto Bhattacharva, who had been serving as the Head of the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Department at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), was transferred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

In another case, Dr Chinmoi Kanti Das, serving as a medical officer at Rajshahi, was transferred to a remote

Dr Ranjan Kumar Saha, former BMA secretary general at Netrakona, was transferred to Gopalgani. Regarding Dr Saha's transfer, BMA Secretary General Dr Zahid Hossain said, "Dr Saha is still serving at Netrakona."

Dr Tuzammel Hossain was trans-Medical College Hospital while Dr Biswaiit Datta, serving at Chittagong Medical college Hospital, was transferred three times in less than six months.

Dr Abu Yusuf Fakir, resident surgeon, ENT Department at the DMCH, was transferred twice in less than two months, first to Laxmipur and then to Brahmanbaria. Tired of repeated transfers, he applied for master's degree course in surgery at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). On Dr Fakir's transfer, Dr Zahid said, "Dr Fakir himself requested for his posting in Brahmanbaria as his wife is also serving in Brahmanbaria. The BMA has nothing to do with his postings.

Dr Jashimuddin, who had been serving as medical officer at Patuakhali, was transferred to Siraigani, About Dr Jashimuddin, Dr Zahid alleged that once Dr Jashim submitted a false report

on an autopsy he had carried out. Dr Sirajul Haq, serving as an associate professor at the Dermatology

Rly building

FROM PAGE 12

Huda thanked the GrameenPhone authorities for restoring the station built in 1896 and contributing to the preservation of the landmark architec-

He hoped that GrameenPhone would also help set up the railway museum in Chittagong.

Addressing the event GrameenPhone Managing Director Ola Ree expressed satisfaction over his company's association with the renovations to the station, adding it would further strengthen the ties between his company and the railway.

Communications Secretary Sved Rezaul Hayat and Bangladesh Railway Director General AKM Rezaul Karim also addressed the ceremony, among

The speakers observed although the project involved a little more than Tk 1 crore, it did an invaluable job by

preserving the heritage. They said GrameenPhone set up an example of corporate responsibility what would inspire others.

Bangladesh Railway (East) General Manager Mokhleser Rahman gave the vote of thanks

Robbers loot Tk 50,000 from school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Robbers looted reportedly about Tk 50,000 from office of Barisal Sadar Government Girls' School in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

Police and school sources said a gang entered the school and tied up Jafar and Sumon, son and nephew of night guard Burjug, who were substituting the latter. The robbers burgled the room of

the headmistress and took away Tk 49,900 -- collected as fees of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations and also for the yearly Milad -- from the steel almirah. The gang also tied up Burjug when

he came to check the on-duty substitutes and left the school after two hours at around 3:30am. Another son of Burjug came to the

school with food for Sehri and rescued them at around 4:00am. School officials said the money was kept in the school due to early

closure of banks on Thursday. The school authorities filed a case with Kotwali Police Station.

3 children die

FROM PAGE 12

hospitals and clinics in the district, sources said. Meanwhile, 55 more children were

admitted to five government hospitals in the district yesterday. Of them, 33 were admitted to Sadar hospital, eight at Ukhia upazila hospital, six at Moheshkhali hospital, three at Chokoria hospital, three at Ramu hospital and two others at Kutubdia hospital.

District administration sent seven mobile medical teams to check the

Biman

FROM PAGE 1

'The authorities are now reviewing offers from both the companies as well as the balance amount that has to be paid," the spokesman said.

He blamed Biman's financial woes on high overhead costs and said its flights were on average 70 percent full.

"Overhead costs like maintenance and operating cost of old and leased aircraft has denied Biman seeing profit," Civil Aviation Minister Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin said sepa-

The airline currently has six Airbus and two Boeing jets, along with four McDonnell Douglas DC 10-30 planes. three Fokker F-28s and two British ATP short-haul aircraft.

Biman is the only Bangladeshi airline to fly overseas with 26 interna-

The government has allowed private airlines to operate within Bangladesh for the past decade and in September said they would be permitted to fly on select international

Privately run GMG Airlines, which was founded in 1998, has said it is ready to start international routes immediately once the government gives it the green light.

GMG would begin with flights to nearby Calcutta and Kathmandu connecting on to New Delhi and Colombo to ensure passenger turnout, airline spokesman Vijay Alreja

Three other airlines -- Air Bangladesh, Air Parbat and Bismillah Airlines -- have also expressed interest in flying beyond domestic routes but are considered further away in meeting license requirements.

Hasina

ists allegedly by BNP men, Hasina said, "They (the BNP men) are desperate to eliminate Awami League.'

She said 'the businessmen turned ministers' targeted Ramadan to make brisk business. "How will prices come down if the ruling party men are involved in business," she said.

Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan and Omar Faruk, president and general secretary of the DUJ, were present at the programme that was also attended by senior AL leaders, editors of different dailies, diplomats, university teachers

FTA talks

tries are now opting for FTA on bilateral basis to give a boost to the intra-region trade, which is the lowest among all other regional economic blocs.

The FTA proposal first came from India, then from Pakistan, but Bangladesh so far seemed skeptical about the benefit of such deals with two uneven partners -- one enjoying a huge trade surplus.

Finally, Bangladesh agreed to nitiate the talks, starting with India.

Trade officials here said FTA talks with Islamabad would be less intricate as Dhaka-Islamabad trade is not so complicated as with New Delhi.

Earlier, Pakistan gave duty-free access of Bangladesh's jute and tea (up to a certain limit) to its market.

Bangladesh's imports from Pakistan amounted to US\$ 67.32 million against her exports of \$28.60 million in FY 2001-02.

BNP 'dissidents'

former speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, Oli Ahmed, MP, and some other party leaders including ministers and deputies who are close to Badruddoza, sources at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and home ministry said.

They said personnel of the intelligence agencies, including the NSI and DGFI, were posted to the leaders' houses and their telephones bugged. "We are fully convinced of a con-

spiracy. But everything is under the control of the government which is capable of smashing any plot," an influential party minister told The Daily Star yesterday on condition of anonymity. "We are now closely watching the

movements of the defectors. Necessary actions will be taken to keep them from any wrong that might go against the government," an important cabinet minister said. The intelligence agencies have been

asked to report to their contacts at the PMO and the home ministry about the movements of the suspects and the intelligence reports are being sent to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. Before leaving for Saudi Arabia to

perform Umrah, the premier called more than three ministers separately in a hid to wean off their links with the former president, sources said. They said an intelligence agency recently reported to the premier of a

meeting between some top BNP lead-

ers and Badruddoza. Witnesses said intelligence agents did not obstruct any visitor to enter the house of Razzak Ali and meet him, but inquired about their names and addresses.

"They have been asked not to disturb any of the leaders and their visitors, but to scan their activities and come up with complete reports," a

Badruddoza, who was forced to resign on June 21 last year, came public last week and his press interview appeared in most dailies yesterday where he remarked that the nation was heading for a crisis and he would stand by people if need be. The full text of Badruddoza's interview was faxed to the premier on Friday night.

Sources said the intelligence agents also kept an eve on the movement of Mahi B Chowdhury, son of the former president and a BNP legislator, and the family of Razzak.

Razzak, who was appointed high

by the alliance government, returned home from London in a discord with the government that he says reneged on the promise of giving him ministe

The government replaced Razzak with former civil servant Mofazzal Karim in a huff.

The Bangladesh mission in Saudi Arabia was monitoring the movement of BNP front bencher Oli, now in Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah.

IS session

FROM PAGE 1 Opposition Sheikh Hasina

Khaleda is now in Saudi Arabia to

Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain and a good number of ruling party lawmakers are also abroad.

Against this backdrop, it is apprehended the 10th session might witness a quorum crisis. To avert this, the other whips are busy contacting the ruling alliance lawmakers to attend the session in due time, sources said.

Meanwhile, the AL parliamentary party will meet after Hasina's return from a four-day visit to the monga-hit northern region from today.

The speaker told reporters at his Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday "The main opposition has created a mess of the overall situation.'

But Deputy Leader of the $Opposition\, and\, former\, speaker\, Abdul$ Hamid told The Daily Star yesterday, "The speaker and deputy speaker are responsible for the prevailing situation as they permitted the ruling alliance lawmakers to utter unparliamentary words in the House.'

The AL started to boycott parliament session from June 25 protesting a state minister's 'derogatory remarks' against the leader of the

About the AL allegations, the speaker said, "I cannot do anything beyond the constitution and the rules of procedure. I don't see any reason behind the main opposition's allegation against me.'

Jamir Uddin Sircar also said he is still willing to take initiative to bring the AL back to parliament. But he stressed the party must stop making the allegation it continues to do since

Meter reader

lion's share is being used by the city's slum dwellers. But 100 percent of those connections are illegal."

"Mafia groups are controlling the slums. Slum dwellers are forced to pay Tk 8 a unit to these mafia members but the government is not getting Tk 2 for each unit from consumers at these shanties." he added.

Meter readers hardly visit houses to read meters, do their jobs at their will and the clients sometime have to suffer for them, which is damaging the image of the power sector, Iabal said.

The state minister felt the overall situation in the power sector has deteriorated to such an extent that it would not change overnight.

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury said it is very unfortunate that meter reading system could not be upgraded over the last 20 years although the information technology improved a lot during this period.

Introduction of a pre-paid billing system would reduce some hassles of the clients, observed Prof. Jamilur, adding that it is also necessary to keep an eye on the 1,200 clients who are using 'high tension' and bulk portion of electricity.

 $AKM\,Mosharraf\,Hossain\,claimed\,the$ systems loss in the gas sector has declined by 50 percent. Parliament has already enacted a law for an independent energy regulatory commission, but chairman and members of the watchdog will not be picked before December this year, he mentioned.

Opposition Awami League leader Abul Hassan Chowdhury meanwhile asked: "We are talking about the activities of the meter readers but who are patronising these guys?"

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu felt that corruption at the top needs to be controlled first before acting against the lower tier. Creation of Desa, Desco and Power

Grid Company failed to reduce the

systems loss, said Inu. Former Buet vice-chancellor Professor Iqbal Mahmud said power sector should have a department to

Cabinet secy FROM PAGE 12

A senior minister noted previous cabinet secretaries were also given extension of service. Two others were aspirants for the

post of cabinet secretary. They are Land Secretary Azad Ruhul Amin and Planning Commission Member Badiur Rahman. Azad is due to go on LPR on July 14 and Badiur on October 31 next year, sources mentioned.

conduct survey and investigation to improve the dismal situation Professor Nurul Islam of Buet said

situation would not improve much

without the enactment of an energy conservation act. Steps were taken in 1990 but it did not happen yet. Former PDB chairman MA Malek said except for an 80-megawatt plant, there was no new power generation unit

installed although the number of clients is growing at 10 percent every year. Trade union leader Zafrul Hasan said steps should be taken to stop theft by the meter readers. "The PDB was unbundled into a few other organisations but it did not yield positive results.

Rather, it led to mini PDBs like Rural

Khaleda

Power Company and Desco."

FROM PAGE 12

Thursday night and leaves for Makkah on November 18 to perform Umrah.

She will spend the holy night of Shab-e-Qadr in prayers in Masjid-ul-

B Chy

FROM PAGE 1

into the media focus with his latest comment that people are living in a state of panic and that the country is heading

increase, people find no other option but to come out on the streets for a wayout, Badruddoza said. He however ruled out the possibility

When repression and crimes

of a mass upsurge at this moment. "Such things happen when the country reaches a crucial iuncture. I don't see any such deepening of crisis right now." "The government still has time to

correct itself," he added.

In an oblique reference to the Hawa Bhaban, the so-called power centre of the government, he said when the power centre, which should be at the top of the power structure, changes informally, it is bound to create problems.

workforce and political persona to guide it," he added. "I have conceptualised a new political theory to scale this situa-This way, he said, good people will

"The country lacks an efficient

come to parliament. Asked why he does not want to

implement his own political concept, he said, "The idea itself is a tough job that I want to contribute to the society. These are the outcome of my thoughts for a long time. It is sad that the BNP reacted in the way it did, using its low-ranking leaders most of whom I recruited to politics."

Six Hazari cadres get life term

cadres of former Awami League onment for killing a college student.

The convicts are Nazmul Karim

the Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge gave the verdict in a will have to suffer six more months in

The court acquitted seven as charges brought against them were not proved. They are Mister, Ashrafud-Doula Somun, Babul, Badal, Chowdhury and former municipal

Names of four others -- Azharul Huq Arzu, Shakhwat Hossain, Jahangir Mohammad Adel and Ramim Hossain -- were earlier dropped from the charge sheet filed

According to the prosecution, the convicts picked up Rezaul Karim Tuhin, a first year student of Chiora College, from Islampur on February 10, 1999. They took Rezaul to Sonapur boarding and beat him mercilessly. He succumbed to his injuries at a

Tuhin, son of Kabir Ahmed of Islampur village in Fulgazi Upazila, was the younger brother of Feni JCD leader Kafiluddin Mamun and Joint General Secretary of district Jubo Dal Saifuddin Iran.

18 the same year, accusing 17 people.

Bhuiyan

FROM PAGE 1

Lutfuzzaman Babor and BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman were present.

Bhuiyan said, "There may be varying reasons behind criticism -- some criticise for the sake of criticism, some do it out of deprivation and some do it after losing what he had gained. The minister made his observa tions about Badruddoza who has

reported criticism of the alliance rule

meeting its pre-election pledges in curbing terrorism and corruption in The BNP doesn't have any hesitation to welcome constructive criti-

since the times of President Ziaur Rahman, Bhuiyan said. In response to Badruddoza's claim that many BNP leaders contacted him, he said, "I don't think our men will go beyond BNP's deci-sion.

Bhuiyan said that he was hearing about it, adding: "But what is the third force? Dr Kamal himself could not

He said BNP remained committed to fulfilling its election pledges, including improving law and order in the last two years, many pledges were fulfilled and the remaining would be met

but it has been tackled to a large extent ... What we can claim that there is no state-sponsored crimes as seen during the Awami League rule," he told the

The BNP leader said his government set up speedy trial courts to ensure justice for all and punishing criminals irrespective of their political identities In an oblique reference to the

Awami League, Bhuiyan again invited the main opposition to return to parliament and discuss any problem. 'It would be good if they turn up -parliament will be more effective, and we're ready to discuss any issues," he

according to the New York Times.

council member Ahmed Chalabi,

"This is good for everyone," said

Representatives of the majority Shia population also appeared pleased by the new proposal. Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the most

ten by an elected body - not the USappointed 24 member Governing "Instead of starting with the constitutional process, it will come at the end of the road," said Adel Abdel-

A court here yesterday sentenced six lawmaker Joynal Hazari to life impris-

Sohel, Russell, Peyar, Manik, Sohel and Chhoto Russell. Judge M Shahjahan Majumder of

crowded courtroom. He also fined the convicts Tk 2,000 each, in default, they

commissioners Shiblu and Shahid.

by police on November 23, 1999.

hospital in Dhaka on February 17.

The victim's mother filed a case with Feni Police Station on November

Islam, State Minister for Home Ridiculing the former president's

been critical of BNP's 'failure' in

cism because opinion or observation had always been for or against BNP

If some go, they will be isolated from people." 'third force' and Dr Kamal Hossain's meeting with Badruddoza, a smiling

make his party effective.'

within next three years. Crime may not be fully controlled,

Iraq power

print, gained positive reaction even before the announcement on

"We will have the US forces here, but they will change from occupiers to a force that is here at the invitation of the Iraqi Government," he was quoted as saving.

senior Shia cleric, had issued a decree that the constitution should be writ-

Council. Mehdi of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (Sciri),

quoted by the Washington Post. "We are reversing the whole process to meet the demands of all the parties," he said.

agree to review

accords, explore new areas of

Bangladesh and the Philippines agreed to review all agreements between the two countries and explore new avenues

ofcooperation The agreement was reached in a meeting between visiting Bangladesh Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and his Filipino counterpart Blas F Ople in Manila on Friday, according to a mes-

They proposed for covening a senior official level meeting soon.

sage received in Dhaka vesterday.

The foreign ministers also agreed that some of the agreements were not vielding the desired results. The quantum of trade between the two countries stands at around US\$ 1 million only. They strongly felt that considering

excellent bilateral relations, volume of trade between the two countries should be enhanced to expected level. Both sides stressed the need for

shipping and maritime cooperation

They felt that labour and manpower

between the two countries

ministers of all manpower- exporting countries could coordinate and take common approach on various issues related to overseas jobs. The Filipino minister proposed that

such meeting might be arranged in

Manila or Dhaka or any other capital

after consultation with all parties

concerned. They also discussed the ongoing political developments in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East and underscored the need for intensifying cooperation between Asean and Saarc and other sub-regional groupings to

cooperation

"impeded the trade relations between the two countries as well as the peopleto-people contact".

Ople assured Morshed that the issue

Mentioning visa restrictions

imposed by the Philippines, Bangladesh

foreign minister said such measures

would "immediately" be looked into so as to facilitate issuance of visa. The foreign minister, who arrived in Manila on November 13 from Singapore, met former President Corazon Aquino, speaker of the House

of Representatives and chairman of the

House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

11 die

firm Alstom

FROM PAGE 12 Emergency services said the death toll

could rise. The Queen Mary 2 is the largest passenger ship ever built, with a length of 345 metres and as tall as a 23-storey huilding

It is under construction at the

Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard,

owned by French heavy engineering

Construction on the world's most expensive liner began in 2002, and it will become the flagship of British shipping line Cunard. The £550m, 2,620-passenger Cunard

flagship is due to sail to Southampton,

where the Queen is expected to officially name the vessel in a ceremony on 8 The ship is due to begin its maiden passenger voyage to Florida four days

York run from the QE2 which will be foster economic development, peace,

to help secure neighboring Iraq. though it later abandoned the plan due to strong opposition from Iraq's U.S.-appointed Governing Council. Turkey also has warm diplomatic

and military relations with Israel. The lewish state swiftly condemned the 'criminal terror attacks" in Istanbul. A senior Israeli security source told Reuters in Jerusalem the blasts seemed to be the work of an al Qaeda affiliate, possibly seeking to target both arch-foe Israel and the moder-

ate Muslim Turkish government, a NATO ally of the United States. Jewish sites have been targeted in recent attacks blamed on militants linked to al Qaeda -- notably in Casablanca in May, a Tunisian syna-

gogue bombed in April 2002 and

Al-Qaeda FROM PAGE 12 the recent discovery of several canisters of unidentified chemicals and possible residues of a "tetanus virus-carrying chemical" and a bio-terror manual in a

police raid on a Jemaah Islamiyah hideout in the southern Philippines. "The risk of al-Qaeda acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction also

continues to grow," the report said. In the report, the expert group said the al-Qaeda ideology is spreading worldwide and has found "fertile ground" in Iraq, raising the specter of new terrorist attacks.

While "important progress has been

made toward cutting off al-Qaeda

financing," the report said serious

loopholes remain that enable the

terrorist network to funnel money to operatives. "Al-Qaeda continues to receive funds it needs from charities, deep pocket donors, and business and criminal activities, including the drug trade," it said. The report says al-Qaeda has shifted its financial activities to areas in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia that can't track such

though some 4,000 individuals in 102 countries have been arrested or detained for their links with al-Qaeda, it Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen reported the arrest of individuals linked to al-Qaeda and the

Taliban yet in most cases they didn't

submit the names to be put on the

Sanctions are also failing because

many governments refuse to add

names to the sanctions list, even

HC asks IGP

sanctions list, the report said.

in a clarification sent to High Court on the contempt of court charges against five police sergeants. Khan said the petitioner needs time to prepare a formal apology.

Earlier, the HC bench issued a suo noto rule on the IGP asking him to explain why proceedings for contempt of court should not be drawn against $him. \, It \, also \, ordered \, him \, to \, appear \, before \,$

Istanbul car bombs

From next April, the new ship will

take over Cunard's Southampton-New

Israeli tourists in the Kenyan seaside city of Mombasa last November. Turkish President Ahmet Necdet

the bomb blasts as did numerous world governments RESPONSIBILITY CLAIM Turkish Islamist group IBDA/C -- the Islamic Great Eastern Raiders/Front --

claimed responsibility in a call to

Sezer issued a statement condemning

Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news Edi Baruh, a 30-vear-old Turkish Jew said his father-in-law Sabi, who was at the Neve Shalom synagogue when the bomb exploded, had told him the synagogue contained up to 300 people instead of the usual 20 to 30

because it was a bar-mitzvah, a coming of age ceremony for a Jewish boy. Istanbul, as the capital of the Ottoman empire, has a long history of Jewish presence, notably bolstered after Spain expelled Jews in 1492. About 30,000 live there now, some of whom

still speak a medieval form of Spanish

known as Ladino.

BIWTC

BIWTC authorities made the amendment just four days before the deadline for dropping bids ended. The authorities did it to provide benefits for a special quarter, he

alleged that the last to drop tender was on November 5, but on October 30 the BIWTC authorities inserted a new condition for bidding. The association alleged that the change was made in order to provide facility for a special section, prompt-

how and experience in vessel-building to stay off the bidding process. Golam Mohammad Siraj chaired the meeting, while the committee members and officials concerned

ing companies with technical know-

Political front

Badruddoza Chowdhury has invited members of the civil society to an iftar party at Hotel Sheraton on

parties, sources said.

cussed the issue with her policymakers including the position of the AL if he $invites\,AL\,leaders\,to\,discuss\,his\,ideas.$

In an application to the shipping ministry and others concerned, Dhaka Dockyard and Engineering Works

he decide to float a new front.

November 22. Afterwards, he is likely to invite leaders of different political AL Chief Sheikh Hasina has dis-

ions of those in BNP who cannot speak in an open forum. He himself said a number of BNP leaders have met him,"

An AL source said the party is keenly watching Badruddoza Chowdhury's moves and will encourage him should

The lawyers for the AL leaders told

Department at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), was transferred to Rangpur. Dr Zahid said Dr Siraj

was promoted but he does not attend

Former BMA vice-president Dr Deen

Iohammad of Kirshoreganj was trans-

ferred to Netrakona. Dr Zahid said Dr Deen is still serving at Kishoreganj. Dr Mostafa Alam Nannu, medica officer, was transferred in January 2002 to Rajapur, Jhalokathi from Bogra. In March the same year, he was transferred to Boda upazila of Panchagarh. A month later, he was put under the Barisal

Dr Zahid said Dr Nannu had

Dr Abdul Khaleq, medical officer,

was transferred to the Chittagong Hill

obtained a fake certificate in child

health and had been involved in ques-

tion leak of the Raishahi Medical College

division health director.

Tracts from Bogra. Regarding Dr Khaleq's transfer, Dr Zahid said, "He is actively involved in politics. He does not attend office, how can he demand justice without giving service to the

The Daily Star obtained names of

many more doctors who have been

targeted by the BMA leadership but is

unable to print their names due to

technical reasons.

The Daily Star sent the allegations in writing to BMA President Prof MA Hadi. The BMA leaders denied the allegations, saying those were totally false and fabricated. Regarding the allegations that the

BMA secures transfer and posting in

collaboration with some officials of the

and posting. The BMA gives no list to the

DGHS requesting transfers in favour of

Law and order

health directorate, BMA said it too is totally baseless. Dr AZM Zahid Hossain also said some people are trying to tarnish the image of the BMA by making false complaints. "We are very transparent and did not interfere with any transfer

earn thousands of crores of taka by encouraging eco-tourism in the region, he added. Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, chairman $of Parbatya\, Chattagram\, Development$ Board, said the government has ensured the highest degree of peace in the CHT region in last 30 years, and

although it suffered a setback due to

the Mahalchhari incident, efforts are

on to move the peace and develop-

ment process forward.

On the other hand, member of the CHT regional council Goutom Chakma complained that the government is reluctant to allow the regional council to participate in development activities, and was not even allocating development funds for the region. He called upon the government to

authorise the council to supervise the

development work because, he said, different agencies are undertaking the same project due to lack of coordination among them. Chairmen of three district councils Manik Lal Dewan of Rangamati, Ma May Ching of Bandarban and Naksatra Lal Dev Tripura of

Khagrachhari were present at the meeting. They also complained about inadequate funds to run development work in their areas and called upon the government to implement the district council laws. Representative of Bomang circle chief Chola Pru Jemi was also present.

AKM Fazlur Rahman heard bail peti $tions\,of\,the\,AL\,leaders\,and\,granted\,them$ anticipatory bail. The AL leaders appeared in court. The HC also asked the government to show cause why the petitioners Comilla and Tangail. $should\,not\,be\,granted\,permanent\,bail\,in$ the cases, filed by leaders of the ruling The other AL leaders, who got bail, are Abdus Samad Azad, Saveda Sajeda Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, Motia