parency. Bangladesh is also not

outside this process. In this

connection we recall with due

respect the relevant comments of

the honourable Chief Justice.

Anti-piracy drive

CPA will give 2 patrol ships to coastguards

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 16: looting of a fishing boat, death of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) five fishermen in a fishing boat. will provide two patrol ships to an attack on a ship of Shell oil co coastguards to intensify patrol at in which an Indonesian second the outer anchorage and coastal officer received bullet wounds. areas to stop piracy.

The steps were taken by CPA as per directive of the Prime Minister to step up coastguard patrol. An inter-ministerial meeting was all concerned to check piracy and held at 4 pm today at Chittagong armed dacoity in the ships. port office with Secretary of Port and Shipping Sohel Ahmed in the activating the respective police

The meeting was organised Mongla port as the pirates and here against the backdrop of recent incidents of piracy, dacoity and theft in the ships during their stay at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port and its adjoining coast, port sources said.

of piracy of last two months here to the government after every two and expressed grave concern over months.

port sources said. However, circulars with guide-

Organisation (IMO) were sent to The meeting suggested for stations in Chittagong and

line of International Maritime

dacoits escape after attacking and looting in the ships. The meeting also suggested formation of a committee with the police stations and other organisations under Chittagong and The meeting reviewed records Mongla ports to submit a report

occurred. Sagar informed the

people at the emergency unit at

DMCH that Rafiqul was a super-

The US Embassy staff, when

contacted over telephone last

night, said they did not know of

any such incident to have taken

place around the embassy pre-

Besides, the ADC, north zone

of DMP told the Daily Star last

night that they visited the spot

and investigated the reported

incident. " But neither local peo-

ple nor our policemen deployed in

the road near the embassy was

said to be the place of occurrence

revealed that addresses of Sagar

and Chandan as recorded in the

hospital register were false, the

police, which visited a house in

the Pallabi area as per the

address of Rafigul Islam recorded

in the hospital register, found

that it was the residence of a

Mymensingh court

From page 12

Ingilab editor ANM Bahauddin,

publisher ASM Bakibillah and

writer of the parody AS Mosharraf

Awami League Abu Nasir Bablu

filed the case against them bring-

Organising secretary of district

However, Magistrate

Mokhlesur Rahman recorded the

statement of the plaintiff and

sought sanction of the ministry

concerned for taking necessary

Israeli funds

From page 12

fighting at a stroke, we would use

much more force," Barak said on

Israel radio. The opposite is true,

and the state of Israel would then

be in a much more complicated

on Fatah offices in the West Bank

towns of Salfit, Tulkarem and

Hebron, as well as an armoury in

Jericho, came in response to

Palestinian shooting ambushes

ethis week that killed two Israeli

civilians and two soldiers.

and large-caliber machine guns

at the West Bank town of Beit

Jalla after Palestinian gunmen

fired from Beit Jalla on the nearby

Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo.

Israeli troops also fire the intense

chiropractor, was killed in the

Fischer's home came under fire

during the intense fighting, and

his family sought shelter under

the stairwell. However, Fischer

left his home at one point to try to

help wounded neighbours, said

Flora's papa

From page 12

tioners in the house. She failed to

recognise a fire place or a central

heating system which are com-

now suspect that Flora might

have been brought up by an

English speaking couple who

knew Bangla well. Alena Khan

said Flora's statements suggest

that her 'papa' might be working

from where they boarded the

often stop at Rajshahi. The

BSEHR intends to take Flora to

different places in the country

next week to unearth the mys-

Another option may be that

Flora came to Sylhet on a direct

flight from London and from there

her father availed a domestic

her 'papa' engaged three persons

to get rid of this innocent girl.

phone no. 018 221212.

The events at ZIA suggest that

Meanwhile Alena Khan has

appealed to all to help trace out

the absconding father. Any one

having any information has been

requested to contact Alena on

flight to Dhaka.

Flights from Syedpur to Dhaka

in Bangladesh, outside Dhaka,

Alena and other investigators

his Palestinian wife, Norma...

mon in houses in London.

flight.

Harald Fischer, 68, a German

firefight raged for several hours.

Israeli troops also fired rockets

The overnight missile attacks

Another case was filed against

name, Pallabi police said.

regard was filed with police.

filed the case on November 8.

at Magura today.

ing treason charge.

steps in this regard.

Meanwhile, a team of Pallabi

Police investigation last night

to mislead police investigation.

ADC said.

about such incident," he said.

visor at a garment factory.

Ex-JCD leader shot

From page 12 declared the victim dead yesterday afternoon, hospital sources

The two young men, who identified themselves as Sagar and Chandan, brought the body of the victim, who was shot five times in his head and chest, at the DMCH at about 2:10 p.m. yesterday.

According to hospital register, Rafigul Islam, 32, former general secretary of JCD's ward no: 91 unit and a resident of the city's Pallabi area, was shot on the road adjacent to the north-east end of the US Embassy.

Sagar and Chandan, however, did not say anything about the killers or how the incident

Bhasani's death

From page 1 Zia also paid tribute to

Moulana Bhasani. BNP formed a high-powered committee to observe the anni-

versary.

Meanwhile, various sociocultural and political organisations in Tangail and Santosh have taken up different programmes to mark the occa-

The programmes include mazar ziarat. Qurankhwani, milad mahfil, feeding of the destitute and discussion on the life and activities of the great leader who fought for the socioeconomic emancipation of the downtrodden throughout his life.

The Trustee Board of the Santosh Islamic University, founded by the Moulana Bhasani, has taken up an eightday programme to observe the day. The programme includes painting competition, discussion and cultural function, placing of wreaths at the mazar, blood and posthumous eve donation and handicrafts and publication show.

Bhasani Academy and Bidrohi Kantha Shahitya Sangsad of Tangail jointly organised a discussion on the life and work of Moulana Bhasani yesterday. Tangail Press Club also organised a similar function on the club premises yesterday.

Court takes Home From page 1

court that if anyone cast any aspersions on court, it was unfortunate. "I am sorry for it," Huq told the court in an apologetic

"I am an officer of this court, I will protect this court. What touches you, it touches me. But, I think nobody wants to undermine the court," the elderly lawyer said.

"Probably, he (Nasim) tried to say that why this unprecedented urgency has been shown by the court to grant bail to a person who is allegedly involved in derogating national anthem and talked about the Bangabandhu

Hug requested the court not to Israeli attack on Beit Jalla. interpret the statement in a way that hampers his case.

Later, appearing before the court in the afternoon, Attorney General Mahmudul Islam sought time. He said he had contacted the parliament secretariat asking for the proceedings to find out whether the newspaper reported correctly or not.

The Attorney General said he would let the court know about the matter when it sits on Sunday.

Degree exams

From page 1 date has been shifted due to floods in the South-western districts.

In the Pass course, there will be 1,12,598 BA examinees; 83, 911 BSS; 19, 866 BSc; 34, 641 B.Com, 33 Bachelor of Music and 2, 797 certificate course

examinees. Examinations in the flood affected south-western districts will be held later. The schedule will be announced soon. But the academic year will remain the

same for all, he added. Stern action will be taken against those who will adopt

unfair means or create any sort of disturbance in examination centres, he said.

KM Maudud Elahi, Pro Vicechancellor, Binoy Raton Baruya. Controller of Examinations and senior official of the National University were present at the press conference.

Farooq was operation director of Aug 15 killings: SPP

Colonel Farooq was the 'operation director' of August 15 killings and tanks moved out of the cantonment at his command, prosecution said,

Showing documents on the retired army officer's involvement Special Public Prosecutor Advocate Serajul Huq told the High Court that Farooq had made the operational plan and deployment of forces in

different strategic points to execute the plan for killing Bangabandhu. The lawyer, on the 55th day yesterday of death reference and appeal hearings in the Bangabandhu Murder Case, said Col (rtd) Farooqur Rahman had got involved in the plot since the (March 1974) meeting at

BARD, where the seed of the conspiracy was sown. Further reading out from different evidences given by 23 witnesses. he said it is beyond doubt that Faroog was the operation director of the August 15 carnage.

Faroog was seen along with Col Rashid in the BARD meeting, had meeting with Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed there for 40 minutes. Although what discussion took place could not be known, now it can easily be guessed that it was linked with the August 15 killing.

Further evidence shows how Farooq tried to agitate the soldiers at the parade ground in the early hours of August 15. The convicted killer told the court that he had told the officers and

soldiers that to protect the country and people, to resist BKSAL, the only key was Sheikh Mujib and he needed to be brought to Cantonment for making a proclamation. "If there be any resistance, then he (Bangabandhu) will be exe-

cuted," he told the court, quoting a witness, who again quoted Farooq as saying this while addressing the troops. Farooq placed the tanks at Shahbag, Kalabagan, Dhanmondi and other strategic points to facilitate the killing of Bangabandhu, Huq told

the court. Furthermore, the convicted army officer in his confessional statement also had narrated his activities on August 15, how he made the deployment of tanks and how he reached near Bangabandhu's resi-

dence at about 7 in the morning. He took a jeep from Kalabagan leaving his tank there to reach the

radio station hurriedly to make radio announcement immediately

which the prosecutor termed "masterstroke." "By announcing the death of Bangabandhu the killers stopped any attempt of the people for building resistance or any such move," Hug

At this stage, the court, drawing a defence argument, wanted to know if Farooq was involved in the August 15 incident, then why he did not kill Bangabandhu when he was in charge of security of the Presi-

He, at that time, was not the Commanding Officer (CO) of Lancer Unit, and when he became Acting CO following absence of the CO, the operation plan was executed. Because without the order of the CO

tanks cannot leave the cantonment area, the prosecutor argued. About requirement of order of the Army Chief on movements of tanks, Hug told the court that Farooq ignored that and neither Gen Shafiullah nor the 46 Brigade Commander was informed about the

tank movements on that night. While making his address to the troops at the parade ground before leaving for the killing operation, Farooq also said 'if we can't do anything, then the country will be grabbed by India'. Presenting this quote Huq submitted that this cheap slogan was

used only to agitate the soldiers. Further to show the complicity of Farooq with the conspiracy and killing. Hug said his confessional statement also said that he was an

assistant of Khandaker Mushtaque. "So, Farooq was not a stranger, he was very much involved in this case, which different witnesses and he (Farooq) himself also admitted. The Chief Prosecution Counsel, Serajul Huq, was assisted by DAG Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, AAG Anisul Huq, AAG Mosharraf Hossain Kajol, AAG Haider Ali, AAG Towfiqa Karim and AAG Nurul

Islam Sujon. The death-reference bench comprising Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice ABM Khairul Hug will continue hearing on Sunday on the question of confirming the death sentences against 15 former army officers.

Hasina challenges Khaleda's claim of 63per cent vote

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has challenged opposition leader the area for the protection of the Khaleda Zia's claim that the BNPembassy could say anything led alliance would secure 63 per cent vote in the next general He suspected that the victim elections. was shot at some other place but

"She must be dreaming... Since she is dreaming, why should she expect less?" Hasina quipped at a press conference at her office yesterday afternoon.

She said the opposition would never get such percentage of votes, for the people would frustrate her plan to rig the next polls. "The calculation of votes for the four parties in the alliance is not realistic. Because, party-wise counting of votes and aggregate votes of the four parties would not match. Every candidate has some

different person by the same reserved votes and a common candidate can never bag the votes None was arrested till 9 last of all others who support him, she night. Besides, no case in this explained. Besides, the prime minister alleged, the BNP had to step down for rigging elections in February 15, 1996.

She accused the BNP of getting majority by rigging the polls. "But such a practice will not be possible this time.

Hasina, also President of ruling Awami League, claimed that people wanted to see her party back to power for another term to enjoy the benefit of socioeconomic programmes her government has initiated.

Referring to a 21-year long 'propaganda' against her party, the AL chief said the people are

Later in the afternoon, at a

press conference at her office, she

said that the HC event had

now understand how the court is

running ... Had the court shown

similar sincerity to ordinary

citizens, there should not be so

many pending cases. The trials

should have also been speedier.

And people would have got jus-

The prime minister com-

mented that the higher court

appeared too eager to act only

when someone was charged with

ment, Sengupta blasted the judi-

the Supreme Court for the mid-

Constitution, which has defined

the terms of references and the

authority of three state organs --

the legislature, the judiciary and

Constitution and discharge his or

her duties accordingly," he said.

"Everybody has to abide by the

ciary and a section of lawyers in

Meanwhile, back in the parlia-

He said nobody is above the

treason.

night session.

the executive.

"People of the country should

stunned the whole nation.

now much more aware of such propaganda and have put faith in her party because they were benefited from the AL rule. In this regard, she highlighted her government's achievements in various fields, especially in the rural

One gets life-term for throwing acid on girl By Court Correspondent

The Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, yesterday awarded life-term rigorous imprisonment to one Kuddus for throwing acid on a teenage girl. Judge Mohammad Shah Alam Miah found Mohammad Kuddus of Sabujbagh thana in the city

guilty and gave the verdict. The convict Kuddus threw acid on the victim Mosammat Sathi, 13, a student of class six at midnight on March 11 in 1997 through the window of a room of her maternal uncle's house

where she was sleeping. Sathi's maternal uncle filed a case with Sabujbagh thana accusing Kuddus under the Act for Prevention of Women and Children Repression the following day.

The investigation officer of the case submitted a charge sheet against Kuddus before the CMM court, Dhaka on May 27, 1997.

PM questions HC's intent

integrated practices dictated by

rejected politicians wearing black

coats" is manipulating the judi-

ciary with self-serving interpreta-

The higher court cannot con-

vene a midnight session to bail

out a person, who dishonoured

symbol of our hard-earned sover-

eignty and independence. We

gained our national anthem at

and people who believe in an

independent and sovereign Ban-

gladesh to resist the conspiracy of

changing the national anthem by

the High Court sat at midnight to

grant bail to the accused in a

treason case," Sengupta told the

House. "It must not happen in a

The nation also expected a suo

'The judges felt embarrassed

moto from the High Court when

the national anthem was under-

mined by the daily, Suranjit said.

'The nation wondered when

the vicious quarter.

sovereign state."

"Democracy cannot work without repeatedly to hear the

He urged the freedom fighters

the expense of millions of people.

'The national anthem is the

tion of the laws, Sengupta said.

the national anthem, he said.

A vicious circle of "several

the Constitution."

"We've overcome the crisis arising out of such propaganda. Percentage of votes in favour of Awami League has increased further," she said referring to her party's prospect in the ensuing general elections.

The press conference was organised on her return from Qatar where she attended the OIC conference. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Foreign Secretary C. M. Shafi Sami, PM's Principal Secretary Dr S.A. Samad and her Press Secretary Jawadul Karim were also present on the occasion.

Besides the OIC summit, the prime minister also replied to questions on various issues. To a question about the CHT

peace accord, the prime minister blamed the BNP for conspiring against peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). She claimed to have specific information that some BNP MPs , who were still active to create anarchy because of restoration of peace in the region, had to stop smuggling of arms and drugs in the country.

But she did not name those MPs for the sake of investigation. 'We're keeping an eve on them and will disclose everything in

The PM also accused the main opposition party of conspiring to upset peace process in the CHT since the agreement was signed three years ago. Besides, many other quarters are also involved in the heinous act, she added.

Bangabandhu Muder Case. But

can it explain how a judge can sit

at night to grant anticipatory bail

to the accused in a sedition case?"

less when the Supreme Court is

being politicised. And it should be

the politicians in the struggle for

democracy, Suranjit asked, "How

many judges were jailed for the

cause of democracy? It is the

politicians, who shed blood on the

streets and were sent to prison by

Sengupta also criticised Leader

of the Opposition Khaleda Zia for

her alleged support for the Inqilab

editor. She issued a statement

condemning the treason case

filed against the editor, he added.

Earlier, while proposing a full-

length discussion on Tuesday's

episode at the High Court, JP

legislator Rabbi said that grant-

ing anticipatory bails even to a

lesser activist of a particular

political party had become a

regular phenomenon nowadays.

"We (the lawmakers) feel help-

While talking about the role of

he asked.

stopped," he said.

the autocrats."

Businessman

vesterday evening.

his hand and leg.

shots and exploded crackers when the businessman was walking on the road near Naya Paltan at about 5:30pm and snatched the money from him. When contacted, Motifheel

police could not confirm the amount but estimated it to be between Tk six and eight lakh. A case has been filed with

Bank dacoity in Khulna

KHULNA, Nov 16: Four armed men stormed into a branch of Agrani Bank at Shamsur road here today and looted a sum of Tk one lakh and six thousand from cash section keeping five officials

According to Manager of the branch, four masked armed voungmen looted the money at gunpoint and escaped by motor cycles exploding a grenade.

bank for lunch.

US issues 'Eid

By DU Correspondent The United States Postal Service issued a stamp in Washington on November 13 on the occasion of holy Eid, said a USIS press release.

stamp, which is gracefully executed in gold against a blue background, is reminiscent of many great works of Islamic calligra-

Designed by calligrapher Mohammad Zakariya, the stamp features the Arabic phrase 'Eld Mubarak.

vice honoured three US holidays with stamps Eid, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Usually most US postal stamps bear the pictures of late presidents, statesmen, sports figures, wildlife scenes, and inventors.

In November 1999, Representatives Dana Rohrabacher, California, and Thomas M. Davis, Virginia, introduced legislation that a US postage stamp should be issued recognising the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. The resolution noted that there are more than "five million practising Muslims in the US, who represent one of the fastest growing segments of American society.'

shot, robbed of Tk 11 lakh By Staff Correspondent

Muggers shot a businessman and took away Tk 11 lakh from him in the city's Noya Paltan area The businessman, identified

as Arun Bhaumik, was admitted Police and witnesses said a

group of miscreants fired gun-

Motified thana in this connection.

From Staff Correspondent

confined in the locker room.

The incident occurred just at a time when 13 out of 18 official and employees were out of the

Mubarak' stamp

The 33-cent "Eid Mubarak"

This year, the US Postal Ser-

to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet injuries in

between two party stalwarts Abdus Samad Azad and Suranjit Sengupta in Sunamgani, a move that ended disputes in party units in the district. The rank and file in the district AL appreciated the move, insiders

Central leaders of the party will start touring districts and meet

ing party leaders at all levels to resolve disputes. The programme may begin from January, said

> The third strategy is to summon district leaders to Dhaka separately for "counselling" at the AL Election Office at Dhanmondi.

The party is also considering a special extended meeting of its Central Working Committee

sometime after the Ramadan.

to attend the meeting, sources Many party leaders are very

ies of district units will be asked

critical of the decision-makers who are "unnecessarily taking a long time to resolve the internal They (the decision-makers) knew about the internal prob-

lems but did not take any move to resolve those in the last four years. The party high command maintained a sort of status quo in fear of an outburst," one insider said. They recalled that the last

triennial council of the party held in June this year was of the view that intra-party conflicts were eating into the party base. Many councillors urged the

party leadership to resolve disputes or to take action against those who break party discipline. But the following months saw more incidents of violence resulting from disputes in party units.

Dispute over Malika College

From page 12 mises at Dhanmondi Road 7/A (House 72) with the help of local MP and Chairman of the College Governing Body Alhaj Mokbul

She has also alleged that the college authorities on Tuesday evicted her along with family members from the building and the premises, which is also their home,' violating a court injunc-

On the other hand, Principal of the college Mohammad Ishaq alleged that the adopted daughters and their relatives are trying to misappropriate the college property taking advantage of hospitalisation of Dr Malika. He denied that Maksuda Akhtar Quale, her two sisters and their children were evicted.

The principal said that the three sisters were trying to draw peoples' sympathy and destroy the image of the college authorities by saving that they were not giving any financial assistance to 90-year-old Dr Malika, hospitalised on Tuesday. He claimed that the college authorities gave her Tk 88,000 as house rent (accumulated for some period) in last two days. 'We also employed two women to take care of her," he added.

This correspondent, while visiting the college yesterday, saw one of the adopted daughters and some children there.

A childless Dr Malika, known as the first woman in the country with a doctorate degree, adopted several daughters including three sisters during their childhood decades ago. They grew up on the

college premises.

Dr Malika decided to turn her residence into an educational institution in 1982. She set up Dr Malika Science Institute in that college."

year and became its principal. The institution was recognised by Dhaka Board and Dhaka University in 1984 and 1986 respectively. Dr Malika donated her house and wealth to it through a trust in 1990.

There are about 400 students in the college now. The number was about 900 some three years

Ishaq claimed that a certain quarter is trying to 'capture the college' while the college authorities are trying to 'protect it'.

Sabiha Saleh Uddin, head of English department at the college, said they are victims of a deep rooted conspiracy by those sheltered at the building by Dr Shafiqul Islam, a teacher of Botany department, said there

college three years back but the number began to decrease following conspiracy by the 'sisters and their accomplices. Tofazzal Hossain, a teacher of English department, said that they were continuing their academic activities despite an

were about 900 students at the

unhealthy situation created by people at the college. Maksuda Akhter Quale, in a statement, alleged that following a news report in a Bangla daily on Wednesday, the college authorities and Alhaj Mokbul Hossain were issuing threat to Dr Malika to hand over the ground floor of

the building to the authorities. The college authorities alleged that Dr Malika's adopted daughter and Vice Principal of the college Suraaiya Akhter, assistant accountant Mahfuza Dali, her sister and office assistant Tahmina Dali and another employee are trying to 'grab the

BNP goes solo on grand rally

From page 12 participation at the Paltan rally.

They said the rally has been part of a massive showdown before the Ramadan. BNP leaders said the party is not depending on its allies as long as holding the rally is concerned as its previous experiences were not pleasant. Even the participation of the allies in the November 7 mass procession was not at all satisfactory, said a BNP leader.

The leader said the BNP is doing everything to make the rally at "complete" success.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will address the gathering as chief guest. Chiefs of other parties are scheduled to attend the gathering although there still is uncertainty over whether Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad would attend it. The High Court has ordered Ershad to surrender before the trial court by November 23. The deposed president has already announced that he

will appear before the lower court on November 20.

BNP Secretary-General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and City BNP President Sadek Hossain Khoka have already held a series of meetings with party's different units and front organisations and took up massive programmes in favour of the November 23 rally.

Bhuiyan is expected to sit with district leaders soon and ask them to participate in the public rally. He told The Daily Star that

efforts have been taken to make the November 23 grand public meeting a complete success. He said the current street agitation would be expedited through holding the planned meeting. However, there is allegation

that the BNP hardliners are not

actively participating in the

party programmes and have

refrained from making any

efforts to hold the scheduled

rally. Sources said the hardliners apparently opposed the November 7 mass procession and abstained from attending various meetings.

Sources said the hardliners hardly attend street programmes, but they have always been provoking the policymakers to go for tougher action against the ruling Awami League to intensify the current movement.

Meanwhile, the city BNP is ahead of the central committee as far as preparation for the rally is concerned. Sources said the city unit is holding workers meeting and conference at all the 100 wards in the city.

wards till November 22.

City BNP General Secretary Abdus Salam told The Daily Star yesterday that the city committee has started holding workers meeting at different wards from November 11 and plans to hold such programmes in at least 50

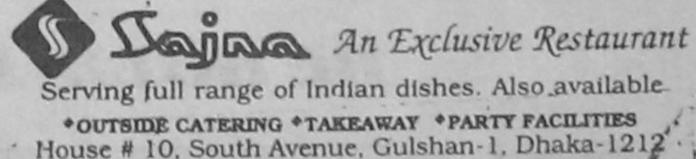
Besides, Salam said the city unit will organise four big public rallies in four corners of the city to mobilise public support. He said central leaders and party MPs are taking part in the programmes at ward and thana

to hold the November 23 public meeting at Paltan Maidan in a big way on our own. Party activists from other districts and thanas may attend the meeting. but it's the matter of the central committee," he added.

Abdus Salam said the city committee has also decided to complete conference of at least 50 wards during the month of Ramadan. He said a month-long organisational programme will be announced immediately after the Nov 23 rally.

Eating Out







catering

9128737

He said steps have been taken to distribute leaflets and posters all over the city from November 19 to 22. We have the capability

House # 10, South Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212 Tel: 8811684, 8812458 Fax: 880-2-8828802. E-mail:sajna@citechgo.net

Call for outside Symphony of Dining

House No. 2, Road No. 11 (New), Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka -1209, Telephone:

By bringing to the notice of our "We gratefully acknowledge the highest state and judicial body we fact that generally, our judiciary think we have assisted them in has always upheld the cause of investigating these events and free press. Therefore, we believe taking precipitous action so that that instead of issuing showour judiciary is cleansed of any cause notices against newspatendency that hamper or damage pers, justice will be far better its prestige and dignity. The served if the contents of our newspapers in this case have only reports are investigated and upheld People's Right to Know. actions taken as per our Consti-

Frequent contempt

not good for the judiciary. Newspaper reports on these events, we

believe, assist the judiciary to

maintain its high public image.

"Similarly, we are also commit

ted to uphold freedom of press.

We believe that a free and inde-

"We, the editors and publishers tution. Assistance of the Supreme of national dailies, have always Judicial Council may be sought been fully committed to the indein this regard. This is the best way pendence of the judiciary. This to keep our judiciary and the commitment is rooted in the Supreme Court free from controbelief that an independent judiversies and uphold their glorious clary is a precondition for rule of tradition and image". law and the citizen's rights to Signatories to the statement justice. It is in pursuance of the are: Mahbubul Alam, Editor and same belief that the national Publisher, Independent; Bazlur dailies have also consistently and Rahman, Editor, Sangbad; Kazi firmly upheld the cause of full independence of the judiciary from the executive branch of the

Shahed Ahmad, Editor and Publisher Ajker Kagoj; Atiqullah Khan Masud, Editor and Publisher, Janakantha; Rahat Khan, acting Editor, Ittefaq; Motiur Rahman, Editor, Protham Alo; Mizanur Rahman Mizan, Editor pendent press ensures citizen's and Publisher, Dainik Khabar; Constitutional rights of freedom Golam Sarwar, Editor, Jugantar; of speech and freedom of expres-AM Mofazzal, Editor, New Nation; Igbal Ahmed, Editor, Muktakantha; Mahfuz Anam, Editor, The Daily Star; Benzir Ahmad, acting Editor, Bhorer Kagoj; Zahiduzzaman Faruk, Editor, Dainik Arthaniti; Motiur Rahman Chowdhury, Editor, Manab Jamin; Moazzem Hossain,

sion. It is also a pre-condition for promotion and protection of the whole range of people's fundamental rights. Also, without a free and independent press, People's Right to Know cannot be ensured. The spread of democratic process in the present world has significantly changed the concept of contempt of court. Peoples' Editor and Publisher, The Financial Express and Igbal Sobhan Right to Know is given priority in all cases in the interest of democ-Chowdhury, Editor, Bangladesh racy, accountability and trans-

Factional feuds fret AL From page 1 Presidents and general secretar-

So far, she held meetings with

33 out of 70 organisational dis-

trict units of the party. "Her coun-

selling has already earned some

Hasina's personal initiative

resolved a long-drawn rivalry

dividend for AL," one insider said.