

Tk 100 Prize Bond Draw held

The 22nd draw of the Tk 100 Prize Bond was held at the Dhaka Commissioner's office yesterday, says a press release.

Table with 5 columns showing winning numbers and amounts for various prize categories like 'Prize of Tk 100,000/-', 'Prize of Tk 25,000/-', etc.

Opposition trying to create rift between PM, President Nasim tells JS

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim in Parliament yesterday said the opposition is trying to create a conflict between the Prime Minister and the President.

President, citing instances, had upheld the success of the Awami League government in the last four and a half years. "If Awami League is voted to power for another consecutive term, Bangladesh will become a model of development in Southeast Asia."

KU agitation

FROM PAGE 12 From the dormitory and cancelled admission of 22 first year female students on January 25 before submission of report by a probe body formed to investigate an untoward incident on the campus on January 21.

SC upholds HC verdict in Smriti Kona Rape Case

The full bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court verdict in the sensational Smriti Kona Rape Case.

Lawyers threaten

FROM PAGE 12 formula and is ready to meet the Prime Minister for discussing it, they added.

Dacoity at Press Institute

Robbers looted valuables worth about Tk 40 thousand from Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) after assaulting its gate keeper at city's Circuit House Road yesterday morning, a PIB press release said.

Hasina to visit Sunamganj today

UNB, DHAKA

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to visit Sunamganj district today to address public meetings and lay foundation stone of a bridge over the river Kushiya.

DRU award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theft Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) has selected Tarun Sarker and Tariqul Haq Tariq of daily Prothom Alo for the 'Martyred Wife Hasna Hena Kadir Memorial Award' for writing a report on the Liberation War.

New Year session

FROM PAGE 12 the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, passed reports on two Bills The Supreme Court Judges (Leave, Pension and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill 2000 and the Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privilege) Amendment Bill 2001.

2 stabbed to death

FROM PAGE 1 Nirmal was first rushed to the Midford Hospital and later shifted to the DMCH as his condition deteriorated. He died there at noon.

Shikdar, Faruque

FROM PAGE 12 illicit relations with Khodeja Begum, first wife of Ershad Shikdar as learnt from the judicial statement of Noor-e-Alam on August 31 in 1999.

BNP meetings

FROM PAGE 1 Another senior leader said Khaleda has advised the party policymakers to take up programmes that might involve people in the BNP campaign without disrupting public life.



BNP lawmaker Barrister Nazmul Huda speaking at a meeting of the Ainjibi Oikya Parishad at the South Hall of the Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday. The meeting was held to protest the appointment of two judges in the Appellate Division at the Supreme Court.

PM blasts Daily Star

FROM PAGE 1 Referring to the question about a reported move by the President to resign, Hasina said, "Did they expect that I would get nervous by such a question? What I replied is that it entirely depends on the President. We cannot stop him from resigning if he decides so. And in that case, we will have to elect a new President."

carried this news in their front pages. The Daily Star editorially commented on the PM's reply and asked the President to "ignore this provocation".

She said after forming government in 1991 with the support of Jamaat's 18 PMs Khaleda "rigged all elections" starting from parliamentary by-polls to Union Council.

Referring to the Star editorial that made an appeal to the President not to resign in the face of any provocation, the PM rather held the Daily Star responsible for making such a provocation.

After several other questions were asked by other reporters, the Daily Star correspondent who covered the occasion asked a question about the recent rowdiness at the Supreme Court by a group of pro-opposition lawyers and the possibility of her meeting with five senior lawyers.

The Prime Minister said Ershad was now jailed in a corruption case filed by the Khaleda Zia government while Khaleda was charged for corruption in buying two aircraft and illegal renovation of her houses.

The PM picked the Daily Star editorial while ridiculing the BNP for its sudden love for the President. She recalled that her party sacrificed a lot to elect a person of national consensus like Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as the President. But, she regretted, BNP then not only refrained from voting for Shahabuddin but also challenged his election as President.

The prime minister's comment involving the Daily Star drew instant reaction from the journalists in the parliament's press galleries and elsewhere because of the fact that it was not the Star reporter who asked the question.

"Many other corruption charges are there against her, but it is unfortunate that on many occasions, inquiry into corruption cannot continue for court orders."

Linking the Star's editorial position with BNP's advice to the President, an angry Hasina said they were trying to provoke (the President to resign) with a view to creating anarchy and harming democracy in the country.

A close aide of the Prime Minister who was present at the press briefing on January 26, told The Daily Star in the evening that he himself could clearly recall that it was the Dinkal reporter who asked the question on the president and not of The Daily Star.

The meeting, chaired by CPB President Manjulur Ansan Khan, decided that there would be picketing at 20 strategic points in the city in presence of central leaders of the alliance.

It may be recalled that a reporter of the daily Dinkal Mokhlesur Rahman Choudhury asked the question about the President during the prime minister's press conference at the Gana Bhaban on January 26. The Dinkal reporter asked, "a Bangla tabloid has reported that the President may resign. What are your comments about it?"

General Ershad also resorted to corruption and killed opposition members to cling to power through farcical vote in 1988. "But the people pulled down his autocratic regime," she said.

A fresh programme will be announced at a public rally of the alliance at 3 pm today at Mukhtangon in the city, meeting sources said.

With this, Ershad Shikdar has been sentenced to death in seven murder cases and life-term in another murder case. He was acquitted of a police assault case, a KMP source said.

Recalling the post-75 politics, Hasina said Zia killed many officers and soldiers of army and persecuted innumerable Awami League leaders and workers to stay in power through mock elections.

Besides the bomb attack on the CPB rally on January 20, the meeting discussed the overall law and order situation, corruption by the rulers, delayed supply of textbooks and increase in transport fares and power-water-gas tariff.

"In reply to this, the PM said, "It is entirely up to him. He has the right to resign any time. We cannot stop him from resigning if he wants to do so. In that case we will have to elect a new President." All newspapers

Defending the filing of case against BNP leader Morshed Khan MP under the Public Safety Act, Hasina said "Law is equal for all," adding whenever legal actions are taken against armed terrorists, the opposition starts a clamour and tries to give them political colour.

Hospitals, clinics, medicine shops, fire brigade, essential services for supply of water, power and gas, ambulance and transports carrying journalists and pilgrims, kitchen markets and food shops have been exempted from the purview of the hartal.

Filtered facts about BAMWSP

FROM PAGE 1 slow pace of work at the field level. There have been reports of gross irregularities in identifying contaminated tube-wells. In many instances, like in the case of Hajiganj of Chandpur district, tube-wells were painted red to mark arsenic contamination but field method tests later confirmed that some of those tube-wells had no trace of arsenic.

received training on proper identification of patients but most of those who received training are paid poorly resulting in below-par effort in the project's activities, sources in BAMWSP observed.

conduct river training, river training work or utilise the flow of the Naf river or its waters on its own side of the international boundary for industrial purpose, drainage, water conservancy, irrigation, generation of hydro-electric power and the like to such an extent as to prejudice the interest of the other party."

One gets life term in Lockerbie trial

FROM PAGE 1 Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi was found guilty at the end of an 84-day trial and given a mandatory life sentence in a Scottish prison, while co-accused Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah was acquitted.

"I think we would expect that certainly to be the minimum, and think Libya should pay more. We would be looking for a payment of at least that amount."

UN sanctions against Libya, including an embargo on commercial flights and some trade, as well as a freezing of assets, were suspended in April 1999 when it agreed to hand over the two suspects for trial.

They are to be lifted only when Libya has complied with UN demands to take responsibility for the actions of its officials - if convicted - and to pay appropriate compensation.

He said Britain would study the judgement carefully to "assess whether Libya has complied with the will of the international community, as laid down in UN resolutions."

Although Arafat has said he would negotiate with any new Israeli government, most analysts say progress is unlikely under Sharon, who supports Jewish settlers and has vowed not to compromise on occupied East Jerusalem.

Hasina tells JS

FROM PAGE 1 could bring any charge of corruption, misappropriation of public funds or rigging in any by-election or local-body elections against Awami League.

court of law. About her remarks at last Friday's press conference about the President's resignation, the Prime Minister said opposition leader Khaleda Zia is shedding crocodile tears for President Shahabuddin Ahmed whose candidacy BNP had opposed and against whom they filed a case.

Rather, she claimed, transparency and accountability of the government was established and socioeconomic status of the people improved through practice of democracy.

Explaining her position, Hasina said it was Awami League MPs who elected him to the office, sacrificing party interest with an idea that all political parties would accept him. But not only did the BNP MPs oppose him, the opposition leader did not also send any felicitation after his election.

Referring to the controversy over the appointment of two High Court judges to the Appellate Division, Hasina categorically said the judges were promoted in line with the Constitution.

The Prime Minister said after forming the government, she and her sister Sheikh Rehana convinced him to take up the presidency thinking that he would be acceptable by all as a non-controversial person. Besides, President Shahabuddin was the common choice of Awami League and BNP to head the caretaker government in 1990.

Hasina said the appointment of the two judges was given on consultation between the President and the Chief Justice. She said the CJ sent four names of judges to the President. Then she sent the file to the President for his approval.

About her comment about the President's intention to resign, Hasina said that it was the President's independent decision and everybody knows that if the President takes any decision, it does not change.

Referring to Article 48 (3) of the Constitution, she said the Prime Minister's advice to the President cannot be even questioned in a

"What else I could reply? Should I get nervous ... This is his independent decision," Hasina said.

Cinema-crazed From Page 12

WINDOWPANES OF THE MOVIE HOUSE. At least 20 vehicles were damaged during the incident, which disrupted traffic in the area.

Appeal to PM

FROM PAGE 12 family have very good relations with the uncles in whose houses he was brought up.

Several gunshots were fired and crackers exploded during the incident that lasted for about an hour. None was however injured.

Tipu Sultan said Hazari gave the statement to mislead the honourable Prime Minister and the Home Minister.

Responding to call for help from hall authorities, police rushed to the cinema hall and brought the situation under control.

"Joyal Hazari is responsible for the heinous attack on me," Tipu said from his hospital bed. "I never did politics. I always maintained objectivity in my reports," said the newsman who won the best UNB correspondent award last year.

The hall authorities later suspended all shows scheduled for yesterday citing unavoidable reasons.

Tipu Sultan expressed his gratitude to journalists from various newspapers and news agencies for reporting on the attack on him.

When contacted, Motijheel police said that police were deployed in and around Madhumita to avert further trouble.

Following the press reports, MP Hazari said BNP is trying to fish in the troubled waters. Such statement is very unfortunate."

It was the second attack on Madhumita Hall since the International Film Festival began on January 25. A group of youths on Monday also attacked the movie house and damaged some windowpanes.

11-party

FROM PAGE 1 The meeting, chaired by CPB President Manjulur Ansan Khan, decided that there would be picketing at 20 strategic points in the city in presence of central leaders of the alliance.

Early hearing

FROM PAGE 12 split verdict concerning five of the 15 accused in the case, given by a Division Bench of the HC on December 14 last.

A fresh programme will be announced at a public rally of the alliance at 3 pm today at Mukhtangon in the city, meeting sources said.

He had fixed February 14 for the next order in the case after a hearing on January 17.

Besides the bomb attack on the CPB rally on January 20, the meeting discussed the overall law and order situation, corruption by the rulers, delayed supply of textbooks and increase in transport fares and power-water-gas tariff.

He had also set January 31 as the deadline for completion of paper book incorporating the split verdict in which Justice Ruhul Amin acquitted the five and Justice Khairul Huq upheld the death sentence of all the 15 accused.

It also discussed possibility of building a 'left-democratic alternative' outside the AL-BNP polarisation.

The 15 former military officers were sentenced to death by trial court on November 8, 1998 for murdering Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and members of his family at his residence on August 15, 1975.

Defending the filing of case against BNP leader Morshed Khan MP under the Public Safety Act, Hasina said "Law is equal for all," adding whenever legal actions are taken against armed terrorists, the opposition starts a clamour and tries to give them political colour.

The AG was accompanied by Deputy Attorney General Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Anisul Huq.

Team visits Naf border today

FROM PAGE 1 vey and water resources experts and officials conferred.

The team will fly to Whaikong-Palangkhal Border Outpost near Teknaf by helicopter this morning to meet the Myanmar side and conduct a survey of the structures on the Naf river.

"We are looking forward to an amicable solution," Janibul Haq told this correspondent.

The Naf river marks the border in the south-eastern part of the country and the area witnessed exchange of fire between border guards of the two countries on January 8 over building of an embankment by Myanmar on its side of the river, violating an agreement signed in 1966 and renewed in 1980.

Clause Five of the Agreement on the Naf river says: "The contracting parties agree that neither party shall

conduct river training, river training work or utilise the flow of the Naf river or its waters on its own side of the international boundary for industrial purpose, drainage, water conservancy, irrigation, generation of hydro-electric power and the like to such an extent as to prejudice the interest of the other party."

Another Palestinian shot dead

FROM PAGE 12 FROM PAGE 12 caretaker Prime Minister Ehud Barak put diplomatic negotiations on hold until after the leadership election on February 6.

Although Arafat has said he would negotiate with any new Israeli government, most analysts say progress is unlikely under Sharon, who supports Jewish settlers and has vowed not to compromise on occupied East Jerusalem.

Palestinians have said the situations will worsen if Sharon is elected, a likely possibility considering opinion polls that give him a steady double-digit lead over Barak.

Many Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who blame Sharon for triggering the four-month uprising and Barak for trying to crush it with an iron fist, say they see no difference between the two candidates.

"After the election, we expect further deterioration of the situation if Sharon assumes power," Zakariya al-Agha, a leading Palestine Liberation Organization figure, told official Palestinian radio.

Palestinian officials, however, are increasingly drawing a distinction between the two and Abed Rabbo made an unusual call Tuesday on Palestinians with Israeli citizenship to vote for Barak.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, the information minister of Yasser Arafat's self-rule Palestinian Authority, openly called on Palestinians and Arabs to rise up against Sharon, whom he described as a "rabi," "dangerous" and "obsessed" man.

"The logic that says that all are alike is a very dangerous logic," he was quoted as saying in the daily al-Hayat al-Jadida newspaper.

"Sharon constitutes a danger to the peace process and Palestinians and Arabs are called on to stand against him in unity," Abed Rabbo told Voice of Palestine radio.

"It is as if we say to the world and the Arab world that the situation won't be different from the current situation if Sharon comes to power."