# NEWS

### 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. Additional Commissioner Dhiraj Malakar presided over the ceremony.

The winning numbers are as follows: প্রথম পুরুরার - টাঃ ৬,০০,০০০/- ০০২০৯৪৪

> - টাঃ ৩,২৫,০০০/- ০৮২২২২২ তৃতীয় পুরস্কার প্রতিটি ১,০০,০০০/- টাকার মোট ২টি পুরস্কার

<u>চতুর্থ ্রবংগর প্রতিটি ৫০,০০০/- টাকার মোট ২টি গুরস্কার</u>

পঞ্জ পুরস্কার প্রতিটি ১০,০০০/- টাকার মোট ৪০টি পুরস্কার

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## **Opposition trying to** create rift between PM, President

Nasim tells JS

UNB, FDhaka

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

He said the party, which had boycotted the President's speech in the House and questioned the legitimacy of President Shahabuddin Ahmed, is now shedding crocodile tears.

"They're doing so as they have failed to carry out their responsibility in parliament," the Home Minister said speaking on thanksgiving motion on the President's New Year speech in parliament.

Nasim said that his leader, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has always shown respect for the President and called on him to brief on different issues. On the contrary, during the regimes of Ershad and he mentioned that Khaleda Zia, during her tenure as prime minister. had never called on President Abdur ment programme in the communi-Rahman Biswas at his office. cations sector, has made mobile Referring to President

Shahabuddin's New Year's speech in parliament, Nasim said the

### **KU** agitation

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

They further alleged that a section of employees assaulted male and female students on January 21 while thev were demanding solutior to the accommodation problem of the students.

They said the provost of the female dormitory had locked the main gate for several hours as the students wanted to talk to him on January 21. As a result, students of Biotechnology and Pharmacy failed to sit for their examinations on time.

The students alleged that the Registrar Abdur Razzag Sarker and his son, who is also an employee of the university, led an attack on the students in different messes in Nirala area near the campus at around 11:30 pm on January 22.

There are only three dormitories on the campus for 2000 students. The authorities declared the varsity closed for an indefinite period following the incident on January

The students, who addressed the press conference, declined to disclose their identity saying, "We are afraid of the authorities.

### Lawyers threaten

FROM PAGE 12

formula and is ready to meet the Prime Minister for discussing it, they

The team led by Barrister Sved Ishtiaque Ahmed has been trying to resolve the issue proposing elevation of two High Court (HC) judges to

the SC as they were superceded by the two judges appointed in the SC. Their appointment sparked off an

unprecedented protest by proopposition lawyers at the SC on January 11.

Barrister Nazmul Huda MP and addressed by, among others, Barrister Aminul Huq, Zainul Abedin , Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokan and Golam Mohammad

The speakers bitterly criticised Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Suranjit Sen Gupta for what they termed his áudacious and indecent remarks' against the

They demanded cancellation of his membership of the SC Bar Association and the Bar Council.

The Parishad leaders also demanded of the government to find out Emdadul Huq, a lawyer in

Jessore, who was 'abducted.' The next meeting of the Parishad

### 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 Kushiyara.

She will address a public meeting at Jamalganj and then lay the foundation stone of the bridge at

### DRU award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thef Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) has selected Tarun Sarker and Tarigul Hag Tarig of daily Prothom Alo for the 'Martyred Wife Hasna Hena Kadir Memorial Award' for writing a report on the Liberation

The awards will be handed over tomorrow at a ceremony at the DRU office in the city at 4 pm

Noted artist Ferdoushi Privobhashini will remain present at the programme as the chief quest.

### New Year session

FROM PAGE 12 the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, placed 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.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Home Minister Mohammad Nasim Communications Minister Anwar Hossain and several others members took part in vesterday's discussion on the Presidential address.

In her winding up speech, the Leader of the House thanked all concerned for their cooperation in running the 21st session smoothly

### 2 stabbed to death

Nirmal was first rushed to the Midford Hospital and later shifted to the DMCH as his condition deteriorated. He died there at noon. When contacted, Kotwali police

said they were aware of the incident, but none was arrested in this connection till filing of this report last night.

#### Shikdar, Faruque FROM PAGE 12

llicit relations with Khodeja Begum, first wife of Ershad Shikder as learnt from the judicial statement of Noore-Alam on August 31 in 1999.

This murder case revived and a fresh case was filed with Khulna thana on September 28, 1999 with the then OC as complainant. Eight accused were

chargesheeted in the supplementary chargesheet. The chargesheeted accused are Ershad Shikdar, Liagat Lashkar, Idris Jamai, Noor-e-Alam Sultan Mahmud, Jamai Forugue. Jainal and Khodeja Begum.

Thirty prosecution witnesses were cross-examined in the court

With this Frshad 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

### BNP meetings

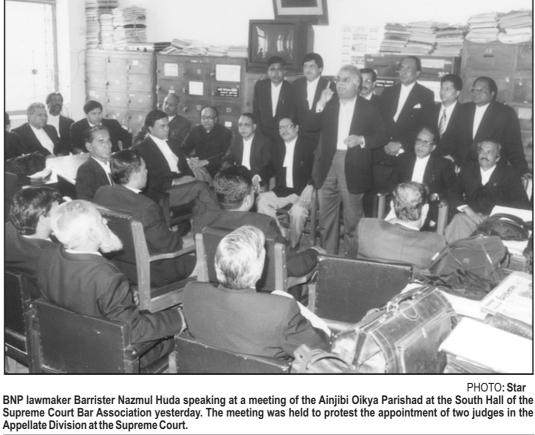
Another senior leader said Khaleda has advised the party policymakers to take up programmes that might involve people in the BNP campaign without disrupting public life.

Although there would be occasional hartal and blockade programmes, the leader said, emphasis would be on public meetings and mass processions. Mass processions would be organised in all the greater districts one after another in March, he added.

"We will turn the city and district neadquarters into city of procession throughout March," he said.

Meanwhile, BNP will launch three separate web sites, two from Dhaka and another one from the United States within a fortnight. Sources said preparations have been taken in this regard.

Leaflets, booklets and posters depicting the "misrule" of the government will also be distributed across the country during the campaign. Printing of these has already begun, said one source.



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**

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

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

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.

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.

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 "a Bangla tabloid has reported that the President may resign. What are your comments

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

According to sources, project

activities since February 1999 have

been confined to piloting technical

water options of 884 villages in six

thanas through 34 support organisa-

tions, way short of the 4,000-village

delayed programme of screening

tube-wells and patients in 28

upazilas under the local government

the Bank and other donors are very

unhappy over the progress,

sources quoted from internal evalu-

the Swiss Development Co-

ation reports by the World Bank and

Officials at the project office claim

that only seven per cent of the total

fund disbursed for the first phase of

the project could be utilised due to

"In terms of target achievement

The project has recently started a

ing on-site mitigation.

initiative.

pages. The Daily Star editorially commented on the PM's reply and asked the President to "Ignore this provocation".

After several other questions were asked by other reporters, the Daily Star correspondent who covered the occasion asked a question about the recent rowdyism at the Supreme Court by a group of pro-opposition lawyers and the possibility of her meeting with five The PM's press conference of

January 26 was attended by more than 30 journalists from local and international media - all of whom are witnesses to the questioning ses-The prime minister's comment

involving the Daily Star drew instant

reaction from the journalists in the parliament's press galleries and elswhere because of the fact that it was not the Star reporter who asked the question. 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. An official of the PM's press wing told this correspondent yesterday, "I do not know who had given the

prime minister the impression that it was a reporter of The Daily Star." 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. 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.

Filtered facts about BAMWSP

slow pace of work at the field level

There have been reports of gross

irregularities in identifying contami-

nated tube-wells. In many

method tests later confirmed that

some of those tube-wells had no

screening purpose in the areas have

complained in writing that they have

not been provided with proper

logistics, work plan, map, etc. They

have also accused some portfolio

officers from the BAMWSP of not

There are allegations that the

Only a few organisations

project has not yet trained staffs or

selected the support organisations

responsible for identifying patients.

being present during fieldwork.

Many NGOs working for the

trace of arsenic.

ment in 1991 with the support of Jamaat's 18 PMs Khaleda "rigged all elections" starting from parliamentary by-polls to Union Council. Seven people were killed at Lalbagh after Awami League candidate won the mayoral election in Dhaka City. BNP also staged massive rigging

Magura by-election. Hasina said Khaleda had to quit after holding farcical vote on February 15, 1996 boycotted by people and all political The Prime Minister said Ershad

was now jailed in a corruption case filed by the Khaleda Zia government while Khaleda was chargesheeted for corruption in buying two aircraft and illegal renovation of her houses. 'Many other corruption charges are there against her, but it is unfortunate that on many occasions, inquiry into corruption cannot continue for court orders." She questioned how Khaleda's

family could become so wealthy overnight owning ships Coco-1 to Coco-6, Rahman Industry and Dandy Dying out of a broken suitcase left by Ziaur Rahman. The Prime Minister said corrupt

people whoever they may be, whatever power and pelf they may have and however big politicians they may be must be tried. If the big shots are not tried for corruption. why should the petty officials or common people be tried, she guestioned, adding that to stamp out corruption, operation has to star from the top. 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.

## Hasina tells JS

FROM PAGE 1 could bring any charge of corrup-tion, misappropriation of public funds or rigging in any by-election or local-body elections against Awami League.
Rather, she claimed, transpar-

ency and accountability of the government was established and socioeconomic status of the people improved through practice of

"People have started enjoying the benefit of the government's social and economic programmes, she told the House before it was prorogued.
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.

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

#### 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.

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

hall authorities, police rushed to the cinema hall and brought the situation under control The hall authorities later sus-

pended all shows scheduled for

yesterday citing unavoidable rea-When contacted, Motijheel police said that police were deployed in and around Madhumita

to avert further trouble. 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 window-

### 11-party

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

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

Besides the bomb attack on the CPB rally on January 20, the meetng 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. It also discussed possibility of

building a 'left-democratic alternaide the AL-BNP polaris

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.

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. 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. 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, Shahabuddin was the common choice of Awami League and BNP to nead the caretaker government in 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. What else I could reply? Should

I get nervous ... This is his independent decision," Hasina said.

#### Appeal to PM FROM PAGE 12

family have very good relations with the uncles in whose houses he was Tipu Sultan said Hazari gave the

statement to mislead the honour-

able Prime Minister and the Home "Joynal 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 newsmen who won the best UNB correspondent award last year. Tipu Sultan expressed his gratitude to journalists from various newspapers and news agencies for

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

accused in the case, given by a Division Bench of the HC on December 14 last He had fixed February 14 for the next order in the case after a hearing

> the deadline for completion of paper book incorporating the split verdict in which Justice Ruhul Amin acquitted the five and Justice Khairul Hun upheld the death sentence of all the

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

15, 1975 The AG was accompanied by Deputy Attorney General Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Anisul Hug.

vev and water resources experts

The team will fly to Whaikong-Palongkhali 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.

the Naf river says: "The contracting parties agree that neither party shall

conduct river training river training work or utilise the flow of the Nat 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 nterest of the other party."

Bangladesh Rifles and

Myanmar's Nasaka traded fire for several hours on January 8 as the Yangon authorities tried to go on with construction of an embankment on their side of the Naf river. Construction of the embankment was then suspended but a tense situation followed massing of nearly 20,000 Myanmar troops close to Bangladesh's border.

Yangon later suggested formation of the Joint Inspection Team and Dhaka agreed.

### Another Palestinian shot dead

Barak put diplomatic negotiations on hold until after the leadership election on February 6. Palestinians have said the

elected, a likely possibility considering opinion polls that give him a steady double-digit lead over Barak. "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. Yasser Abed Rabbo, the infor-

self-rule Palestinian Authority, openly called on Palestinians and Arabs to rise up against Sharon.

government, most analysts say progress is unlikely under Sharon, who supports Jewish settlers and has vowed not to compromise on occupied east Jerusalem. 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. Palestinian officials, however, are increasingly drawing a distinction between the two and Abed

Rabbo made an unusual cal Tuesday on Palestinians with Israel citizenship to vote for Barak. "The logic that says that all are alike is a very dangerous logic," he was quoted as saying in the daily al-

the Arab world that the situation won't be different from the current situation if Sharon comes to power."

#### One gets life term in Lockerbie trial "I think we would expect that nity unless it meets all those obligacertainly to be the minimum, and "As a first step, we will be talking

was acquitted. "There has been a meticulous

criminal investigation," the spokesman added. "The government's priority has been to identify those who were responsible and seek

the courts, and this and other requirements are laid down in the United Nations Security Council resolutions and are obligatory on He said the amount of 700 milthink Libva should pay more. We would be looking for a payment of at east 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 They are to be lifted only when

demands to take responsibility for the actions of its officials -- if convicted -- and to pay appropriate

cannot be expected to be accepted

as part of the law-abiding commu-

A Foreign Office spokesman said meetings would now take place with Libvan authorities to determine

"Our sympathy is with the Lockerbie families," he said. "Nothing can repair their loss. There has now been a fair trial

dignity under Scottish law and in accordance with UN resolutions. That was always the aim of our policy, whatever the outcome." He said Britain would study the

the will of the international community, as laid down in UN resolutions." The spokesman said Libya had to comply with all the UN require-

to the Libvan authorities about their response to the requirements in the light of the verdict.

spokesman in Tripoli said. since 1981.

#### instances, like in the case of the project's activities, sources in Haiigani of Chandpur district, tube-BAMWSP observed. Ahmed, however, denied the wells were painted red to mark allegations. "Things have run very arsenic contamination but field

cation of patients but most of those

who received training are paid

poorly resulting in below-par effort in

smoothly and we tried our level best to have things done in time.' His deputy Harun-ur-Rashid however, admitted that the project was not moving fast. "There are several stages which are highly technical and research oriented. So naturally it may take time."

On slow training of community based organisations (CBOs) Harun conceded that they were running behind schedule. "Yes, training for the CBOs are going a little slow. We had set a nine-month target but it is taking three more months now.

whether the country has complied.

He said Libya hoped the United States would now be able to "turn the page" on their stormy ties. They

into the murder of a British police woman gunned down by shots the Libyan embassy here.

#### Early hearing FROM PAGE 12 split verdict concerning five of the 15

on January 17. He had also set January 31 as

15 accused.

## Team visits Naf border today

and officials concerned.

Clause Five of the Agreement on

#### Although Arafat has said he caretaker Prime Minister Ehud would negotiate with any new Israel

situations will worsen if Sharon is

mation minister of Yasser Arafat's

whom he described as a "rabid." "dangerous" and "obsessed" man. "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.

Hayat al-Jadida newspaper. "It is as if we say to the world and

# Yesterdays rally was chaired by Choudhury Alal

SC and its judges and the lawyers.

will be held at the same venue on Wednesday, said a press release.

"If Awami League is voted to power for another consecutive term, Bangladesh will become a model of development in Southeast Nasim criticised the opposition BNP for remaining silent when other offenders not belonging to BNP

were arrested under the Public Safety Act (PSA). They reacted only when BNP member Morshed Khan was accused under the PSA for He alleged that Morshed Khan had robbed millions through his monopoly telephone business

Khaleda Zia. The Awami League

government, as part of its develop-

President, citing instances, had

upheld the success of the Awami

League government in the last four

and a half years.

phone available to commonman, he Nasim, who is also in-charge of the Telecommunications Ministry. assured that submarine cable network, abandoned during the BNP rule, would be set up in the

verdict in Smriti Kona Rape Case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SC upholds HC

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

Barisal BM College student

Smriti Kona Biswas was sexually

assaulted in 1995 by some of her

fellow students at the college. The Women and Children Repression Prevention court in Barisal on May 22, 1996 in its verdict on the case sentenced seven out of nine accused to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI).

One was given seven years' RI and

the concerned authorities, Smriti

According to the FIR filed with

the other was acquitted.

Kona Biswas was raped and stripped off by some of her fellow students on the Barisal BM College campus on August 9, 1995. On an appeal by the convicts later, the High Court

upheld the trial court verdict with some observations on December 9 The Appellate Division yesterday upheld the High Court

Press Institute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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

The injured was identified as

One of the robbers first entered

the office compound at about 5:45

am after jumping over the wall. The

other four forced their was inside

through the entrance claiming to be

members of the special branch of

Brandishing arms the five

dacoits held the gatekeeper and

drivers of PIB hostage. They took

away a telephone set and all the

windshields of two official micro

buses and a private car parked at

when he tried to resist them, the

Dacoits hit Naiir with iron rods

the premises.

press release added.

morning, a PIB press release said.

Dacoity at

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

"We also expect them (Libya) to pay compensation as awarded by

lion dollars had been set by the US

Libya has complied with UN

"The ball is now in Libya's court," the spokesman added. "Libya

conducted with thoroughness and

judgement carefully to "assess whether Libya has complied with

ments before sanctions could be

Libya, however, called for "the immediate lifting of the sanctions" as well as reparation for the losses they had caused, a foreign ministry

have had no diplomatic relations

agreed to co-operate in the inquiry apparently fired from the window of

Britain restored diplomatic ties with Libya in July 1999 after it