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## JS session might be extended

### Bac meet today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Business Advisory Committee (Bac) of parliament sits today to discuss extension of duration of its current session and allocation of more time for discussion on thanks-giving motion on the president's address in the House.

The committee headed by Speaker Abdul Hamid is scheduled to meet at 3:30 pm while parliament resumes its sitting at 4:00 pm after a three-day recess.

Earlier, the Bac had decided that the House session would end on February 18 but it would continue further if the speaker wanted. And it had also decided that parliament would hold a

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## PM criticises role of BNP lawmakers in Sangsad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the BNP-led opposition does not care about the rights and aspirations of the people and has proved it in parliament by their words and attitudes.

"You [people] have seen what they [opposition lawmakers] are capable of doing in parliament since they [opposition] have no responsibilities towards people's mandate," she said referring to Wednesday's shocking events in the House.

She was addressing a discussion at city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre as the chief guest. Ruling Awami League organised the discussion marking Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's historic March 7 speech.

AL Presidium member and Deputy Leader of the House

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On the eve of 100th International Women's Day celebration, men with candles in hand vow to resist acid violence yesterday at a programme at Rabindra Sarobar in the city's Dhanmondi area.

PHOTO: STAR

## 100th int'l women's day today

### Men pledge to fight acid menace

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the eve of 100th International Women's Day celebration, a group of men yesterday vowed to fight against acid violence, which makes many women's lives a misery.

"As a man, I am ashamed that in over 95 percent cases it is a man who throws acid at women. It really hurts me. I swear to work so that no woman is burnt by acid anymore," said singer Shuvro Dev at the rally of men against acid violence at Rabindra Sarobar in the city's Dhanmondi area.

Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) and the Bangla daily Prothom Alo jointly organised the event.

Meanwhile, women leaders, teachers, students and development workers started celebration of the international women's day through lighting candles on the Central Shaheed Minar premises at 12:01 am today.

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## Policy faces property test

### Govt likely to reinstate women policy of 1997

FARHANA URMEE

The government is working to reinstate the National Women's Development Policy 1997 with some changes.

Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, state minister for women and children's affairs, said, "We will reintroduce the policy as per our election manifesto."

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## Miles to go before just rights

### Observe top women rights leaders

ALPHA ARZU, MAHBUBA ZANNAT and FARHANA URMEE

Eminent women rights leaders observe that women are playing significant role in every sector of the country by leaving behind the notion that

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Bangladeshi women on the move

ALPHA ARZU, MAHBUBA ZANNAT and FARHANA URMEE

Bangladeshi women have successfully challenged social and religious prejudices and are now playing a vital role in various sectors in the public arena.

Three of the nation's most

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Of a warrior

### Ravaged over and over, she fights on for justice

SYED ZAIN AL-MAHMOOD

They raped her daughter, ruined her husband's business and ravaged her face with acid but they couldn't silence her. In the face of overwhelming odds, Nasima Akhtar has steadfastly demanded one thing: justice. Armed with nothing but an

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Nasima Akhtar in a blurred photo.

## BSF-BDR talks in Delhi start today

PTI, New Delhi

India and Bangladesh will discuss issues related to cross-border terrorist activities and joint patrolling of the frontiers as top officers of border guarding forces of both the countries begin their four-day meeting in New Delhi today.

While Border Security Force (BSF) Director General Raman Srivastava will lead the Indian side, Major General Mainul Islam is leading a 19-member team of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) officials for the 'Border Coordination conference' here.

The talks will focus on preventing cross-border terrorist movement, trafficking of women, children and contraband, joint management of border pillars, fencing within 150 metres of the international border and smuggling among others, a senior BSF officer said.

The last round of talks between the forces took place in July last year in Dhaka while in April the BDR delegation visited the country after a savage mutiny at the

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## Indian intruders fish in Jaintapur under BSF guard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A group of Indian Khasia (indigenous people) intruded into Bangladesh territory on 10 boats and caught fish from the Dibir haor on Jaintapur borders under the protection of the Indian Border Security Force yesterday.

Showing utmost restraint BDR posted red flags in the area, but the intruders continued fishing inside the Bangladesh territory till late in the afternoon.

BSF also did not respond to a BDR call for a flag meeting on the issue.

Besides, the Indian BSF intruded into Bangladesh territory near Padua and Amswapnapur borders yesterday and returned back after some time, sources said.

The incidents of intrusion took place at a time when the BDR chief is leading a 19-member high-level delegation to Indian capital for a summit-level meeting of the border forces.

Major Abdullah Al Mamun, second in command of the 21 Battalion of BDR, Sylhet, told The Daily Star, about 50 to 60 BSF men intruded into Bangladesh territory through Padua border around noon. However, they went back after some time.

Similarly, a group of BSF intruded into Bangladesh territory through Amswapnapur village near Tamabil borders at the same time, he said.

Around 30 Indian nationals on 10 boats intruded into Bangladesh territory of Dibir haor near sub pillar-2 of the border pillar-1284 under BSF protection around 12:00 noon and went back after fishing with "current nets" at about 5:00pm, he added.

Amid the tense situation prevailing in Jaintapur border for weeks, the BDR chief visited Sylhet on March 2.

He visited the troubled border areas including the adjacent

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## Fresh move to raise high-ups' salaries, perks

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government is set to increase the salaries and privileges of the president, premier and ministers up to 83 percent in conformity with the recent pay hike of public servants.

The government has also moved to raise the remuneration and perks of the speaker of the parliament, lawmakers, the chief justice and the Supreme Court judges up to 83 percent, said sources in the cabinet division.

Three separate proposals to this effect would be placed for approval in today's cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's Office, said the sources.

A proposal to amend three acts under which the president, premier, ministers, and state and deputy ministers get salaries and benefits will be placed by the cabinet division.

The acts are the President's (Remuneration and Privileges) Act 1975, the Prime Minister's (Remuneration and Privileges) Act 1975 and the Ministers, State Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Remuneration and Privileges) Act 1973.

The law ministry will place two proposals to raise the salaries

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## Govt for 'symbolic' war crimes trial

### Says Ashraf; sector commanders, Nirmul committee fire back at him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will bring a handful of war criminals to justice "as a symbolic trial", said Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday.

"The trial of war criminals doesn't mean trials of thousands of people. It will be symbolic and those who led the massacre in 1971 will be tried," he said clarifying government's stance on the issue.

It is meaningless to create unrest everywhere in the country, he told journalists after placing floral wreaths on the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on road no 32 in Dhanmondi marking the historic March 7.

Sector Commanders' Forum and Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee came down on Ashraf for his comments saying that it is the War Criminal Tribunal, which will decide on how many people will be tried for war crimes.

Shahriar Kabir, acting president of Nirmul Committee, blasted Ashraf for his comments saying that he has no right to comment like this. "Such comments will make the trial of war criminals a farce," he told The Daily Star.

Thirty lakh people were killed during the liberation war and every family has the right to get justice, he said.

"It is the government's responsibility to set up a tribunal, appoint prosecutors and investigation agencies. The government will only play the role of a plaintiff," he said adding that the

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