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## NAM FLATS Handover deadline extended till March 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The housing and public works ministry has extended the deadline until March 31 for handing over to it the Nam flats the former lawmakers were allotted.

The parliament secretariat yesterday received a letter that asked it to cancel all the allotments of Nam apartments to the lawmakers of eighth parliament and to ask them to move petitions to the Directorate of Government Accommodation (DGA) for fresh allotment.

"We've received the letter today," Secretary of Parliament Secretariat Ashfaq Hamid told The

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## SC Bar chief critical of stripping HC bench of writ jurisdiction

UNB, Dhaka

President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam yesterday termed immoral the chief justice's exercise of discretionary power in stripping the High Court division bench, headed by Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman, of its writ jurisdiction.

"The action is aimed at demoralising the judges of the higher court... it has tarnished the image

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## An instance of love for birds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The storm on Wednesday night knocked the Pariah kites off the trees on the Jagannath Hall premises, but it could not cause much harm to them. A few students of the Dhaka University hall took care of the wounded birds and set them free.

Tapan Kumar Gope, a student of fine arts, said he found about 150 Pariah kites that dropped on the ground from the large trees just beside his dormitory during the storm.

He was returning to his dormitory through the road between Shamsunnahar Hall and Jagannath Hall.

"I found the kites lying on the ground and initially did not know

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## Tigers secure series with easy win

SPORTS REPORTER

After contrasting half-centuries by Shahriar Nafees and Aftab Ahmed, Forhad Reza's career-best bowling gave finishing touches to Bangladesh's crushing 84-run win over Ireland in the second one-day international yesterday.

With the back-to-back victory after an eight-wicket win in the first game on Tuesday, the Tigers took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series to maintain their supremacy against the ICC associate members.

This also confirmed the home side's seventh ever ODI series victory and fourth against associ

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# Talk with politicians for next budget

Akbar Ali Khan asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should consider consulting political parties before adopting the budget for the next fiscal year so that the next elected government accepts it, Regulatory Reforms Commission (ACC) Chairman Akbar Ali Khan said yesterday.

"It isn't clear how the elected government will accept the budget if the election is held by December this year. Some say they would not accept it unless the government consults with them. I think the government should consider their demands for proper implementation of the budget," Akbar said.

Akbar, a former finance and planning adviser, made the remarks at a discussion on the framing of PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) and the fiscal year budget in view of the stakes of the coastal people who

constitute 36 percent of the country's total population.

The government in its current year Annual Development Programme has allocated only 0.62 percent or Tk 165.14 crore directly for the development of coastal areas, according to the programme organised jointly by Bangla daily Prothom Alo and two NGOs -- Samannay and CODEC (Community Development Centre) at Cirdap auditorium in Dhaka.

The government should allocate adequate resources in the next budget for disaster protection and infrastructure development in the coastal belt and an employment generation scheme should also be considered, said Akbar.

The RRC chairman was also critical about the PRSP document and said, "It's outdated and all its major macroeconomic assumptions have been proven wrong."

"Nobody, even those at

Hemayetpur (known for its mental institution), will believe the inflation now is only 5 percent," Akbar said referring to the PRSP projection on inflation.

Suggesting changes in the framing methodology of the PRSP, he said it has been prepared from a national viewpoint. But the reasons of poverty vary in different places and regions even in a single country, Akbar explained.

"It's not possible to reduce poverty throughout the region with identical programmes. The nature of poverty is diverse, rather than homogenous," he added.

"I have seen nearly a hundred PRSP documents. There may be differences in the titles of the PRSP of one particular country, but there is no difference in the contents," said Akbar.

He recommended the government prepare a reality-based PRSP

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## BUILDING DESIGN CASE Atiqullah Khan jailed for third time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court dealing with corruption charges yesterday sentenced detained daily Janakantha Editor Atiqullah Khan Masud to seven years' imprisonment in a case filed in connection with forging building design.

The court also handed down Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) official ATM Kamruzzaman seven years' imprisonment for abetting Atiqullah.

The two were also fined Tk 8.70 crore, in default of which they have to suffer three months more in jail.

Judge Khandaer Kamaluzzaman of Special Court-9, set up on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban

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## Coarse rice prices rise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of coarse rice rose slightly in wholesale markets of the capital yesterday while prices of edible oil continued to drop after a sharp rise a couple of weeks ago.

The prices of flour also dropped in the wholesale markets during the last two days but it is yet to have any effect on retail markets.

The prices of coarse rice Swarna rose by Tk 10 per maund (37.32 kilogram) in wholesale markets and the variety was selling between Tk 1,190 and Tk 1,240 per maund yesterday depending on quality. It was selling between Tk 1,180 and

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## PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES VCs to be appointed thru' open ad

UNB, Dhaka

Vice-chancellors of the public universities will now be appointed through open advertisement, the government announced yesterday.

This system will be effective gradually for the appointment of pro-VCs and treasurers of the universities.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the search committee, formed by the caretaker government, at the education ministry.

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## NIKO CASE Probe report placed to ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation report of the Niko graft case filed against former premier and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and six others was submitted to the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday.

The report recommended adding two more people as accused in the first information report (FIR), sources said.

Hasina, now undergoing treatment at Square Hospital, is the main accused in the FIR.

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## EXTORTION CASES Tarique may be quizzed at jail gate: HC

UNB, Dhaka

Disposing of two petitions, the High Court yesterday said detained BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman may be interrogated at the jail gate in connection with two extortion cases.

Attorney General office sources said a division bench, headed by Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury, passed the orders.

The High Court orders came upon two petitions filed by Barrister Nawshad Zamir and Barrister Nasiruddin Ashim for Tarique against two orders of the lower court.

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### Prayer Timing

March 21

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-55	5-30
Dhuhr	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-16	6-20
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: STAR

This sculpture by Mrinal Haque is being installed at the Naval Headquarters in Banani in Dhaka. The sculpture has been named Atal Anchal Basati.

# China pours troops into Tibet to quell uprising

Dalai Lama fears "lot of casualties" from crackdown on protesters

AFP, Lhasa

Thousands of soldiers were seen in Lhasa yesterday amid reports of a huge military build-up, as the Dalai Lama expressed fears China's crackdown on Tibetan protesters had caused many casualties.

Long military convoys were on the move in Tibet while troops also poured into nearby provinces, after a week of violent unrest against China's rule of the Himalayan region, witnesses, activist groups and media reports said.

"We saw a big convoy of military vehicles with troops in the back," German journalist Georg Blume

said from the Tibetan capital Lhasa early Thursday.

"One convoy was about two kilometres (1.2 miles) long and contained about 200 trucks. Each had 30 soldiers on board so that's about 6,000 military personnel in one convoy."

Blume, who works for the German newspaper Die Zeit, and another witness in Lhasa said they had seen security forces going from one house to the next.

"There are lots of security forces on the streets. We can see Chinese security going door-to-door. It's very tense," an independent source in the city, who did want to be

named for fear of retaliation, told AFP by phone.

A week of protests against China's 57-year rule of Tibet erupted into rioting in Lhasa last Friday. Demonstrations have since spilled over into nearby Chinese provinces with sizeable ethnic Tibetan populations.

China said rioters killed 13 innocent civilians in Lhasa while denying that it used deadly force to end the protests. Exiled Tibetan leaders have said about 100 people were believed to have been killed in the Chinese crackdown.

The Dalai Lama, Tibet's

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## ESSENTIALS AT SUBSIDISED PRICE Prof Wahiduddin suggests introduction of ration cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud yesterday asked the government to introduce ration cards for people of low income in urban areas to enable them buy essentials at a subsidised price.

"It is necessary to introduce ration card system for a temporary period for the people of fixed and low income, especially for the fourth class government employ-

ees and slum dwellers in urban areas," Wahiduddin Mahmud told reporters after attending a meeting of Market Monitoring Committee in the wake of price hike of essentials.

Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman presided over the meeting.

"The VGF (vulnerable group feeding) programme is not enough to feed poor people in rural areas and it's possible for the govern

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## FOREIGNERS Govt to amend law to define dos and don'ts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Since the 50-year-old Foreigners Act does not contain details of dos and don'ts to be followed by foreigners in the country, the government has taken an initiative to amend it and clarify the dos and don'ts.

Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff yesterday raised the issue at the Advisers' Committee meeting on Law and Order.

Sources said the meeting referred to the recent visit of two Canadian lawyers who got involved in legal matters and made remarks

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## NOTICE

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## Dhaka to host climate change meet next week

ASHFAQ WARES KHAN

Dhaka will host the first country-specific conference on climate change next week where the government, donors and experts will thrash out a plan to campaign for mitigation and adaptation methods and financing.

The meeting, which follows up on the Bali deliberations and a Bangladesh-Britain effort, will form a "plan of action" or the agenda for a high-level climate change meeting scheduled for May in London. The meeting would take Bangladesh as the case study to

apply the Bali deliberations.

The Dhaka section of the meeting on March 25 will seek, for both donors and the Bangladesh government, to find ways to mainstream climate change in the government agenda and work out ways to better tackle its effects.

Financing adaptation strategies will also be one of the top issues discussed in the meet, with a focus on global warming's effect on a whole range of sectors, from the environment and disasters to the economy and education system.

"We think Bangladesh has an

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PHOTO: STAR

A replica of an Austin on display at the Bogra International Trade Fair. The car along with another one was built by Belal Hossain of Shohag Motors of Bogra.