

WEATHER

FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAH	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 32.6   L 20.7	H 34.6   L 21.8	H 33.2   L 20.2	H 33.2   L 18.3	H 33.4   L 21.5	H 33.4   L 20.2	H 31.3   L 18.0	H 36.2   L 22.8

Rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:08pm and rises tomorrow at 6:06am.

## N'GANJ 7-MURDER CASE

### Tareque's plea for scrapping trial rejected by High Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a plea filed by sacked Rab official Lt Col (ret'd) Tareque Sayeed Mohammad for scrapping the trial against him in a Narayanganj seven-murder case.

A bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Amir Hossain passed the order after concluding hearing the petition on March 13.

There is no legal bar for the trial court to continue the trial proceedings of the case against Tareque Sayeed following the HC order, Deputy Attorney General Shaikh AKM Moniruzzaman Kabir told The Daily Star.

Tareque's lawyer Golam Kibria told reporters that his client would move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the HC order.

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Queen Mother of Bhutan Tshering Pem Wangchuck meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the latter's office in the capital yesterday as part of her five-day official visit since Monday.

PHOTO: PID

## Homes for 2.8 lakh poor in 3 years

### PMO meeting told

AGENCIES, Dhaka

The government has undertaken a plan to rehabilitate around 2.8 lakh poor by providing them with homes under various housing programmes in next three years, reports BSS.

It was told in a meeting held at Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the capital yesterday for reviewing the implementation process, progress and future action plan of the housing programmes initiated for the poor.

The projects -- "Ashrayan-2 Project", "Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar Project", "Guchha Gram Project", "Bari Fera Karmasuchi" and "Grihayan Tahabil Project" are being implemented under the supervision of the PMO.

UNB reports, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government would try its best to rehabilitate the country's homeless people during its remaining period.

"Some two years and eight months are still left for our current tenure to complete, and we'll have to provide these poor people with homes during the period," she said while presiding over the review meeting.

About micro-credit's impacts, Hasina said poor people could not come out from the vicious cycle of poverty as the micro credit with the high interest rates nurtures poverty.

"We want to enable people to make savings; we don't want to nurture poverty."

The prime minister directed the officials concerned of the projects to work in a coordinated manner and further expedite implementation of various projects under the Prime Minister's Office to ensure houses for every homeless of the country.

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## Ditch pry terminal exams

### Parents of schoolchildren demand from press confce alleging that schools force students to attend pre, after-school coaching classes because of it, violating govt policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Guardians of different schools yesterday demanded cancellation of primary terminal examination from this year, saying the exam boosted "coaching business" at the educational institutions.

Under the banner of Obhobhabok Oikya Forum, a platform of guardians, they at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club alleged that most of the schools in rural and urban areas are forcing their class-V students to attend pre and after-school coaching classes, violating a government policy.

The present government in June 2012

formulated a set of regulations for teachers to curb unauthorised coaching practice at the educational institutions. But teachers are still doing it, and charging money from the guardians, said Ziaul Kabir Dulu, president of the forum.

Reading out a written statement, he said the government as part of its effort to bring changes in the education system had introduced the primary terminal examination in 2009, but it did not bring any positive results for the student.

"Instead, it created a scope for teachers to indulge in coaching business unabated and

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## CENTRAL BANK SCAM

### BNP says Atiur just a fall guy

#### Demands judicial probe, resignation of PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saying that only the resignation of Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman is not enough, BNP yesterday demanded that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government step down taking the responsibility for the stealing of Tk 800 crore from the bank's account.

Addressing a press briefing at the party's central office, BNP joint general secretary Rizvi Ahmed said the governor's resignation had proved that government high-ups had links with the stealing of money from the bank's account with the New York Federal Reserve Bank last month.

"The prime minister and the entire government are liable for the heist and they can't avoid responsibility," he said.

Earlier in the morning Atiur Rahman submitted his resignation letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Quoting media reports, Rizvi said the amount of money stolen was not Tk 800 crore, it was US \$800 crore, which was equivalent to Tk 6,500 crore.

Rizvi, however, did not mention name of any media that gave the figure of Tk 6,500 crore.

Separately, BNP standing committee member ASM Hannan Shah demanded a judicial probe into the stealing to find out the "real culprits".

Talking to reporters at the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Hannan Shah said, "Why will the Bangladesh Bank governor alone be made a scapegoat?"

"There are also other big fish in the government including the finance minister behind the heist. Actions should be taken against all of them," he added.

## WAR CRIME TRIALS

## Ex-MP Shakhawat linked to rape

### 19 Cox's Bazar men charged in largest-ever case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday testified that former Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP lawmaker Shakhawat Hossain raped his fiancée for three days, keeping her confined to a Razakar camp in Jessore, during the Liberation War in 1971.

The retired schoolteacher, of Rejakathi village in the district's Keshabpur upazila, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that his fiancée wanted to commit suicide after the incident but he stopped her and married her after the war.

"I want justice," the 10th prosecution witness in the case against

Shakhawat and eight other Jessore men made the plea as he completed his testimony, with Shakhawat at dock.

Meanwhile, the prosecution yesterday pressed 12 specific charges against 19 Cox's Bazar men, including a former BNP lawmaker, who allegedly committed crimes during the war.

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Students of Biochemistry and Microbiology at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) taking a selfie with Prof Edward T Ryan from Harvard University on Sunday, after he had given a talk titled 'Cholera: Its Impact on Biomedicine and Health' at the School of Life Sciences there, elucidating the history of medical advances and innovations that the study of cholera spurred from the 18th century onwards. The talk was also attended by faculty members, students, and guests from icddr,b and Dhaka University, among others.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Cops clear Dhaka airport of illegal donation boxes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed Police Battalion on Monday night seized 52 donation boxes illegally placed around the terminal buildings of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Alamgir Hossain said they seized the boxes as those could be a security threat and such things can not

be placed in an international airport.

The boxes were for Late Yaruddin Khalifa Darbar Sharif of Mirzaganj (Patuakhali).

The police officials said that a syndicate is behind the donation collection and expressed doubt over whether the money is sent to the Darbar Sharif.

Our Patuakhali correspondent

said a shrine was named after a pious man Yaruddin, located in Mirzaganj upazila of Patuakhali. A Madrasa, orphanage and a lillah boarding were established, centring the shrine.

The management committee of the shrine allows people to collect money in a specific area across the country in exchange for a fixed amount of commission.

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