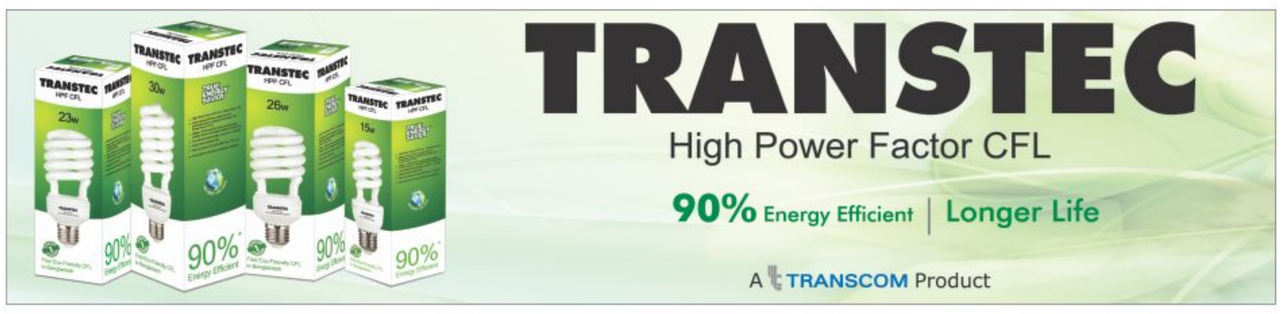

ILLEGAL BUILDINGS POSING RISK

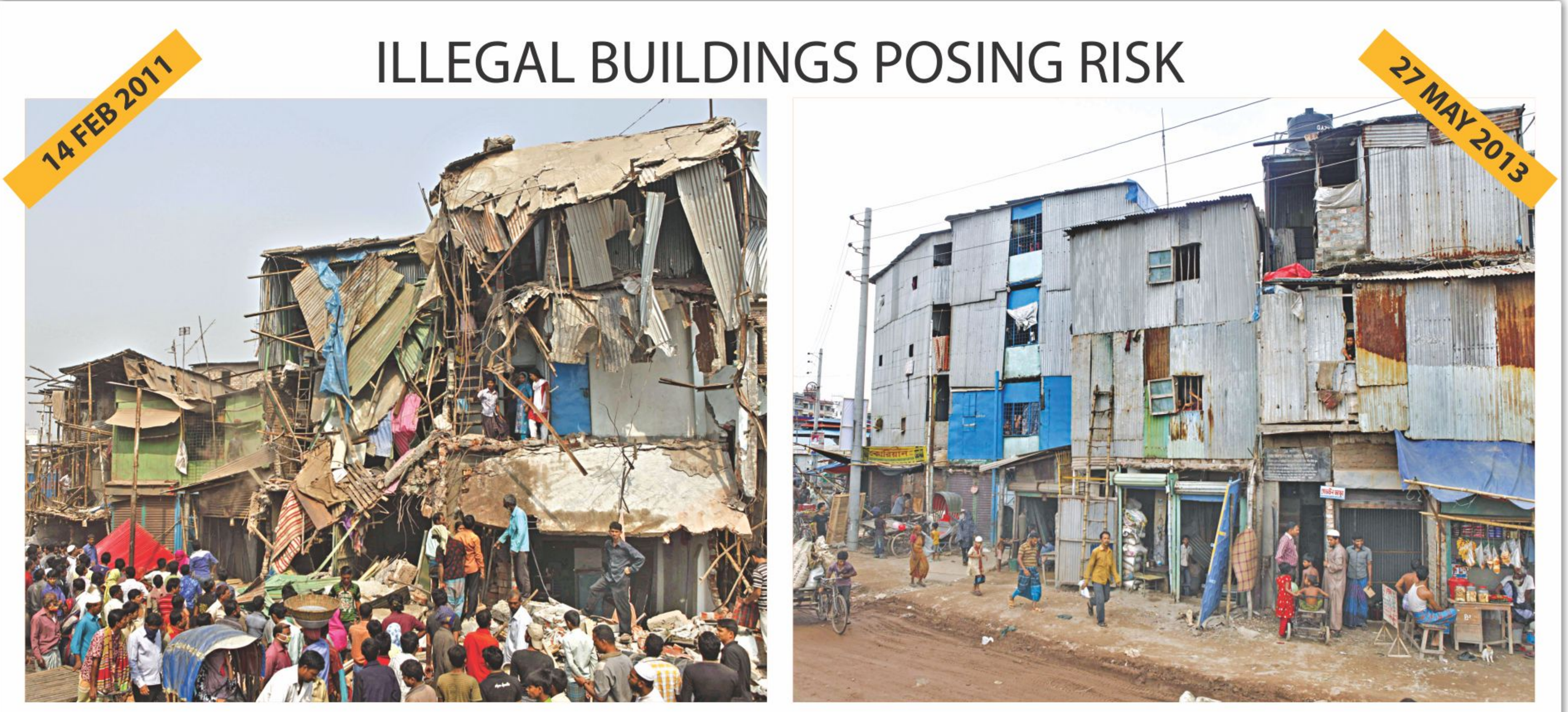

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

The authorities demolished illegal structures in the capital's Islambagh under Lalbagh Police Station in 2011, but new structures built in a faulty manner have replaced those as seen in the picture taken recently.

TORTURE, DEATH IN CUSTODY

Father appeals for judicial probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shamim Reza

The father of Shamim Reza filed a writ petition with the High Court yesterday seeking its directive to the government to form a judicial commission to probe the police "torture" on his son that led to his death.

In his petition, Haji Alauddin also sought the court's directive for arrest of four police officials within 24 hours for "torturing" his son in custody.

The police officials are Md Atiqur Rahman Khan, officer-in-charge of Sonargaon Police Station, Inspector (investigation) Arup Tarafder and Sub-Inspector Paltu Ghosh, and Uttam Prashad, assistant superintendent of police (Circle-B) of Narayanganj.

The petitioner's lawyer Eunus Ali Akond told this correspondent that the HC may hear the petition tomorrow.

Twenty-six-year-old Shamim from Protaperchar in

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Defence concludes arguments on facts

Mojaheed sheds tears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The defence yesterday completed the closing arguments on factual aspects in the war-crime case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed.

Mojaheed's counsels Syed Mizanur Rahman and Munshi Ahsan Kabir placed their submissions on the seventh and the last charge and the prosecution's documentary evidence.

Mizanur claimed the prosecution failed to prove any of the seven charges against Mojaheed.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan and its members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Judge Md Shahinur Islam fixed May 30 for the defence to place its arguments on law points.

Mojaheed was seen crying when his counsel prayed to the court to consider his "corruption-free" stint as a minister.

The tribunal, however, said, "It was not relevant [to the case]."

A technocrat minister of the last BNP-led alliance government, Mojaheed was indicted on seven charges, including that for murder, genocide and conspiracy to kill intellectuals during the nine-month war.

According to the seventh charge, on May 13, 1971, after holding a

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

SOCIAL BUSINESS

Yunus Centre refutes Muhith comments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Yunus Centre yesterday contradicted the finance minister's recent comment that none of the social business organisations set up by Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus has any institutional foundation. It said all the social business companies are registered with the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, and have all relevant permissions and licences to operate.

The following is the Yunus Centre's response to some of the claims the minister made about social business, its future and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ILLEGAL GAS CONNECTIONS

Deadline June 20 for legalisation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Petrobangla yesterday extended the deadline until June 20 for households to declare their illegal gas connections. Actions will be taken against those who will continue to use gas without having their connections legitimised by the time.

Hossain Monsur, chairman of the state-run oil, gas and mineral corporation, said this at a press conference at his office in the capital.

On May 14, the state-run agency began a process to legalise over 150,000 unlawful gas connections, a week after the government lifted a three-year ban on new gas links to households.

The initial deadline was May 30. But as of Monday only 9,455 households have declared that they are using gas illegally, the Petrobangla chairman told reporters.

Households have to pay Tk 6,750 for a double burner cooking stove to legalise their connections, he said, adding the new scheme also covers 57,414 households, who have obtained gas connections illegally but pay bills with Titas Gas.

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Bombs hurled at Dipu Moni's residence

None hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three home-made crude bombs were hurled at Foreign Minister Dipu Moni's residence at Eskaton Garden Road in the capital early morning yesterday.

They exploded on the rooftop of the one-storey residence around 5:15am but none, including the minister's husband Towfiq Newaz and their two children, who were at home then, were hurt, said Mizanur Rahman, one of the staff of the house.

Dipu Moni left Dhaka for Brussels Monday night and got the news over the phone during a stopover in London, said Manirul Islam Kabir, public relations officer of the foreign ministry.

At the time of the explosions, the main gate, which is some 60 feet from the house, was closed and two policemen were on duty inside the compound, Mizanur said.

One of them, Jahangir, who was on guard near the main gate, waited for a few minutes until the other staff hurried out before he opened the gate, fearing further attacks but they

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Student builds one-man sub

MAIL ONLINE

Justin Beckerman has been inventing things since he was 2 years old, and this month, the 18-year-old New Jersey boy unveiled to the world his latest creation -- a fully functional one-man submarine.

Beckerman, a high school junior from Mendham, New Jersey, built the underwater vessel from the lightweight corrugated plastic used in drainage pipes.

The nine-foot-long, 1,300-pound submarine, dubbed The

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Australia 'happiest nation'

BBC ONLINE

Australia has been ranked as the world's happiest nation among developed economies for the third year running.

Australia won the top position, due to the overall strength of its economy, in the Better Life Index compiled by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Sweden, Canada, Norway and Switzerland also made it to the top five. United States stood at sixth position and United Kingdom secured the tenth spot.

The survey ranked more than 30 countries on criteria such as income levels, health, safety and housing.

"Australia performs exceptionally well in measures of well-being, as

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

DISASTERS IN RMG SECTOR

Buyers should play their role

Says French envoy for rights

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Visiting French Ambassador-at-large for Human Rights François Zimeray yesterday said the Rana Plaza tragedy was a watershed in the garment sector like the Bhopal disaster was in the chemical industry.

"The victims did not suffer only from the collapse of a building. They suffered from the collapse of law, the collapse of respect, the collapse of regulation, the collapse of enforcement, and the collapse of justice," he said at a press conference at Alliance Française in Dhaka before leaving Bangladesh.

Zimeray urged international buyers to shoulder their responsibilities, and said, "When we go back to my country we want to give a strong message … We must put an end to the era of fashion cynicism."

He arrived in Dhaka on Monday on a two-day visit following an outcry from French consumers over the death of 1,130 garment workers in the Rana Plaza collapse last month.

Zimeray called upon the brands whose labels had been found in the building's wreckage to

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the government would able to bring back Tarique Rahman through Interpol?

Yes (16%)

No (84%)

TOTAL VOTES: 255

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the next general election will be held in time?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING May 29

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35

Source: Islamic Foundation

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