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4 CITY POLLS

EC prepares for fair polls

STAR REPORT

With only five days to go, the Election Commission (EC) and mayoral and councillor aspirants in four divisional city corporations are making final preparations for elections.

The electoral campaigns end 48 hours before the polling starts at 8:00am on June 15, and any sort of campaign activity after then would be a considered violation of electoral code of conduct.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed yesterday asked the local administration and others concerned to carry out their duties impartially for holding free, fair and credible elections.

"We have taken adequate steps to hold city corporation elections in a free, fair and credible manner," he said.

The CEC was speaking at a view-exchange meeting with mayoral and councillor candidates at the Khulna deputy commissioner's office.

Urging the candidates not to take the law in their own hands, he said they had deployed 15 vigilance teams to monitor whether electoral code was being violated in the city corporation areas, reports our Khulna correspondent.

The executive magistrate would take legal action, if any candidate violates the code of conduct, the CEC said.

Three more vigilance teams comprised of Judicial

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The explosion marks left by two of the four homemade bombs hurled at Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu's home on Mirpur Road yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Bombs hurled at Inu's house

Minister blames Jamaat-Shibir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four homemade crude bombs were hurled at Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu's residence in the capital's Mirpur area yesterday. According to eyewitnesses, four youths in their early twenties on two motor-bikes came near the five-storied residential building on Darus Salam Road.

Mohammad Lokman, a security guard of MA Khalek Residential area adjacent to the minister's house, told The Daily Star, "As soon as they left after a very short conversation with me, the explosions took place and smoke engulfed the minister's house."

The crude bombs exploded as they impaled the walls and windows of the first and second floors

SEE PAGE 13 COL 7

Law 'misjudged' by judges

HC concerned

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court has expressed anxiety over 117 cases, in saying their proceedings had become complicated as the judges in the lower court concerned in Dhaka failed to follow the relevant provisions of law.

The observation was made by the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Akram Hossain Chowdhury in an April 4 verdict, the full text of which was released on April 29.

The verdict was given following a petition filed by Iftekharul Karim, an alleged

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Govt suspends seven factory inspectors

They did not visit factories at Rana Plaza before licence renewal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The labour ministry yesterday suspended seven factory inspectors for their involvement in renewal of licences without a visit to the factories at Rana Plaza that crumbled on April 24.

They were supposed to visit the five garments in the building at Savar but they approved renewal of the factories' licences, sitting in their office, labour

secretary Mikail Shipar said, citing findings of a primary investigation by the labour and employment ministry.

"If their laxity is proved, they will lose their jobs as the highest punishment under the government service rules," he said.

Of the five factories, Ether Tex had been operating without any licence from the factory inspection department since 2008.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Shab-e-Barat on June 24

UNB, Dhaka

Shab-e-Barat, the holy night of fortune and forgiveness, will be observed on June 24 as the new moon for the month of Shaban was not sighted anywhere in the country yesterday.

The decision came at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee held at the Islamic Foundation office in the evening.

The meeting reviewed

SEE PAGE 10 COL 7

Hardliner Modi gets key BJP post

Boost for his PM ambition

STAR REPORT

Controversial Indian politician Narendra Modi was chosen yesterday to front the main opposition's campaign for 2014 general elections, boosting his chances of becoming the nation's next prime minister.

Modi is a divisive figure even within his own party who is accused of doing not enough to stop deadly anti-Muslim



riots in Gujarat in 2002. Modi has denied any wrongdoing in connection with the violence but never expressed remorse or offered an apology.

BJP chief Rajnath Singh made the announcement after the end of a two-day meeting of the party's national executive

meet in western Indian state of Goa that saw attempts by a faction led by party

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2



Fahima, assaulted by her husband and in-laws for dowry, having treatment at Maderganj Health Complex in Jamalpur a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

VICTIM OF DOWRY

Tortured, left to die

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Tortured at home and then left to die in a field, Fahima Khatun survived but has been fighting for her life. Unable to walk following the attack by her in-laws over dowry, she is now undergoing treatment.

The assault on her took place early on May 25 in which her parents-in-law Sirajul Islam and Afroza Begum, her husband Ariful and his two brothers -- Anwar and Amanullah -- were allegedly involved.

Fahima, 21, alleged her in-laws tortured her as she had failed to give them Tk 2 lakh in dowry. She was allegedly threatened with divorce if she failed to meet the demand.

"My father is not rich. I tried to win their hearts through love and respect," Fahima said. "I was determined not to leave my husband."

Her father, Gulam Rabbani, is a farmer at Amirtee village of Jamalpur. He married Fahima to Ariful of Charband village of the same district in December 2011, spending Tk 1 lakh on gold ornaments for her.

Within six months of the marriage, her in-laws demanded Tk 2 lakh in dowry.

Torture on her actually began in February this year in the middle of her SSC exam, in which she got GPA 3.5, culminating in the attack on May 25, she said.

On that night, she was locked in the house with her hands tied and mouth gagged. The four men then mercilessly beat her with an iron rod, she said. She was also stabbed in her right hand.

The assault left her unconscious. Thinking that she was dead, her in-laws took her to a nearby field and left there.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

AL lawmaker slams journos

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Iqbalur Rahim, the lawmaker of Dinaipur-3 constituency, has drawn fierce criticism from the journalist community of Dinaipur after he called three journalists "bastards," a local daily reported yesterday.

In April, the three journalists sent reports to three national dailies on alleged corruption, involving the lawmaker, in Dinaipur Medical College and Hospital.

Speaking at a Dinaipur Press Club

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

MK Anwar for talks outside JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP lawmaker MK Anwar yesterday said they wanted to engage in a discussion on the caretaker government issue in an informal

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

| PRAYER TIMING June 10 | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--|
| Azan | Jamaat | |
| Fajr 4-05 | 4-40 | |
| Zohr 12-45 | 1-15 | |
| Asr 5-00 | 5-15 | |
| Maghrib 6-50 | 6-55 | |
| Esha 8-15 | 8-45 | |

Source: Islamic Foundation

WARTIME KILLING

Victim's brother accuses Alim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A martyr's brother yesterday testified that his brother along with two others was killed following "conspiracy" by war crimes accused Abdul Alim and a Pakistani army officer at Joypurhat during the Liberation War.

Mohammad Abdul Hye, an organiser of the Liberation War in Joypurhat, told International Crimes Tribunal-2 that Alim had formed Peace Committee and Razakar force in Joypurhat and emerged as a "civil chief" there.

Hye, 23rd prosecution witness in the case, also said the Pakistan army and members of the Peace Committee and Razakar force had taken part in the killings, loot and rape

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Eyeball scraping, the vanishing Chinese trade

ODDITYCENTRAL

Barbers in China's Sichuan Province have practiced the art of eye-cleaning with a sharp blade for centuries. Like many other ancient traditions, this dangerous trade is slowly vanishing, but you can still find a few barbers willing to scrape your eyeballs with a knife for as little as RMB5 (\$0.80).

According to an old

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