WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 36.0 | L 27.5	H 33.0 | L 27.3	H 28.8 | L 22.6	H 39.6 | L 25.8	H 37.5 | L 27.2	H 35.2 | L 27.4	H 32.9 | L 21.5	H 33.2 | L 27.2

Mild to moderate heat wave sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Tangail and Faridpur may continue. Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:22pm and rises tomorrow** at 5:32am.

Allegations of nomination trade in AL to be probed

Says Obaidul Quader

UNB, *Dhaka*

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the ruling Awami League (AL) would form a committee to investigate allegations of nomination trade centring the party's candidacies in union parishad polls and that none found involved would be spared.

"If anyone does not get party nomination, s/he raises allegations of nomination trade or calls them (those who get it) war criminals. There is more propaganda about the matter than what it is in reality," he said.

The AL presidium member was addressing a meeting of an AL sub-committee on stage and decoration, formed for AL's 20th national council scheduled to be held on

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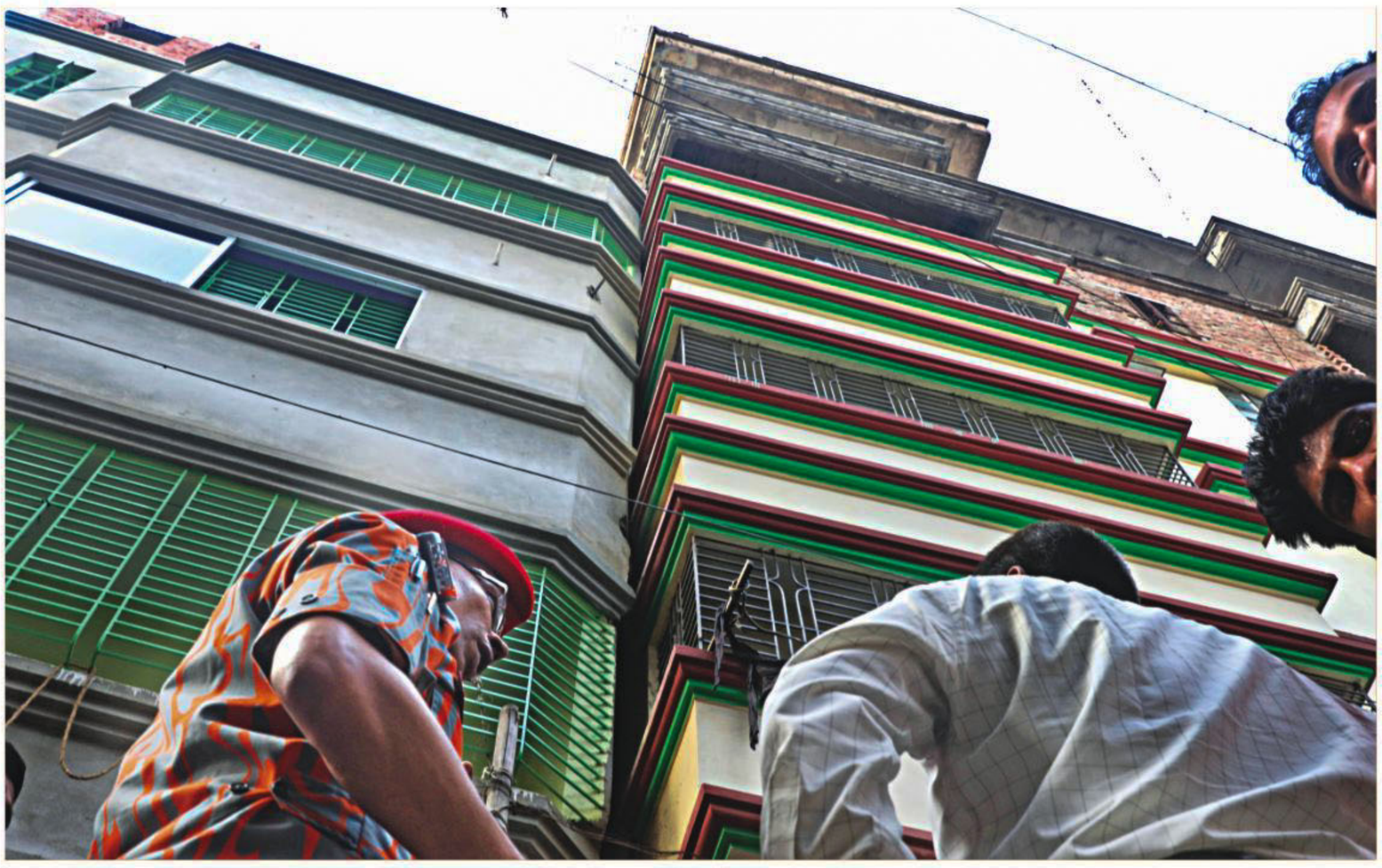

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Two adjacent buildings, one seven-storied and the other four-storied, touch each other in the Rayerbag-Mohammadbag of Kadamtali Police Station in the capital, after a 6.9 magnitude earthquake, originating in Myanmar, jolted Bangladesh on April 13. The fire office asked the residents of the buildings to evacuate yesterday, a day after the tilting was sighted. However, it was not confirmed which building actually tilted.

UNION PARISHAD ELECTIONS 2016

Entire EC should resign: SHUJAN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Accusing them of failing to hold fair elections, a civil society organisation yesterday demanded that the Election Commission (EC) chief and its other commissioners should quit.

The EC itself is the main obstacle to hold fair polls -- it had lost control over the electoral system because of inefficiency and bias, said Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (SHUJAN).

Nomination trading, widespread violence, and irregularities have been a threat to the country's electoral system, he told a press conference SHUJAN organised at Dhaka Reporters Unity to give its views on the Union Parishad (UP) polls.

Election to 1,364 UPs was held in the first two phases on March 22 and March 31, while 621 UPs are set to go to polls on April 23 in the third phase, 743 UPs on May 7 in the fourth phase and around 1,400 more in two other phases till June.

The EC is facing huge criticism from media, civil society, different political parties and a cross-section of people as the first and second phases of polls witnessed widespread violence and irregularities that left at least 35 people dead and over one thousand injured.

"The incumbent EC has outshined the Justice MA Aziz-led EC (2005 to 2007) in terms of biasness. The then Aziz commission was mired by political controversy because of a faulty voter list. But the incumbent commission has taken the entire electoral process to the verge of destruction,"

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Shafik's arrest politically motivated

Claims Mirza Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condemning journalist Shafik Rehman's arrest and terming it "politically motivated" and the manner it was conducted "fraudulence", BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said it stirred the country, even those opposing Shafik's ideology, and demanded his immediate release.

"This is because he spoke of beauty and love," he told a programme

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74.8pc tobacco products sold without pictorial warnings

Survey reveals, urges govt to fine companies for violating law, introduce mobile courts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 74.8 percent of tobacco products are being marketed without any pictorial health warnings, violating law, according to a study.

Thirteen anti-tobacco organisations, which conducted a survey in eight divisional towns, revealed it yesterday.

According to the relevant law, no tobacco products can be marketed without pictorial warnings after March 19, 2016, and doing so is a punishable offence.

Hasan Shahriyar, project coordinator of Progga, presented the findings at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Progga, ACD, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, BCCP, Shimantik, Ubinig, Ipsha, National Heart Foundation, EC Bangladesh, WBBTrust, Pratyasha, Aid Foundation, and Natab, conducted the study from April 4 to 7 on 1,485 tobacco products.

Number of packets of Biri with pictorial health warnings was nil while 55.3 percent cigarette, 91.6 percent Jarda pot and 87.9 percent Gul were found without pictorial warnings, it revealed.

Among six cigarette manufacturers, four are supplying their products without pictorial warnings while 14 jarda factories out of 100 and one gul factory out of 13 are using the pictorial warning.

When asked about the study, Zahid Malik, state minister for health, told The Daily Star that actions will be taken against those who violate the law.

The speakers recommended that at least 50 percent of the packet should have a pictorial warning.

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WAR CRIME TRIALS

Tribunal orders ads for six Gaibandha fugitives

Fixes May 2 to decide on indictment of two Shariatpur accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday ordered its registrar's office to publish ads in two national dailies, one Bangla and one English, asking six fugitive war crimes accused of Gaibandha, including a former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker, to appear before it within two weeks from the publication date.

The order came after Prosecutor Syed Sayedul Haque Sumon said police could not arrest them. On March 20, the prosecution pressed three charges against the six of crimes during the Liberation War.

The accused are Abu Saleh Md Abdul Aziz Mia, 65, a former Jamaat lawmaker; Ruhul Amin alias Manju, 61; Abdul Latif, 61; Abu Muslim Md Ali, 59; Najmul Huda, 60, and Abdur Rahim Mia, 62, of Sundarganj upazila in the district.

The three charges are looting and killing of one Hindu man of Moujamali village in Gaibandha Sadar upazila, killing of one Chhatra League leader, and killing of 13 chairmen and members of five union

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