

## WPB likely to fire rebel leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Workers Party of Bangladesh (WPB) is likely to expel five 'rebel' members including one politburo member who have challenged the top leadership over ideological and strategic issues.

A top-level party source told The Daily Star that the WPB politburo yesterday held a meeting to discuss the matter. The meeting could not make a decision but recommended the central committee to punish the 'rebel' leaders according to the WPB constitution.

The two-day meeting of the WPB central committee starts today and is likely to make a decision against the rebels, sources said.

"It's almost certain that they will be expelled for their activity, which is clearly a violation of the party constitution," said a top WPB leader preferring anonymity.

The five rebels are politburo member Saiful Haq, central committee leaders Khandakar Ali Abbas, Pares Chandra Saha, Nasiruddin Ahmed Nashu and Mohammad Zaman.

They are charged with openly

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One killed, 13 missing in Bay boat capsiz

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

One fisherman died and 13 went missing as three boats sank in a storm in the Bay of Bengal Friday, six days after 40 fishermen drowned in the sea.

Fishermen Rahim, Abdus Sukkur and Hasan Ahmad who swam ashore said their boats were caught in a violent wind when they were fishing in the deep sea near Baharchhara coast in Teknaf.

"The boats sank in a moment before we could realise it well," said Rahim.

Police recovered the body of Gafur Alam but could not find anyone dead or alive until yesterday.

Over 50 fishermen went missing on June 12 as six trawlers sank in a storm in the sea near Cox's Bazar. Ten managed to come ashore while bodies of 13 were recovered from the Sundarbans, also a world



**Rally round the disabled**

Twenty-year-old physically challenged Nashiuddin of Shilamandi in Narsingdi with his mother yesterday at the first ever national conference of the physically challenged at Dhanmondi Women Sports Complex.

PHOTO: STAR

## Govt mulls separate Sundarbans command

REZAUL KARIM

heritage site.

Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam chaired the discussion held at the ministry's conference room and participated by conservation experts, academics, high officials, and representatives from forest department and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

In a momentous meeting yesterday, it was also decided to make eco-friendly modifications of the policy currently applied in mobilising resources from the world's largest mangrove forest.

Participants of the meeting, convened to review a report on the Sundarbans Bio-Diversity Conservation Project (SBCP) prepared by Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Sundarbans Stewardship Commission, advised the government to adopt a more pro-preservation policy in case of the Sundarbans, also a world

rate authority for the Sundarbans comprising representatives of all the stakeholders to ensure conservation of its bio-diversity.

The minister seconded the secretary's scheme and asked all quarters concerned to ponder and suggest specific ways for forming such a separate command.

Pointing at the progressive decay the Sundarbans has been going through for long, a majority of the discussants maintained that it is well nigh impossible for the forest department to protect and conserve the reserve forest with the existing infrastructure.

Meeting sources said Ministry of Environment and Forest (MeF) Secretary Syed Tanbir Hossain first tabled the proposal to form a sepa-

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