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## AN AFRICAN MARTYR

Syed Badrul Ahsan reviews Leo Zeiling's book on rise and fall of Patrice Lumumba

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## FATAL FLOOD

Half a million people are evacuated as floods devastate swathes of China

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## DHAKA FASHION WEEK'11

The festival ends today with a grand show of summer collection

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# Tidal surges batter coast

Crops, hundreds of houses damaged; embankments crack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The depression over the Bay made landfall between the southwestern districts of Bangladesh and West Bengal, triggering tidal surge that destroyed homes and crops, damaged dams and disrupted communication in the wee hours yesterday.

Large areas of the coastal districts, including chars, were flooded by the surge as high as six feet and fish enclosures washed away.

All fishing boats and trawlers in the North Bay have been advised to remain in a safe place until further notice.

Our Patuakhali correspondent said double-decker launch Achol-6, allegedly with 2,000 people on board, got beached near Bakherganj upazila due to the tidal surge. Yesterday, another launch Achol-5 went to its rescue but failed to get the vessel back on water. It, however, could rescue the passengers of Achol-6 around 3:00pm.

Mostafizur Rahman, deputy director of BIWTA in Patuakhali, said they suspended movement of all

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PHOTO: SUSHANTO GHOSH AND PALASH KHAN

The gangway of Lebukhali ferry terminal in Patuakhali is submerged by tidal surge and downpour. The photo was taken yesterday. Inset, the capital experiences day-long rain yesterday. More photos on page 5.

Bangladesh peacekeepers to lead Sudan reinforcement

AFP, United Nations

More than 120 Bangladeshi troops will lead reinforcements sent to the strife-torn Sudanese state of South Kordofan, where Khartoum government troops are battling forces loyal to southern Sudan, UN officials said Thursday.

The United Nations is sending the peacekeeper reinforcements to the state's capital Kadugli to turn its main base there into a safe haven for refugees, he added.

Heavy fighting in the state on the border between north and south Sudan has raged since June 5. Khartoum forces are battling militia aligned to the south's Sudan

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NEXT 2 JS POLLS  
Workers Party for caretaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party of Bangladesh yesterday spoke in favour of holding the next two parliamentary elections under the caretaker government.

Reaching a consensus on caretaker government issue is the political responsibility of both the government and opposition parties, the party leaders observed.

They also urged the main opposition to come forward and hold discussion on the issue with the government.

Party leaders made the

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# Graft documents vanish

Departmental proceedings couldn't be initiated against RHD officials who confessed corruption to Truth Commission

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The documents on Roads and Highways Department officials' confessions of corruption and irregularities have mysteriously vanished from the communications ministry.

The fact came to light after the Supreme Court upheld the High Court verdict that declared the Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) illegal. The apex court cleared the way for trying those who disclosed to the Tac their misdeeds, and deposited ill-gotten money to the state coffers.

As part of its move to tackle corruption, the last caretaker government formed the Tac offering

corrupt officials and businesspeople an opportunity for clemency.

At least 452 people sought clemency from the Tac under the voluntary disclosure of information ordinance. Of them, 351 were civil servants, mostly from the RHD.

The Tac had taken Tk 34 crore in penalties from the corruption suspects.

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain has claimed departmental proceedings could not be initiated against the RHD officials for unavailability of any evidence or documents of their offences.

Insiders say the ministry's disciplinary section had all related documents about the RHD offi-

cials after the Awami League-led alliance assumed office.

"All the files about the RHD officials went missing mysteriously," said a communications ministry high-up asking not to be named.

He said a powerful quarter removed the files to save the self-confessed corrupt officials, including RHD Chief Engineer Shahab Uddin.

Like other civil servants who made confessions to the Tac, Shahab Uddin and his RHD colleagues still remain in service.

Although the AL government promised to fight corruption, Shahab Uddin and many other

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BNP defers road march for bad weather

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP has decided to delay its road march to the northern region for inclement weather, say party highs-

ups.

However, acting BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir will announce fresh agitation programmes today.

The party had earlier decided to organise a two-day road march to be led by Chairperson Khaleda Zia from June 26 to drum up support for retaining

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CARETAKER GOVT ISSUE  
Talks only option for BNP, says AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

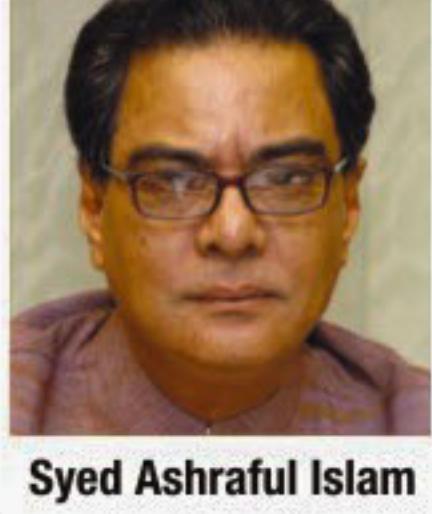
The country's constitution would be amended in line with the Supreme Court verdict if the main opposition BNP does not join talks with the ruling party over the caretaker system.

Syed Ashraful Islam, a cabinet member and also the general secretary of ruling Awami League, said this at a press briefing yesterday.

Inviting BNP to discuss the issue in parliament, the minister said the opposition is left with no other choice.

"Awami League will not take any unilateral decision but if BNP does not join talks then the constitution will be amended according to the Supreme Court judgement.

"The next [parliamentary] elections will be held under



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## Road crash kills 4 cops in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

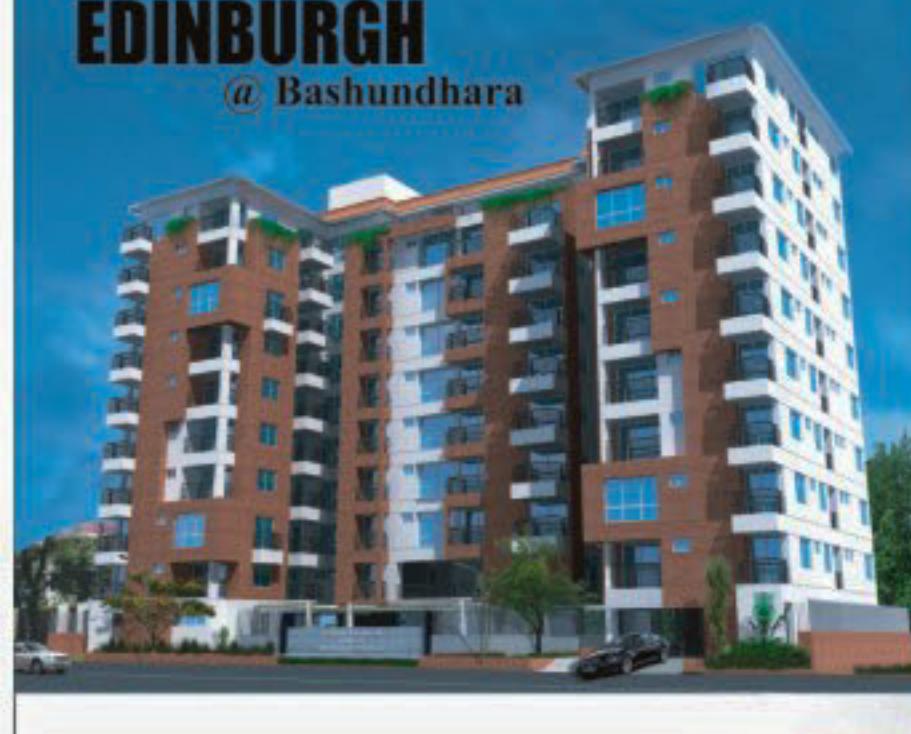
Five people including four policemen were killed and at least five others injured yesterday afternoon in a road accident on the Bogra-Natore highway in Shahjahanpur upazila.

Manzurul Islam Bhuiyan, sub-inspector of Bogra Sadar Police Station, said the accident occurred at Jamadarupur of the upazila around 3:00pm when a Bogra-bound passenger bus collided head-on with a pick-up van carrying eight

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Police personnel inspect the mangled remains of the pick-up truck that was hit by a bus in Bogra yesterday.



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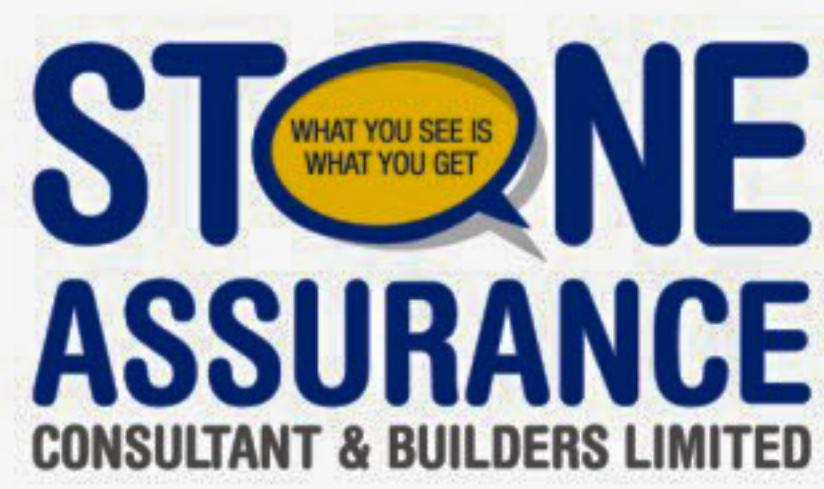
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