



THE LOOPHOLES
Advocate Salma Ali talks to The Daily Star about Tonu murder probe
PAGE 7

SIX TITANS, ONE STAGE
Dylan, Stones, McCartney, Neil Young, Who and Waters in talks for epic concert
PAGE 9

The GrEAT BaCKING
Putin 'personally assured' Assad that Russia won't let Syria lose civil war
PAGE 8



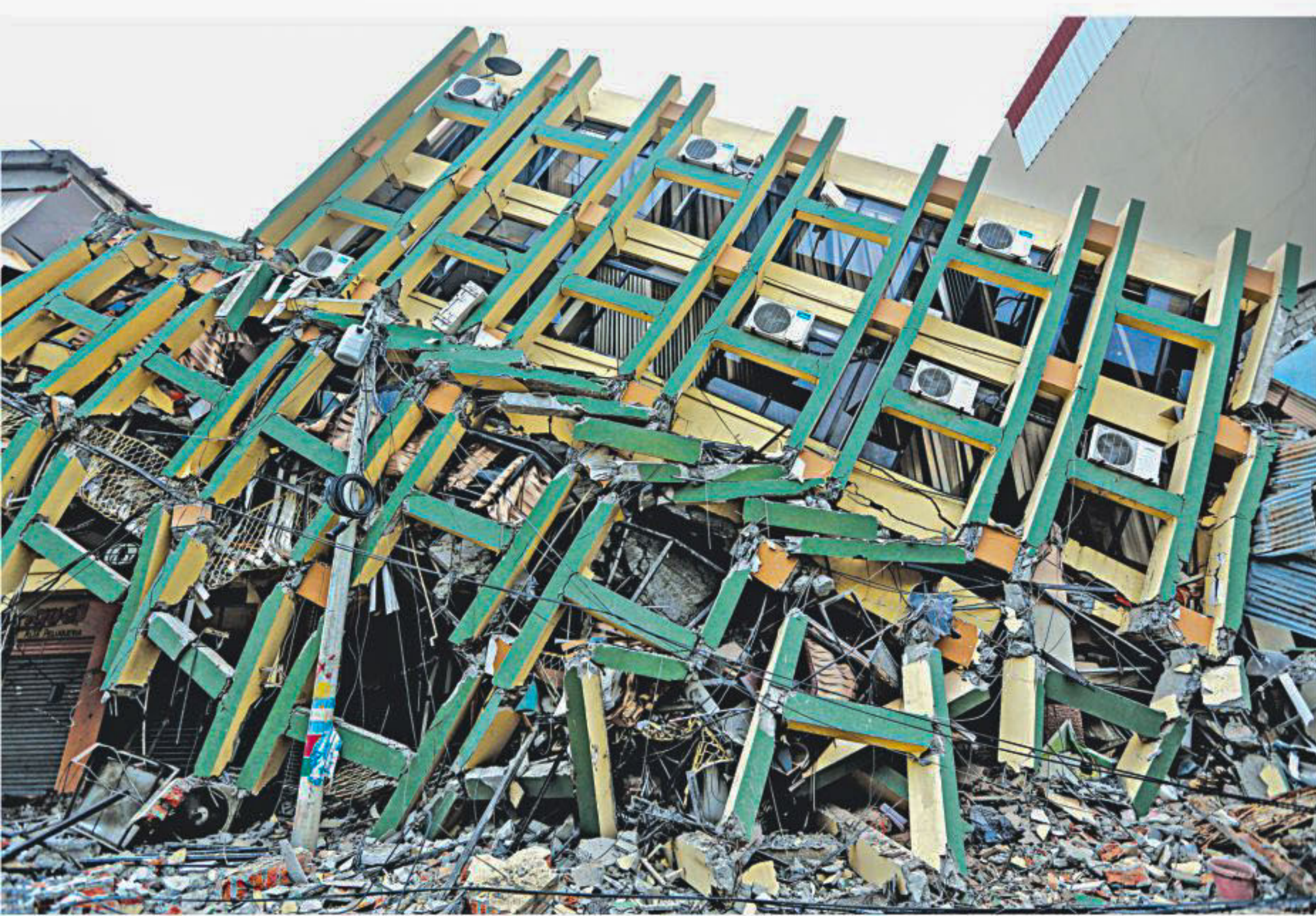
In the midday heat, two Brahminy kites play in the lake of Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital. The heat wave that is sweeping across the country continued yesterday with no respite in the capital. The photo was taken on Saturday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Frustrated, AL's allies face split

Inu faction gets 'torch'
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) faction led by Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu was given 'moshal' (torch) as its electoral symbol by the Election Commission yesterday.
However, Sharif Nurul
SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE
Frustration and resentment have created divisions within some left political parties in the Awami League-led 14 party alliance over the question of parting with the government and the alliance.
Within these parties, the most discussed topic is whether to remain in the union or to get out of it.
In the past, left-leaning political parties often raised their voice on public issues. That was possible because they were never part of any government since independence. But their alliance with the ruling AL took

them to power for the first time in 2009. As a result, they have stopped talking about people's issues and government failures.
One school of left party leaders say they are under an existential threat as they cannot talk about public issues and criticise the government's "anti-people" activities. They include leaders from Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Workers Party, Samyabadi Dal and Gonotontri Party.
For the other group, time is not ripe yet to cut the ties with the government, as it will encourage the anti-liberation forces. Also, that goes against the spirit of the formation
SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



View of a fallen building after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Portoviejo, Ecuador yesterday, killing at least 235 people. The quake also destroyed buildings and a bridge and sent terrified residents scrambling from their homes. PHOTO: AFP

Deadly Ecuador quake kills 235

1,500 injured; mass devastation along Pacific coastline

REUTERS, Manta
The death toll from Ecuador's biggest earthquake in decades soared to at least 235 yesterday as rescuers using tractors and bare hands hunted desperately for survivors in shattered coastal towns.
The 7.8 magnitude quake struck off the Pacific coast on Saturday and was felt around the Andean nation of 16 million people, causing panic as far away as the highland capital Quito and collapsing buildings and roads in a swath of western towns.
President Rafael Correa rushed home from a trip to Italy to supervise the emergency. "The immediate priority is to rescue people in the rubble," he
SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

'MURDER PLOT' AGAINST JOY Mahmudur to be shown arrested

Says DB official; evidence against Shafik came from US Justice Dept: Joy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Detectives are likely to show daily Amar Desh Editor Mahmudur Rahman arrested in the case filed for alleged attempts to abduct and murder Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, said a top DB official yesterday.
"As we are getting information regarding Mahmudur Rahman's link to the plot, we'll show him arrested and pray before a
SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



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