



## NADAL REACHES DOUBLE FIGURES

Wins his 10th Grand Slam crown beating Federer in French Open

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## CARETAKER GOVT

Syed Fattahul Alim writes consensus between AL and BNP is a must for avoiding a bitter crisis

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## DEPARTURE REJOICED

Yemen opposition vows to prevent President Saleh's return

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# Onus now on JS

Constitution amendment body wants parliament to decide about caretaker issue; recommends highest punishment for state power grabber in its final report

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and RASHIDUL HASAN

The parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment yesterday finalised its recommendations, leaving it to the parliament to decide whether the caretaker government system will continue or not.

It however recommended that the provision for caretaker government system should be scrapped from the constitution.

The Supreme Court earlier declared the caretaker government system unconstitutional and void, but observed that the system might be practiced to hold two more gen-

eral elections for the sake of "safety of the state and its people".

The special committee recommended restoration of the four fundamental principles of the original constitution -- nationalism, socialism, democracy, and secularism.

The recommendation said all other principles that spring from the four core principles of the 1972 constitution will be considered as the main principles for governing the country.

The committee recommended the highest punishment for unconstitutional usurpation of state power. Aiding and abetting such a crime will be equally punishable, it said.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the finalised constitutional amendment recommendations by the special committee.

After working almost a year since July 21 last year, the special committee came up with its final 51-point recommendation which will be placed in the parliament by Wednesday, said Committee Co-chair Suranjit Sengupta.

The committee proposed to constitutionally acknowledge Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the father of the nation, and to include his historic March 7 speech, and his declaration of

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People travel on a rickshaw van during yesterday's countrywide hartal as public transports were off the roads. The photo was taken from Moghbazar area in the capital. More photos on page 3

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## GURU

### No more

MORSHED ALI KHAN

The pop guru of Bangladesh is no more. The man, who valiantly fought for the country in the 1971 Liberation War and later inspired millions with his unique music style, lost his long battle for life at 10:20am yesterday at Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

The 62-year-old pop legend suffered a massive cardiac attack around 9:30am. Commandant of Dhaka CMH Brig Gen Mehboobul Haque said the life support machine on which he had been since May 27



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## GDP PROJECTION

### Muhith trashes CPD doubt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday came down hard on Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) for questioning the provisional estimate of gross domestic product (GDP) growth by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

"Rubbish, totally rubbish," Muhith reacted sharply, when reporters drew his attention to CPD's challenging the authenticity of the BBS projection.

The minister was talking with the reporters after a meeting with outgoing US Ambassador James F Moriarty at his ministry.

"If CPD has said so... it's very bad, extremely unjust and very much politically motivated... I'm very sorry," he said.

The think-tank at a press briefing on Saturday commented that the growth could be 6.2-6.3 percent, not 6.7

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## Hartal ends quietly

### BNP announces 2-day agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police scuffled with protesters and arrested over 100 people yesterday during a daylong hartal called by the main opposition BNP and its key ally Jamaat-e-Islami to protest what they said moves to scrap the constitutional provision of holding parliamentary elections under a non-partisan caretaker government.

Most shops and schools remained closed and traffic was disrupted during the dawn-to-dusk nationwide hartal that otherwise passed off without any major violence or clashes. Six home-made cocktails went off in parts of the capital, including three in front of BNP's central office at Naya Paltan.

Police detained more than 100 pickets in the capital and elsewhere as opposition activists attempted to take to the streets to

enforce the hartal, the fifth such shutdown by BNP since the Awami League-led grand alliance won the parliamentary polls held on December 29, 2008.

Several people were injured in the cocktail blasts and in scuffles with police, witnesses said.

The hartal was announced after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said last week there was no scope to keep the provision of non-partisan caretaker government after it was voided by the Supreme Court. However, the fate of the 15-year-old system will be decided by parliament.

Under the 13th amendment to the constitution, an elected government is required to hand over power at the end of its tenure to a non-partisan caretaker administration to oversee holding of

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Hartal called not on CG issue

Says AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League yesterday claimed that BNP called for the hartal to obstruct the trial of war criminals and create anarchy, not on the issue of the caretaker government system.

"Khaleda Zia enforced the hartal neither for the caretaker system nor to protest against issues, like power crisis and price hike of essentials, rather to protect the war criminals, hinder trial proceedings of

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## Correction

In our yesterday's report headlined "Radical reform day's order", we inadvertently mentioned wildlife expert Dr Reza Khan as Dr Ali Reza Khan. The report said Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh honoured him this year with Bangabandhu Award, which is also not correct. In fact, the government awarded him the Bangabandhu Award in recognition of his work for wildlife conservation. We regret the errors.

## Final push for Teesta treaty

Secys of Dhaka, Delhi sit today to fine-tune draft; Indian foreign secy due today

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh and India will hold secretary-level talks in New Delhi today to finalise the framework of an interim treaty for sharing the Teesta water in dry season, prior to the water resources minister-level talks in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Water Resources Secretary Sheikh Wahiduzzaman already reached New Delhi yesterday to meet his Indian counterpart Dhruv Vijay Singh after a gap of five months.

During his day-long stay, Wahiduzzaman will also invite Indian Water Resources Minister

Salman Khurshid to visit Bangladesh for the minister-level talks, schedule for which is yet to be fixed.

Officials in Dhaka said the interim treaty might be signed during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's proposed visit to Dhaka later this

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## PM says door still open

Urges opposition to place caretaker formula in JS

UNB, Dhaka

Labelling the reason of BNP's Sunday hartal as "irrational issue", Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina again requested the opposition party to place their formula on caretaker government system in parliament, if they have any.

"Our door is always open," the premier said while addressing the opening func-



tion of a national programme on World Environment Day 2011 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday morning.

Hasina said the opposition party called the hartal on such an issue which has no reasoning.

"They [BNP] should abide by the court verdict. We have already requested them to place their formula in the parliament.

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