

NOKIA PLANS IT BIG

Global CEO talks about his new strategy

READ IT & TELECOM



DU TURNS 90

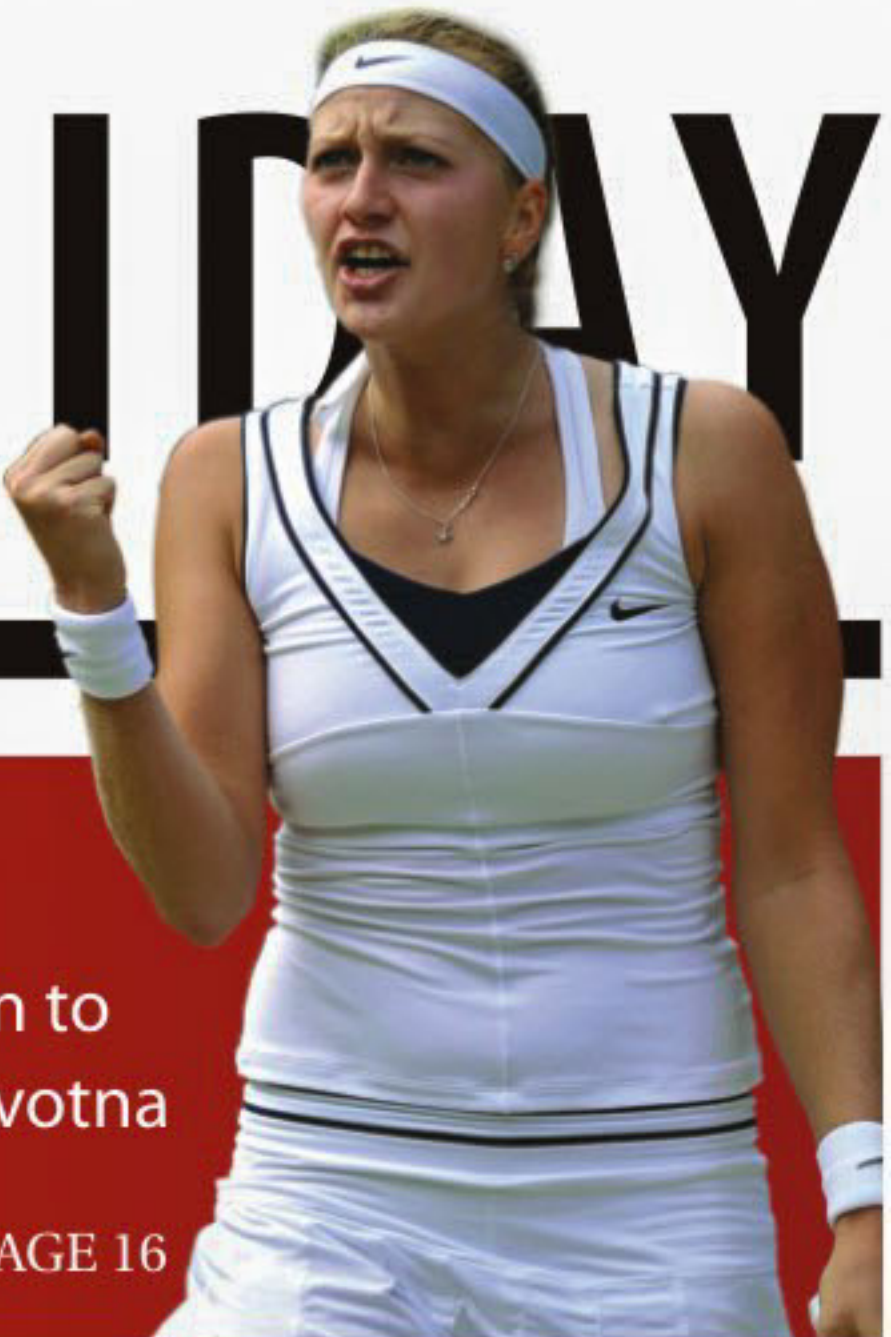
Academics and celebrities recall magical memories

PAGE 10-11

AFTER 13 YEARS

Petra Kvitova is the first Czech woman to reach Wimbledon final since Jana Novotna

PAGE 16



Amendment empowered people: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that her government has ensured "empowerment of people, and their democratic and voting rights" through passage of the much-talked-about constitution

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Caretaker system abolished

JS passes constitution's 15th amendment bill amid BNP's absence

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

Parliament yesterday abolished the caretaker government system allowing general elections under elected partisan governments, with the main opposition BNP terming it "throwing the country into a political confrontation".

Islam's status as the state religion was retained and the Arabic phrase "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim" with its translation "In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful/ In the name of the Creator, the Merciful" was made a part of the constitution with the passage of the 15th constitutional amendment bill.

The latest amendment also allowed religion

based politics which had been banned on papers last year after the cancellation of the fifth amendment. The fifth amendment's cancellation had restored the ban imposed by the original 1972 constitution.

Yesterday's amendment however restored secularism as one of the four fundamental principles of the state which had been omitted by a martial law regime after the 1975 bloody changeover.

The House took a bold step against military takeover of state power and suspension or cancellation of any provision of the constitution by such usurpers. It made a provision for stringent

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

HIGHLIGHTS

- General elections under political govt
- Polls in 90 days before dissolution of JS
- Secularism, Bangalee nationalism back
- Bismillah, state religion stay intact
- Court jurisdiction limited during polls
- Women's reserved seats raised to 50
- War crimes tribunal got more clout

Caretaker chronicle

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

In 1994 when BNP was in power, a by-election in Magura was rigged in favour of the ruling party candidate.

That election prompted the then opposition Awami League to wage a movement to introduce the caretaker government system to ensure free and fair general elections.

The Magura by-election was fixed so flagrantly that it soon became a byword

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Cops foil left parties' procession

5 injured in baton charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday foiled the march of 11 left parties, most of them components of the Awami League-led grand alliance, towards Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban demanding removal of Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim and Islam as state religion from the constitution.

At least five people were injured when police baton charged the agitators before the National Museum at Shahbagh in the capital while a photo-journalist of the Bangla daily Ittefaq, Sohel Reza, was wounded when bricks

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

Doors shut for free, fair polls

Khaleda for repeal of amendment, sees confrontation ahead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said yesterday political confrontation has become inevitable after parliament rescinded the constitutional provision that general elections are overseen by non-partisan caretaker government.

"All the possibilities of holding free, fair, neutral and competitive elections are now gone," Khaleda told a crowded press conference at her Gulshan office in the capital soon after parliament passed the 15th amendment to the constitution abolishing the 15-year-old caretaker government system.

"It has shut the doors to handing over power in a democratic and peaceful way," she said. The republic's charter "has now become a party manifesto of Awami League".

BNP, its allies Jamaat-e-Islami and BJP, which have 38

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



Twelve parties call hartal for July 10-11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve political parties yesterday called a 30-hour-long countrywide hartal protesting "removal of the phrase Absolute Faith and Trust in Allah from the constitution".

The hartal will be observed from 6:00am of July 10 to 12:00noon of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Highest punishment to state power usurpers

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The 15th amendment to the constitution passed in parliament yesterday provides for the highest punishment to the usurpers of state power.

The amendment, that also blocks the way for legitimising unconstitutional power grabbing such as military takeovers, comes in the light of the experience of two military regimes since 1975.

One-party rule erased

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday scrapped the provisions for one-party rule introduced through the fourth amendment to the constitution in 1975.

The country had also switched over to the presidential form of government in place of the parliamentary form through the fourth amendment.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

We grow higher and consolidate strength as our credit ratings stay strong

AA₂ ST-1

Very high quality & very low credit risk

Highest repayment capacity & excellent liquidity

Ratings	2011	2010	2009
Long Term	AA ₂	AA ₂	AA ₃
Short Term	ST-1	ST-1	ST-1
Date of Rating	28 June 2011	09 June 2010	11 June 2009
Based on Financials	31 December 2010	31 December 2009	31 December 2008

but we aim for more as we pitch For A Better Tomorrow

Bank Asia

IF PRIVILEGES ARE ONLY NATURAL TO YOU, YOU ARE PLATINUM

BRAC BANK PLATINUM

5488 9500 0000 0000

VALID FROM 08/11 VALID THRU 08/13

Cardholder Name

MasterCard

BRAC BANK PLATINUM

4587 6300 0000 0000

VALID FROM 08/11 VALID THRU 08/13

Cardholder Name

VISA

BRAC Bank introduces Platinum Cards that surpass the privileges you knew

- Free Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka air ticket
- Upto Tk. 2,500 discount at The Westin Dhaka
- Free access at Balaka VIP Lounge of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport
- Priority Welcome Service at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport
- 30% discount at hotels in Kolkata, India
- Access to over 600 airport lounges across the globe with Priority Pass
- SpeedPass and Concierge Service at more than 280 airports across the globe

For your Platinum Card or to know more about the privileges, please call 16221

Member of: GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR BANKING ON VALUES

Winner 2010: FT SUSTAINABLE BANKING AWARDS Emerging Markets, Asia

Winner 2011: THE ASIAN BANKER EXCELLENCE IN RETAIL FINANCIAL SERVICES AWARDS 2011

BRAC BANK

আবিস্কা অফিস