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RAFA STORMS INTO FINAL

Rafael Nadal reaches the Australian Open final by beating nemesis Roger Federer

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A TROUBADOUR'S COMPANY

Return to the good old days with Waheedul Haque

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DAVOS 2012

Bill Gates pledges another \$750m for troubled global AIDS fund

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BNP won't give names for new EC

Fakhrul terms formation process unconstitutional

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The main opposition BNP will not submit any names to the search committee formed to recommend persons for appointment as election commissioners.

"The question of submitting any names to the search committee doesn't even arise, as it [forming the committee] is an unconstitutional step. There is no constitutional provision of forming a search committee. Even no ordinance has been promulgated in this regard," BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told The Daily Star last night.

"Forming the Election Commission is not the

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Gloomy winter for farmers

Growers not getting just prices for vegetables, some spices; middlemen gobbling up their profits

PORIMOL PALMA

Farmers across the country are facing heavy losses due to lower prices of winter vegetables and some spices at the field level in the absence of efficient market management and government policy support.

Such a situation following huge losses incurred by jute and potato growers for the same reason last year could push the small and marginal farmers into a crisis, causing frustration among them. If they are discouraged to grow vegetables, the national economy will be affected badly, agro-economists noted.

In 2009, the local government and rural development ministry undertook a project to set up eight markets for farmers to sell their produce at fair prices, but that has yet to be implemented.

Besides, an agro-processing zone in Joypurhat established by the government at the cost of Tk 100 crore a few years back has yet to see any productive activities.

Frustrated over lower prices, many farmers in Jessore and Chuadanga have destroyed vegetables like cabbage and cauliflower in their fields, say field reports.

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ/ PALASH KHAN

Heavy vehicles operate on the Mohakhali flyover, ignoring a prohibition sign. Inset, for a similar offence, patrol police stop loaded trucks on Khilgaon flyover. The photos were shot a few days ago.

No public business

Govt office gets involved with birthday affair of minister's granddaughter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

'Urgent Press Release'. So reads the press statement at the top.

"Tomorrow is the first birthday of Meheris Kabir, the lone granddaughter of the state minister for

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7 YRS INTO KIBRIA KILLING

Confidence lost, hopes not yet

Widow still believes one brave investigator will unearth the plot someday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although she has lost her confidence in investigators over the past seven years, Asma Kibria believes unmasking the masterminds behind the assassination of her husband SAMS Kibria is still possible if a brave and



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PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT

WB extends loan activation time

Waits for outcome of Canadian probe into graft allegation

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The World Bank has extended the deadline for loan activation for the Padma Bridge project by six months, reviving the hope that the lending agency might eventually unblock the fund.

WB's decision comes as the Canadian government is still continuing its probe into graft allegations surrounding the project.

WB's Washington headquarters yesterday informed the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of

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No need for fund 'with tag of lies'

PM waits on WB to prove Padma graft charges first

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the donor agency concerned again to prove the allegation of corruption in the Padma bridge project saying that the government will not accept its fund for this mega project unless it

can establish the accusation.

"The allegation of corruption will have to be proved. If not, we won't accept the fund of that agency for the Padma bridge," she said while addressing the 19th National Convention and 35th Council Session of the Institute of

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BAT Bangladesh's CSR initiative 'Probaho' is providing rural people with safe drinking water in arsenic prone areas. Through 27 community based water filtration plants, 'Probaho' is ensuring 140,000 litres of safe drinking water free from arsenic and other impurities in different parts of the country everyday.

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