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**ANOTHER FEATHER IN CROWN**  
Number one tennis star Novak Djokovic named sportsman of the year  
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**AL welcomes; BNP rejects**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday rejected the recommendations submitted by the search committee formed to recommend persons for appointment as election commissioners of the next Election Commission. The party acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir in his reaction said, "Search committee itself is unconstitutional as there is no provision in the constitution to form such committee." "This illegal committee and its recommendations are not acceptable to us," he said. Fakhru also said that the formation of the Election Commission (EC) **SEE PAGE 19 COL 3**

## 2 former secys fit to be CEC

Recommends search committee for new EC

**HASAN JAHD TUSHER**  
Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder and former parliament secretary Kazi Rakib Uddin Ahmed have been recommended by the Search Committee for appointment as chief election commissioner. The committee, formed to suggest names for the new Election Commission, also proposed eight names for the posts of four election commissioners, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told journalists at the Bangabhaban around 7:00pm yesterday. Earlier, the four-member committee headed by Supreme Court judge Syed Mahmud Hossain placed the recommendations to President Zillur Rahman fol-



Ali Imam Majumder



Kazi Rakib Uddin

lowing its last meeting at the Supreme Court in the evening. The ruling Awami League had proposed appointing outgoing chief election commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda for a second term, party sources said. The party's Joint Secretary General Mahbulul Alam Hanif told The Daily Star last night that the committee's list did not include any of the five names his party had proposed. Even so, the AL would accept the new election commission to be formed by the president. From the names suggested, the president will pick one as the new CEC and up to four as election commissioners and send those names to the Cabinet Division **SEE PAGE 19 COL 4**

## Maldives president quits after cop mutiny

Vice president Waheed replaces Nasheed

**AGENCIES**  
The first democratically elected president of the Maldives resigned yesterday and was replaced by his vice president after the police and army clashed in the streets of the island nation amid protests over the arrest of a top judge. Mohammed Waheed Hassan, who previously worked as a top UNICEF official, was sworn in as the new Maldivian president in the afternoon. Soon after, the judge was released. In a televised address, Hassan promised to protect his predecessor, Mohamed Nasheed, from retribution and called for the chaos in the streets to stop. "I urge everyone to make this a peaceful country," he said. His announcement came after



Nasheed appeared to have lost the support of the Indian Ocean nation's military which, according to army spokesman Colonel Abdul Raheem Abdul Latheef, had advised him to step down. "The president on his own initiative came to the military headquarters for advice ... on whether he should resign and then he got the message," Latheef said. He added that Nasheed was now

in his residence and "not in detention," despite demands from some opposition leaders that he be placed in military custody. Nasheed presented his resignation in a nationally televised address after police joined the protesters and then clashed with soldiers in the streets. Some of the soldiers then defected to the police side. "I don't want to hurt any Maldivian. I feel my staying on in power will only increase the problems, and it will hurt our citizens," Nasheed said. "So the best option available to me is to step down." A presidential official described the unrest as "an attempted coup" by former president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who Nasheed turfed out of **SEE PAGE 19 COL 5 MORE ON PAGE 7**



**Shahidullah emphasised Bangalee culture**

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The death of Mohammad Ali Jinnah created a condition of political uncertainty in Pakistan, owing primarily to the fact that Jinnah had combined in himself the positions of governor general, president of the constituent assembly and head of the ruling Muslim League. No **SEE PAGE 19 COL 2**

## Hasina hails army for foiling plot

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday hailed the members of Bangladesh Army for their role in quelling the recent conspiracy against her elected government. She also said that any attempt to hurt democracy should be resisted with full force. "Everyone must have full allegiance to the country's constitution and democratic government, and any activity against the democracy should be resisted with full force to uphold the constitution and democracy," Hasina said. **SEE PAGE 19 COL 2**

## WAR TRIAL OF SAYEED Prosecution hiccups from fickle witnesses

RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR

The prosecution and the investigation agency probing war crimes have been failing over and over again to produce witnesses in a case against Jamaate-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee at the International Crimes Tribunal. Four days after failing to produce any witnesses on February 2, the prosecution yesterday brought forth only

one witness who could not even remember anything specific, and completed his deposition in just two minutes. The defence did not even bother to cross-examine the witness. The prosecution's frequent failure to produce witnesses became an issue at the tribunal yesterday. The judges started their proceedings by asking the prosecution about the number of witnesses they had for the day. After the prosecution said it

had only one witness, tribunal Chairman Justice Nizamul Huq addressed Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arieff Tipoo and said, "Mr Chief Prosecutor! What shall we do? You have managed to bring only one witness after four days!" The chief prosecutor said they appreciate the court's concerns and added that the prosecution's efforts to produce the witnesses have been relentless. **SEE PAGE 19 COL 5**

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

## Good luck to 2 good bills

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The ruling Awami League in its manifesto amended in July 2009 had stated that there would be no law "discriminatory" between MPs and citizens of Bangladesh. After over two and a half years, the announcement saw some action when two bills were placed in Parliament on Monday to scrap a "discriminatory" provision from the laws concerned that exempts MPs and the speaker and deputy speaker from paying taxes on their remuneration. It is expected that two more bills will be placed in parliament soon to repeal a similar "discriminatory" provision from the same number of separate laws that **SEE PAGE 6 COL 1**



Two young gharials (*Gavialis gangeticus*)—a critically endangered species—bask on a bamboo platform in the morning sun at the Endangered Species Captive Breeding Facility. The facility is managed by the Centre for Advanced Research in Natural Resources & Management (CARINAM) with support from the Forest Department at the Bhawal National Park. The gharials were caught about a year ago by fishermen and later rescued by officials. **PHOTO COURTESY: CARINAM**

**Reckless driving claims 2 more lives in city**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was killed and six others were injured yesterday when a microbus hit their CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Demra on the outskirts of the capital. In another incident, a youth was killed due to reckless driving of a passenger bus at Azimpur. Habibur Rahman, a **SEE PAGE 19 COL 8**

## PADMA BRIDGE Malaysian venture may prove costly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Construction of the Padma bridge might turn out costly for Bangladesh, point out an economist and a chartered accountant as the government hurries up the venture with the help of Malaysia. "It will be problematic if the government arranges finance from sources other than the World Bank and other development partners," said former finance adviser to a caretaker government Akbar Ali Khan. Akbar, also a former finance secretary, made the comment yesterday while responding to a query at a dialogue on whether a tighter monetary policy will help tackle the problems of double-digit inflation the economy is facing now. **SEE PAGE 7 COL 7**

**No conflict with WB**

Says Obaidul Quader

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur  
Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said there was no conflict between the government and the World Bank over the Padma Bridge and that the lending agency would keep contributing to the country's development. He was talking to **SEE PAGE 19 COL 1**

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