### **DRUG SUBMARINES**

Colombian drug traffickers go under water to transport cocaine

### **ABOUT ENERGY**

A look into supply-demand disparity and pricing PAGE 14

Your Right to Know

#### **AKRAM CHIEF SELECTOR**

Former Bangladesh cricket captain Akram Khan is now selection committee chief PAGE 16



# Past govt to hold polls if CG fails

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AL proposes reviving immediate past political govt if elections not held within 90-day tenure of caretaker govt

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The immediate past elected government will automatically revive if a caretaker government fails to hold a general election within 90 days of a parliament's dissolution, proposed ruling Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

In that case, the parliamentary poll will be held as soon as possible under that political party-led government, Hasina, also the premier, elaborated on the proposition during talks with the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment.

She also suggested that the special committee drafts proposals for limiting the tenure of caretaker governments.

"We made the proposals to keep pressure on caretaker governments, so they cannot delay in holding parliamentary polls," Hasina said citing the last caretaker government's around two years of rule.

Hasina, who led a 12-member party

delegation to the talks, also placed some other proposals, on behalf of ruling AL, for the special committee's consideration.

After the talks on constitutional amendment in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, she disclosed the proposals at a media briefing in Gonobhaban, the official residence of the premier.

Citing the anxiety of eminent jurists about the provision of appointing former chief justices as the chiefs of caretaker governments, Hasina proposed some alternatives.

Participating in the talks with the special committee on Sunday, eminent jurists proposed scrapping of the current provision which allows former chief justices to lead caretaker governments, because according to them, the current provision contributed to making the judiciary controversial by hampering its independence.

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Cut on president's power to declare emergency in CG tenure

**Provision against** state power grab

Islam to stay as state religion

'Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim' to stay

Alternatives to former CJ-headed caretaker govt

**Empowering JS** 

to remove constitutional officials

Article 70 to remain unchanged

5 more JS reserved seats for women

Provision for portrait of Father of the Nation

Delay in Padma Bridge Project

## Finger now pointed at main donor WB

\$1.2b loan signing today

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The \$2.9 billion Padma Multipurpose Bridge project is being delayed due to intervention and excessive bureaucracy of the World Bank in last nine months, government officials and documents say.

The government cancelled the first pre-qualification bidding last year after objection from the World Bank, the project's lead financier, on grounds of a change in the design. The loan-signing between the WB and the government will be done today.

The bank is now pressing to reconsider the rejected bids of a disqualified bidder, China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC), according to documents.

A technical evaluation committee headed by Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury and the project's design consultant Maunsell AECOM rejected CRCC for not having suffi-

## Graft-free project

WB managing director explains their objective

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ing a tender clause.

January 8.

cient experience, and also for violat-

Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA)

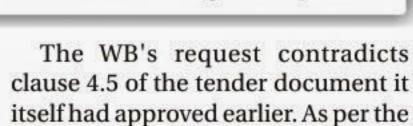
to verify again the documents of

CRCC and judge its eligibility.

The WB's suggestion came four

The government has to ensure corruption-free use of the World Bank fund in the construction of Padma Multipurpose Bridge, said WB Managing Director

Ngozi Okonjo-lweala SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



months after the government sought section, if a mother company and his its clearance of evaluation of five presubsidiary apply or participate in a qualified bidders for the project on bid then both will be disqualified. CRCC is the parent company of In a letter on April 12, Task Team Leader of WB Masood Ahmed asked

China Railway 15 Bureau Group Corporation, which also participated in the Padma Bridge bidding and got disqualified. Both failed to meet all **SEE PAGE 19 COL 5** 

### 3 workers die after fall from roof

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three construction workers died after falling from the rooftop of an underconstruction building at Bashundhara residential area in the capital's Badda on Tuesday.

The deceased are Nur Islam, 25, his brother Nuruzzaman, 28, of Nageshwari upazila in Kurigram, and Mohammad Alam, 28, of Tarakanda upazila in Mymensingh. Fellow workers, who

witnessed the accident, said they fell from the rooftop of a seven-storey building of Bashundhara Group while trying to

**SEE PAGE 6 COL 4** 



Workers setting up a hoarding on the roof of a building at Badamtoli in the capital yesterday without safety gear. Such unsafe construction work often leads to fatal accidents. Three workers died Tuesday after falling from an under-construction building in the city's Bashundhara area. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## One power grid for Saarc nations: 10 years

Stresses Indian minister at roundtable

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India has called for integrating the entire Saarc region by a robust power grid system to address power deficit in · South Asian countries.

A Saarc power grid linking Bangladesh, India, Nepal Pakistan and Sri Lanka has the estimated potential to : install at least 1,00,000 megawatts in the region for com- terday. mon use, Indian Minister of State for Power KC · Venugopal said.

ing Investment Opportunity in Power Sector in South : eral resources ministry Asia: Leveraging Cross Border Power Trading" in New : recommended that the Delhi yesterday.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and · encourage private entre-USAID/SARI Energy organised the day-long roundtable, · preneurs to invest in this in which delegates from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, : sector so it can overcome Nepal and Sri Lanka participated.

They deliberated on current level of energy trades, : After a meeting at the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2 ·

## No power respite in

Observes JS body RASHIDUL HASAN

cannot be resolved within · next 10 years as the progress in power generation · is too little to fulfil its · rising demand, observed a parliamentary body yes-

Power crisis in the country

The parliamentary standing committee on Venugopal was speaking at a roundtable on "Promot- : power, energy and mingovernment should the crisis.

**SEE PAGE 6 COL 8** 

