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Former Bangladesh cricket captain Akram Khan is now selection committee chief
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Past govt to hold polls if CG fails

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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PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS

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

WB managing director explains their objective
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government has to ensure corruption-free use of the World Bank fund in the construction of Padma Multipurpose Bridge, said WB Managing Director



SEE PAGE 19 COL 4 Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

cient experience, and also for violating a tender clause.
The WB's suggestion came four months after the government sought its clearance of evaluation of five pre-qualified bidders for the project on January 8.
In a letter on April 12, Task Team Leader of WB Masood Ahmed asked Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) to verify again the documents of CRCC and judge its eligibility.
The WB's request contradicts clause 4.5 of the tender document it itself had approved earlier. As per the section, if a mother company and his subsidiary apply or participate in a bid then both will be disqualified.
CRCC is the parent company of China Railway 15 Bureau Group Corporation, which also participated in the Padma Bridge bidding and got disqualified. Both failed to meet all

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3 workers die after fall from roof

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Three construction workers died after falling from the rooftop of an under-construction 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



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

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 common use, Indian Minister of State for Power KC Venugopal said.
Venugopal was speaking at a roundtable on "Promoting Investment Opportunity in Power Sector in South Asia: Leveraging Cross Border Power Trading" in New Delhi yesterday.
The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and USAID/SARI Energy organised the day-long roundtable, in which delegates from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated.
They deliberated on current level of energy trades,

No power respite in 10 years

Observes JS body
RASHIDUL HASAN
Power crisis in the country 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 yesterday.
The parliamentary standing committee on power, energy and mineral resources ministry recommended that the government should encourage private entrepreneurs to invest in this sector so it can overcome the crisis.
After a meeting at the

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Branch Opens Today at **Shyamoli** in the Capital

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