**DEBTORS' HAVEN**

State banks achieve 2.31 percent of targeted loan recovery from top defaulters in first quarter

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NO TO BANGLADESH

Draft cricket tour plan confirms India will not host the country till 2020

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GLOBAL LAND GRAB

Kofi Annan blasts rich nations for buying and leasing land in other countries

PAGE 7

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT Bill placed in JS to scrap CG provision

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Awami League-led government placed the much-talked-about constitution amendment bill in parliament yesterday proposing some major changes, including scrapping of the provisions for caretaker government system.

The bill was yesterday sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry for scrutiny. The committee will place a report in parliament in two weeks.

The two-week time given to the parliamentary committee in an indication that the bill will be passed in this session, which might continue till the middle of July.

In 1996, then opposition Awami League waged massive street agitations to compel the BNP-led government to introduce the caretaker government system by amending the constitution. The Awami League even boycotted an election in 1996 to press home their demand.

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Polls without CG won't be accepted
Says BNP; fresh agitation to be announced on June 28

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said people will never accept any election conducted without a caretaker government.

"It seems that they [ruling party] do not have any shame. The government is unilaterally heading towards holding elections when the party is in power. We don't accept it as we have made it clear earlier," Alamgir said.

He was giving his instant reaction to reporters following the placement of a bill in parliament on constitution

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Awardees pose with trophies at the 11th Bangladesh Business Awards ceremony at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. From left, Alihussain Akberali, chairman of BSRM Group; Tanya Tazeen Karim, an architect; Faruk Khan, commerce minister (chief guest); Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director of Eastern Bank; Amjad Khan Chowdhury, chief executive officer of Pran-RFL Group; M Matiul Islam, chairman of Industrial and Infrastructure Development Finance Company; Ramesh Natarajan, vice-president of DHL Express; and Desmond Quiah, country manager of DHL. The Daily Star and DHL jointly organised the awards ceremony.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Talks must to avoid controversy

Menon says; Selim asks BNP MPs to resign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday said it is imperative that the treasury bench talk with the opposition on the caretaker government issue to avoid controversy and ensure free and fair elections.

Participating in the budget discussion in parliament, he said, "Though the main opposition has taken a rigid stance, the government should bring them to the negotiating table."

Ruling Awami League lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, however, came down hard on the opposition for their

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Business heroes honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was a special night to honour the country's five business heroes -- institutions and individuals -- for taking their ventures to a greater height of achievement in their own areas. Each awardee is a success story and a signpost for ideas and innovations in the world of business.

Amjad Khan Chowdhury, chief executive officer of Pran-RFL Group, was recognised as the Best Business Person of the Year as The Daily Star, the country's

most-read English newspaper, and DHL Express, the world's leading logistics company, honoured the country's best businesses and the people behind them.

On a night of triumph for businesses, Chowdhury, 71, won the much-coveted award for turning a simple idea of producing agro-processed foods in 1991 into a company of 30,000 employees.

M Matiul Islam, chairman of Industrial and Infrastructure Development Finance Company

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SEE MORE ON B8, PAGE 20

HARIPUR 360 MW POWER PROJECT Govt set to accept unproven tech

SHARIK KHAN and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

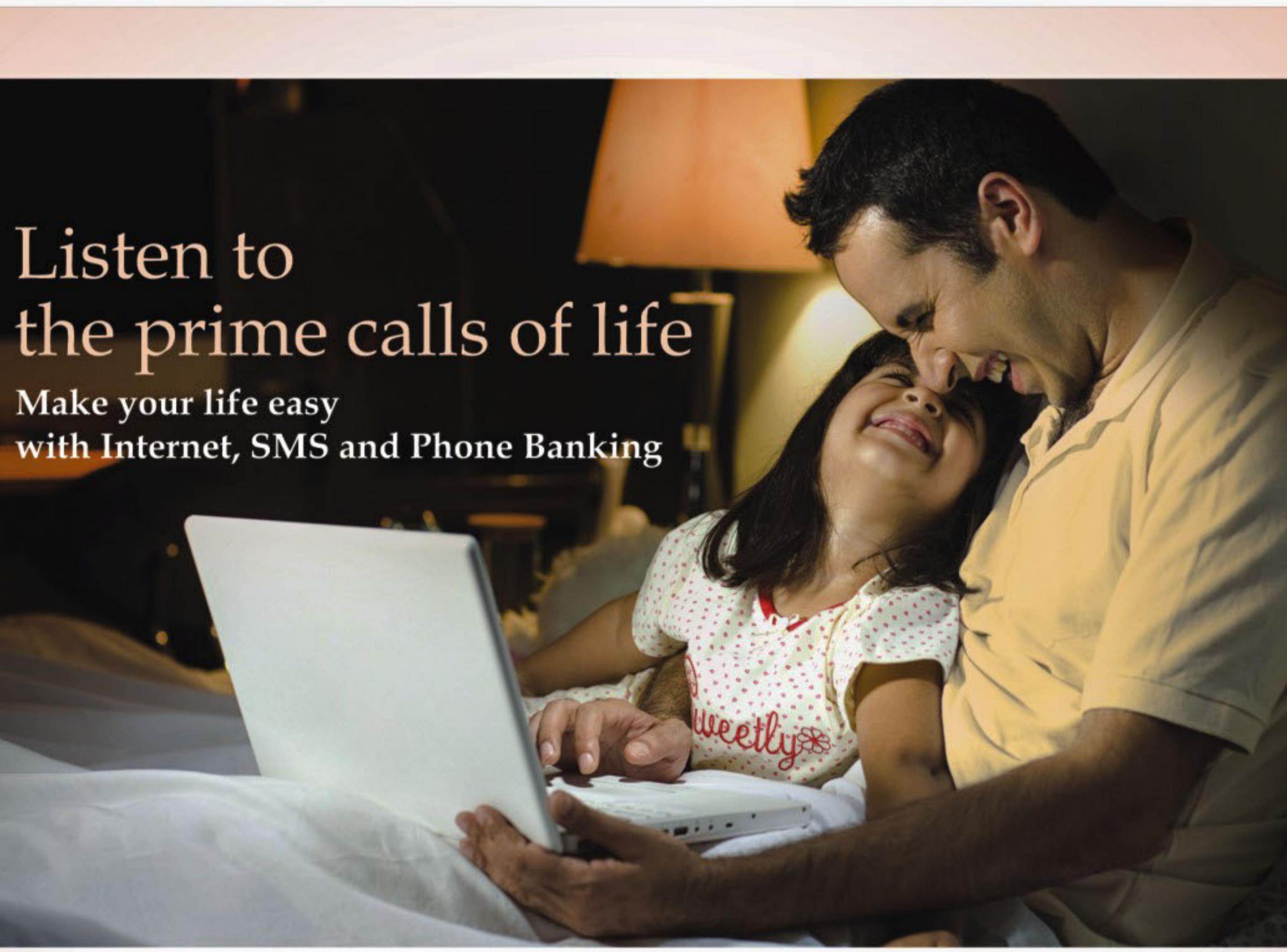
The Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh (EGCB) is set to accept a gas turbine, which has not been commercially used anywhere before, for the Haripur 360 megawatt gas-fired combined cycle power project from the project's contractor although its tender rules forbid use of such unproven technology.

As per a global standard practice, the

EGCB forbids use of generator technology that has not been satisfactorily used for at least two years to ensure safety standard of a power plant.

In February, the EGCB signed a contract with Japanese company Marubeni to set up a power plant in Narayanganj with Tk 1,665-crore funds from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica). In March, the prime minister laid the

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