## \$300m WB loan

ries resulting from accidents has necessitated the need for free emergency services to the underprivileged. It said the gap in health services provided to rich and poor people remains large.

The project aims to assist Bangladesh with the implementation of its Strategic Investment Plan (2003-2010) by supporting the government's social development goals as outlined in the draft Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

The bank will also assist in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on health, nutrition, and population

"There is a window of opportunity to improve Bangladesh's HNP system and reach the MDGs with this firm commitment from the government to do more and to do better." said Kees Kostermans. World Bank Lead Public Health Specialist and task leader for the

Reforming the public healthcare system through the Strategic Investment Plan and significantly increasing the level of public spending on HNP can have positive implications, especially for the poor.

According to the bank, the project has three components. The first component will accelerate achievement of health-related MDGs and PRSP strategies and of population policy objectives

The second component focuses on the development of strategies and policies for emerging HNP sector challenges. The third component addresses major policy reforms in the health sector to increase management and stewardship capacity, diversification of service provision, and stimulation of demand for HNP services in Bangladesh

## Spymaster

or talent to make a decision ... If he does not show leadership, Bashar could certainly become a victim of circumstances." Zeevi said in the interview.

Israel is still technically at war with Syria and continues to occupy the Golan Heights, a strategic territory seized from its northern neighbour during the 1967 Six-Day

"People are already saying that perhaps Bashar is not supplying the goods, that perhaps he should be replaced," Zeevi said, warning that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network "does not intend to sit by and do nothing"

as Syria fractures. He named General Asaf Shaukat, head of intelligence and Assad's brother-in-law, and the president's brother, Maher Assad, as possible leadership contenders.

On the home front, Zeevi said Israeli intelligence services had thwarted "more than 10 terror attacks against Israeli targets abroad" in the past month, without giving further details.

In the last such attack, 34 people, including 13 Israelis, were killed in October when militants carried out bomb attacks in Egypt's Sinai peninsula that is popular with Israeli

## Nizami

FROM PAGE 16

alliance not to establish an Islamic regime but to prevent those who speak against Islam from running the country. Nizami told the meet as the chief guest.

The AL proved itself as an anti-Islamic party during its tenure by initiating bans on Islamic politics and Kawmi Madrasas, he said.

He said Jamaat has no link to militancy or communalism, but some quarters are making persistent efforts to prove them 'terrorist and Talihan'

'We also don't have anything to do with International Khatme Nabuwat Movement, Bangladesh, who are running a campaign against the Ahmadiyyas. But there is a conspiracy to prove our link, however non-existent, with it in a bid to tarnish out image.'

Khatme Nabuwat Movement's extremism against the Ahmadiyyas has given the opportunity for the international community to brand the Muslims in Bangladesh as fanatic, he said.

"As the ameer of your party, I strongly direct you not to react or show extremism even in response

to negative attitudes... you must comply with my orders unfailingly," Nizami told his party Deputy Leader of Jamaat Parliamentary Party Delawar

Hossain Saydee, MP said the AL has raised the caretaker government reformation issue, realising it would not win the next general

Emphasising the unity of Islamic political parties, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas said, "We must root out the current misconception that Muslims who attend prayers are

fanatics and Talibans. State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Major (retd) Mohammad Quamrul Islam also addressed the meet chaired by Jamaat's Dhaka regional head Rafiuddin Ahmad

The project components are closely inter-linked, said Christine Wallich, World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh. The first component focuses on service delivery in primary healthcare and achieving the HNP Millennium Development Goals.

The second addresses the changing disease burden due to urbanisation and the aging of the population. The third component seeks equity and efficiency in the HNP sector

The Health, Nutrition, and Population Sector Program Project supports Bangladesh's Country Assistance Strategy (CAS), which emphasises poverty reduction through consolidated gains in human development by strengthening priority health interventions.

The project also supports the CAS by supporting the forging of partnerships between the public and non-public sectors.

This credit is from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's concessionary lending arm, carries a 0.75 percent service charge, and has 40 years to maturity with a 10year grace period.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$4.3 billion; the remaining

balance will be made up by the Bangladesh government and a large group of development part-

#### CCC polls FROM PAGE 16

ing them vehicles like the mayoral candidates and candidates for the reserved seats. The RO in reply

Tapati Sen, one of the women contenders, alleged that some rival candidates' men have been threatfrom the minority community, not to election day.

The EC following decisions taken on April 4 has formed a committee under which seven teams will closely monitor pre-polls situation and polling. The city corporation area, which comprises 41 wards, is divided into seven electoral zones.

## Amu

FROM PAGE 16

ruling out any discussion on the caretaker issue

"Mannan Bhuiyan's comment itself reflects that they cannot ignore the opposition's logical demand for reforms of the caretaker system. They are deeply thinking about it and waiting for the opposition's reform proposals," said Amu, one of the AL policymakers.

Asked about his party's return to parliament, Amu said the Awami League has not resigned from parliament. " We will go when it will be necessary But that does not mean that we will have to go to parliament for reforms of caretaker system." he said.

Amu observed that the opposition demand for reforms of the caretaker government system has already been appreciated nationally and internationally for holding credible elections in the country.

Awami League and other opposition political parties are in consultation on the proposed reforms, and the outcome in the form of a package proposal is likely to be made public simultaneously.

Asked about the possible time of spelling out their reform proposals, the AL stalwart said the proposal may be released after the party's working committee meeting

### 2 to die

FROM PAGE 16

Her father Nazrul Islam accused six people saying Farid and his accomplices knifed her daughter to death for spurning his indecent proposal.

Police pressed charges on November 11, 2003 and the case was sent to the Speedy Trial Tribunal following a home ministry directive.

## Extortionists murder

was killed in 'crossfire' in Radhanagar village under the sadar upazila in the early hours yesterday.

The police said they arrested Ativar from a house at Alamdanga in Chuadanga on Wednesday and took him to the village to seize his fire-

Atiyar was killed in 'crossfire' when his associates opened fire on police and the law enforcers retaliated. thev added.

The outlaw was accused of three criminal offences including two

Meantime, Jhenidah police on Wednesday arrested two suspected Islamist militants with firearms in Garagani village in Sailkupa.

The police said they would learn more about the arrestees -- Masudur Rahman, 32, and Azizul Haq Chand, 34, -- after interrogation.

But sources said the arrestees identified them as members of Harkatul Jihad, a communal Islamist militant group.

## **Indian woman** gets 2 rupee aid for tsunami

devastation

An Indian woman paid just two rupees (four US cents) in compensation for damage to her coconut groves by tsunami waves has angrily returned the state aid, an official admitted vesterday.

Charity Champion sent back the cheque from local government aid officials who assessed the damage to her coconut crop at two rupees, said Sailen Singh Parihar, deputy administrator of Nancowrie island in the Andamans group.

"I was amazed the assessment team which came in January calculated that she be paid just two rupees. It was absolutely absurd." Parihar told AFP by telephone from the southern island.

"Naturally she is very angry. Who wouldn't be angry?" he said of the tribal woman who lost 300 coconut and areca nut trees when towering waves slammed into the Indian Ocean archipelago on December 26.

"We pay 4,000 rupees (93 dollars) for each hectare (2.47 acres) of crops lost so I don't know who came up with that silly figure." Parihar said. adding that he had ordered a review of claims in the devastated islands of Nancowrie, Kamorta and Teressa.

Parihar rejected complaints that many other survivors too had received cheques for tiny sums of money from the local administration, but said he was investigating.

More than 2,000 people died and 5.640 others are still listed as missing on the Andamans.

now. "The price will go down further within a few days," said Billal Hossain, a fish trader at Karwan Bazar.

Our correspondent from coastal zone reports that although the season of hilsha netting started from the first day of Bangla New Year, the fewer amounts of fish during the initial 10-12 days caused its high price. However, now they have had a good catch for last three-four days.

From Barisal alone more than 500 to 600 maunds of hilsha have been sent to different parts of the country after local consumption.

Fishermen believe they would net more fish after a couple of days in the deep sea and the price would

### Waste treatment

FROM PAGE 1

Villagers said even in the daytime they are forced to use mosquito nets to protect themselves from swarms of mosquitoes hatched in the dirty

Over the last few years, they said, scores of ministers and political leaders visited the area and pledged to reduce the pollution in the canals by setting up a waste treatment plant. None of the leaders or top government officials kept their promise, the angry villagers said, while thousands are being slowly poisoned to death.

"Here people are totally dependent on tube-wells for their daily needs. But during the dry season most of the wells become dry," said

Shahidul of Baghpara village. Hasna Banu, a housewife of Baghpara, said the water in the Norai, Rampura Khal and Dolai Khal is so lethal that its contact makes domestic animals sick. "Even chickens become ill and ultimately die if they drink water of these poisonous

streams," she said. Although lots of country boats, mechanised trawlers and barges laden with vegetables and other farm produce still navigate on the canals, the canal water looks thick and utterly black, emitting an extremely foul odour. Hardly five kilometres off the city centre, over 90 per cent of the Trimohini houses still use open pit latrines, discharging human wastes directly into the canals.

Anwar Mia, a boatman from Babur Jaga, said this excessive pollution level in the canals remains for a period of about seven months before the flood water creeps in. He said, "During these seven months, we go through extreme hardship, as nobody wants to rent a country boat."

Water pollution is so high in Trimohini because the untreated sewage discharged from a 35 square kilometre area of Dhaka flows past the place through the Rampura canal. People living along the polluted waterways complain of various health problems including skin diseases.

Apart from an acute crisis of fresh water and other day-to-day problems in the area, a Trimohini resident said, the most dangerous aspect to me is that sometimes we can not stay at home due to the acrid stench coming from the canals.

# Knocked unconscious

Sources estimate that as many as 200 people, most of them children, have been brought to the DMCH in this condition between 1998 and

"Usually the police bring them to the hospital. After recovery, they can recall nothing about their home addresses or any of their relatives and have to be sent to shelters," she According to official sources.

apart from accidents, many of the

children were abducted for traffick-

ing and then abandoned by the abductors in fear of the police or public retaliation. Eleven-year-old Beauty and seven-year-old Fatema both were taken in an unconscious state to the DMCH by Ramna police on March 4 last year. Police on night patrol found them abandoned on the

sidewalk. Akash. 12. another ill-

fated boy, was also brought uncon-

scious to the DMCH on June 3 last

vear by Mirpur police. None of these children could recall their addresses and the hospital authorities were forced to send them to rehabilitation centres

But, hospital sources warn, only a small portion of these hapless children is rehabilitated. Having no money and no guardians, and as the hospital cannot take care of them indefinitely, in most cases they are forced to leave. And some of them simply wander off.

"Some, having no sense of destination, get up from bed and wander aimlessly, leaving the hospital," a DMCH source said.

Feroza Khanam said the social welfare department has been able to rehabilitate only 57 people, most of them children, from 1998 to 2004 in six government and private rehabilitation centres in the city. Those are Mirpur Public Shelter Home, Chotomoni Nibash at Azimpur, the Missionaries of Charity of Mother Teresa Home of Compassion at Teigaon, the Centre for Training and Rehabilitation of Destitute Women in Mohammadpur, and the Family for Children and Intervida Home at Khanam said her office consid-

ers such cases only when the DMCH authorities apply for them to

be rehabilitated. Typically the social welfare office must file a general diary with Ramna Police Station to ascertain the person's non-identity,

> Many victims, however, have been lucky enough to stay at the hospital compound by engaging themselves in unofficial work Twelve-year-old Raju, for example, worked at the DMCH doctors' canteen for one year and now works at a

restaurant in Old Dhaka. Raju was admitted to the DMCH in early 2003 after being injured in a road accident. He came to the city from Chandpur in search of his father, who worked here. Since his hospitalisation, however, Raju has not been able to remember his home address.

"I only knew that my father was a vendor in Dhaka but did not know the specific place where he lived," Raju told The Daily Star.

He continued, "During my work in the doctors' canteen, a man took me to Chandpur launch terminal and asked the locals if they could identify me or if I could identify any one. But every effort failed."

Indonesia

A strong quake measuring at least

from the coastal Sumatra town of

Meulaboh, said Suhardi of Jakarta's

registered the quake at 6.3 on the

dent in Nias' capital, Gunung Sitoli,

which bore the brunt last month's

The Hong Kong observatory

According to an AFP correspon-

AFP, Gunung Sitoli

#### **USAID** study sees Strong undersea quake jolts attendant spin-off benefits, such as

major factor in its low rate of

growth," it said. Power outages in Bangladesh cost about \$ 1 billion a year and reduce GDP growth by about a 0.5

percentage point, the report said guoting a World Bank study.

holds. It quotes a 2003 study by a group of economists led by Abul Barkat saying that the total annual rural household income is about Tk 1,105 billion. Of this, Tk 102.73 billion can be attributed to electricity, which shows that 9.3 percent of annual income of the country's 19

million rural households is electricity-dependent. Explaining how electricity expands market, the USAID study says that as a result of the existing rural electrification, Bangladesh market in 2002 might have sold 5.7 million fans, 1.7 million televisions, 1.5 million cassette players, one million irons and so on. In the next three to five years, the market for electrical appliances would be even

more enormous From 1983, rural electricity consumers grew by 42.5 percent a year to 3.4 million in 2002. Total number of direct beneficiaries is

20.5 million. The report said rural electrification accelerates economic development, creates markets and contrib-

utes to better social integration "Economic development and its

Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury and

Kanwal Sibal, then foreign secretaries

The meeting discussed issues

relating to the demarcation of land

boundary, exchange of enclaves and

territories in adverse possession,

cross-border illegal movements and

security concerns of both India and

Bangladesh, and economic coopera-

Shasank came to Dhaka on a familiari-

sation tour, but no formal consultations

planned foreign secretary-level meet-

ing would push the ball rolling between

the two sides to help remove the

"irritants" in the relations between the

A foreign ministry official told UNB

that the appointment of Liaquat Ali

Choudhury as Bangladesh High

Commissioner to India could expedite

the process of diplomatic contacts

Dhaka Saarc summit that was sched-

uled for February 7-8 following India's

unilateral pullout ostensibly gave a jolt

left five Bangladeshi civilians and a

BSF officer killed since April 16, fol-

lowed by a "war of words", not only

charged the border atmosphere but

A turning point came in sight when

Foreign Minister Morshed Khan met

Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan

Singh and External Affairs Minister

Natwar Singh in Jakarta last week on

Dr Singh stressed resolving all

"Bangladesh is committed to

maintaining the natural friendship with

India," Bangladesh Foreign Minister M

Sikri also called for settling all issues,

from "trade to terrorism", through wide-

Indian High Commissioner Veena

irritants through discussion between

the sidelines of Afro-Asian Summit.

the two foreign ministers.

Morshed Khan said.

also chilled the diplomatic relations.

The recent border skirmishes that

The second postponement of the

two next-door neighbours.

between the two countries.

to the bilateral ties.

Last year, Indian Foreign Secretary

Diplomatic sources said the

tion between the two countries.

of Bangladesh and India.

Foreign secys

food security, better health and improved literacy rates, would be additional gains," the study says. "The socio-political instability, tension, and insurgencies that have plagued the region can largely be attributed to resource disparity,

The report shows that Bangladesh has a hydropower potential of 555 mw against its installed capacity of 444 mw. Bhutan has 30,000 mw potential with an installed capacity of 444 mw, India 84,044 mw potential against 25,407 mw installed capacity and Nepal 83,290 mw potential against 26,624 mw installed capacity.

Conventional energy sources (crop residues, cow dung and fuel wood) dominate energy supply providing 55 percent, oil and coal provides 10 percent, gas 34 percent and hydropower only 1 percent.

The study assumed that India will remain a net importer of energy, and assessed revenue gains from power trade for Nepal. Bhutan and Bangladesh.

In 2002-03, Bhutan exported 1,472 gigawatt hours of surplus energy to India from its 336 mw Chuka project and earned \$52 million. Bhutan is set to earn \$214 million a year by commissioning its 1020 mw Tala project soon, the report mentioned.

An Indian diplomat in Dhaka Friday

hinted that the planned talks between

Shyam Saran and Hemayetuddin,

present foreign secretaries of India

and Bangladesh, will lead to the

holding of the home secretary and the

water secretary-level meetings in New

meetings will also pave the way for

meeting of the Joint Economic

Commission headed by the two

visits of Indian Commerce Minister

Kamalnath and Water Resources

India will arrive in Dhaka on May 3 at

the invitation of the Bangladesh Armed

to irrigate croplands get subsidy but

those using diesel for irrigation do

not. As a result, production cost

differs, and diesel-using farmers

have to spend 30 percent more than

those using electricity, he pointed

Economic Reporters' Forum at his

Secretariat office on April 25,

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman

categorically said that the govern-

ment had decided not to subsidise

subsidy on irrigation as it can create

scope for misuse." he was quoted

plans a diesel price hike again.

Saifur justified this saving its price is

and food ministries fear that further

rise in diesel price, and that also

without any subsidy for farmers.

would result in further rise in food

prices in the domestic market.

high in the international market.

'It is not possible to provide

Meanwhile, the government

Officials of both the agriculture

irrigation

as saying.

Talking to a delegation of the

Minister Priva Ranian Das Munshi.

Forces Division, the diplomat said.

Better boro

Meanwhile, Dhaka is expecting

Besides, a Navy delegation from

foreign ministers.

Conclusion of these pending

#### magnitude 8.7 guake, there was brief pandemonium as residents feared "Scores of people fled out of their homes and huddled together. Some of them also escaped to the hills on motorcycles," he said.

meteorology agency.

Richter scale.

Aceh's coastline was devastated in December when a massive quake triggered tsunamis that spread across the Indian Ocean, killing 128,000 people in Indonesia alone.

The region sits on the so-called Pacific Rim of Fire noted for its volcanic and seismic activity and has been rattled by daily aftershocks

## Jamaat MP gets death threat from outlaws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) chief in a letter gave death threat to Khulna City Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Mian Golam

The Jamaat MP elected from Khulna-5 (Dumuria-Phultala) constituency told this correspondent yesterday that he had received a hand-written letter four days ago in which Shailen Biswas, the present chief of the outfit, threatened him with death in bomb attack anytime within May 2.

The outlaw has also given a 15day ultimatum to withdraw police camp from Rangpur union of Dumuria upazila and warned the Jamaat MP not to continue helping law enforcers to arrest NBCP armed

"Extremists have been giving me death threats over phone and through postal mails for the last two years for my role against terrorist activities in my constituency", Mian

Golam Parwar said. Armed cadres of outlawed parties who had gone into hiding in remote areas and India are now getting reorganised with the support of their godfathers, the MP and some other political leaders said.

Once NBCP second in command, Shailen Biswas took control of the party after its founder Monoranian Goshai alias Mrinal was killed in West Bengal last year. sources said.

#### Vessels' fitness FROM PAGE 16

To ensure the survey standard.

government officials will conduct random checking of the vessels surveyed by the private companies. sources said. The government decided to

introduce local classification society following death of several thousand people in a number of ferry disasters over the years.

# 27 killed in Iraq

FROM PAGE 1

Insurgents also staged a dramatic ambush against Iraqi forces in Madain, a town southeast of the capital that was the site of an Iraqi raid against militants earlier this month that drew praise from the US

A roadside bomb was detonated. then two suicide bombers drove their cars from two different directions into police special officers as they arrived to investigate, killing two Iraqi police and wounding six, said police Lt. Jassim al-Maliky.

A suicide attacker also blew up an ambulance packed with explosives near a police special forces patrol in Baqouba, 53km northeast of Baghdad, killing four Iraqis, including two policemen, said police Brig. Gen. Adel Molan. Twenty Iraqis were injured, he said.

Also in Baqouba, a Sunni cleric believed to be a senior member of Abu Musab al-Zargawi's al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist group blew himself up as Iraqi security forces surrounded the city's al-Aqsa mosque, Ali Fadhil of the joint operation center said "Imam Abdul Razaq Rashid

Hamid ... came out from the mosque with two hand grenades as our forces were surrounding the mosque," Fadhil said. "He threw one of the grenades at the forces while blowing himself with the second one.

Ten others inside the mosque were detained for questioning he said.

An American soldier also was killed and four were wounded by a roadside bomb Thursday night in Hawija, about 150 miles north of Baghdad, the US military said. At least 1,572 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

interim Cabinet lineup on Thursday, laying the groundwork for the first elected government in Iraq's history to take office. The new Cabinet held its first

meeting Thursday night to discuss a handover between Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and his successor, Ibrahim al-Jaafari. The incoming premier's office said the handover would take place on Tuesday.

US officials had been pressing for a resolution to nearly three months of political wrangling over the composition of the new Cabinet. worrying the political vacuum was encouraging insurgents, who have staged a series of dramatic and well-coordinated attacks in recent

But the Shia-dominated Cabinet so far excludes the Sunni minority from meaningful positions, which had been seen as a way to cut into insurgents' Sunni support base and help curb the violence

Nearly a third of the 275-member National Assembly stayed away from Thursday's vote, underscoring the myriad ethnic and religious divisions that have hampered the formation of a government since landmark parliamentary elections on Jan. 30. Two of the four deputy prime

and five ministries, including the important defence and oil slots, were left in the hands of temporary managers. The primary goal of Iraq's first

elected government will be to write a

minister's slots remained vacant

## Diarrhoea

FROM PAGE 1

Our correspondent from Khulna adds: Diarrhoea outbreak has taken an alarming turn in Khulna district with nearly 3,000 people getting admitted to different hospitals in last 28 days, said sources in Khulna Civil Surgeon's Office. Children as always have been the worst affected by the disease, which caused a steady influx of patients into Khulna Shishu Hospital over last week.

In last three months, a total of 19,000 have been affected with diarrhoea and of them, two died in Rupsha upazila.

#### permanent constitution by mid-August. The document must be submitted to a referendum no later than Oct. 15. If approved, elections

for a permanent government must be held by Dec. 15. The man claiming to be Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, speaking on an audiotape posted Friday on a Web site known for carrying messages from Islamic militant groups, directly

addressed President Bush 'You. Bush. we will not rest until we avenge our dignity," the voice said. "We will not rest while your army is here as long as there is a pulse in our veins.

It wasn't clear when the tape was made and its authenticity could not be verified. The voice on the tape sounded similar to previous audiotapes attributed to the Jordanianborn militant who leads an al-Qaeda

affiliate in Iraq. The 18-minute audiotape urged al-Zargawi's followers to step up their attacks on American soldiers, vowing to "make swords drip with their blood."

The speaker also warned followers against any American overtures for dialogue, an apparent reference to reported attempts by the USbacked interim government to persuade insurgents to lay down their arms in exchange for amnesty and a say in politics. "Be aware, these are the devil's

tricks," he warned. "They (the

Americans) have offered this dialogue after the defeats they have It wasn't clear exactly when the tape was made, but the speaker refers to a newspaper article he said

separate reference to the story as having come "this month." The United States has offered a \$25 million reward for information leading to al-Zarqawi's arrest.

was dated March 19, then makes a

In other developments: A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi border guard patrol killed one soldier and wounded two west of Basra, said Iragi Lt. Col. Abdul Hadi al-Najar.

A car bomb hit a joint US military and Iraqi police patrol in eastern Baghdad, injuring five Iragis, police Lt. Col. Abdul Jabar Yousif said. A 10-vear-old child was seriously

wounded when a mortar round slammed into a house in Dora, said police Capt. Falah al-Mihamadawi. Gunmen opened fire on a police patrol in western Baghdad, wound-

ing one policeman, police Lt. Majid

# Women

rescued

two to 20 days.

the women coming came from Faridpur, Shariatpur, Gaibandha, Munshiganj, Tangail and Mymensingh to the fourth and the fifth floors of the building for the last

"Brokers have grossed a fee of Tk 50,000 to Tk 1.1 lakh from each of them for arranging jobs in Saudi Awal quoting the rescued fortune seekers "They said the agency at House

30, Block 3, Road 4 in Banani had

sent them to the Uttara house, which

it says is a training centre, after conducting medical tests at its office," said Officer in Charge (OC) Akhtaruzzaman Kibria of Uttara Police Station "We have been detained in the building since we entered it. The staff did not allow me even to meet my

husband." Hasina Begum from Faridpur told newsmen at the police station, adding, "My husband Delwar Hossain later died of a heart attack." The cook at the so-called training centre verified that the women had

never been allowed to go out or meet their relatives. But, according to the agency, for medical reasons it was mandatory to keep women migrant workers to Saudi Arabia in quarantine for at least a month prior to their arrival in the oil-rich kingdom, Ehsanullah

The rescued women said around 200 other women had been quarantined at the house during the last three months and most of them were

Chinese Prime Minister Wen

Jiabao found a warm welcome in

India earlier this month and used the

visit to denounce Japan's Security

# Koizumi in India

new Asian era, as we see moves towards formation of an East Asian Community (EAC)".

The emergence of a new India

in which reforms are promoted is gaining broad recognition of India as a global power backed by steady economic growth." he said. The two nations reached an agreement this month to start a year

ating a free trade agreement. If realised, it would be New Delhi's first with a developed country.

The Japanese leader's effort to court New Delhi coincides with a warming in relations between New Delhi and Beijing and a soaring in

China-Japan tensions in recent weeks. Tens of thousands of Chinese marched through the streets this month in a series of rallies to accuse Japan of white-washing its militarist past. Chinese officials and the

public have said Japan must further

atone for its 20th-century atrocities

before joining the Security Council.

It is uncertain if India would allow its ties with Japan to put in jeopardy its recent reconciliation with China, with which it fought a bitter war in 1962. Japan, however, sees sympathy

economic reforms in the early 1990s when Japan helped to stave off the nation's financial collapse. Japanese officials said. After spending a full day in India,

Koizumi will then travel to Luxembourg, which currently holds the EU presidency, where he will likely reiterate opposition to EU proposals to lift an arms embargo on

brief stop in The Netherlands

## of bilateral dialogue to see whether India and Japan should start negotifrom Singh, the father of India's

Council bid.

Koizumi heads Saturday to Pakistan, traditional rival of India and an ally of China.

China. He will conclude his tour with a

#### 6.0 on the Richter scale has hit The country's power sector Indonesia, causing panic on Nias assured them that he would talk to The tsunamis killed more than poverty and economic inequalities. represents 1.3 percent of GDP and island, which was hit by a giant the Election Commissioner about it. 16,000 people in India and more than In Bangladesh, about 1.1 million earthquake last month, seismolohas an annual demand growth rate The woman ward commissioner 273,000 around the Indian Ocean people are directly involved in gists said yesterday. of more than seven percent. If the candidates alleged that some influfarming using electricity-driven The quake struck at 21:07 pm demand for 1 000 mw of capacity ential candidates' men were harass-The violence came after Iraq's (1407 GMT) Thursday, prompting irrigation pump sets. Currently, addition is met, this sector's proing their supporters and tearing the National Assembly approved an people to seek higher ground on Nias 63.220 industries using electricity Hilsha price iected share of GDP will increase to posters at many places. as they feared a repeat of last year's employ 9,83,829 people. Electrified about two percent, and will grow at tsunami or the carnage caused the an annual rate of more than nine industries generate 3.3 times price has dropped to Tk 200, I quess March 28 earthquake that killed more percent. employment on an average than do than 900 can buy one now," said a buyer The Rural Electricity Board non-electrified ones. Retail and ening her voters, particularly those But there were no reports of rom Karwan Bazar (REB) provides electricity to only wholesale shops using electricity The traders said that fishermen in casualties or damage from the 17.88 percent of the rural house employ 8,48,630 people. go to the polling centres on the undersea tremor, centred northwest the Bay have been netting lots of fish of the island, about 212 kilometres