# Koizumi to push for strategic partnership with India

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said vesterday he will push a strategic and trade partnership with India as the world's biggest democracy moves closer to China.

"India is a nation that is full of capability and potential, and it is yet to show its full capacity," Koizumi told reporters during a visit to a Japanese class in a local middle

Japan and India "must cooperate to realise the full potential of the Japan-India ties. I want to make this visit an opportunity to do that,"

The prime minister arrived in India late Thursday seeking to boost ties and win support from a fellow Security Council seat.

to create conflict

among Islamic

parties: Nizami

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and

Industries Minister Motiur Rahman

Nizami yesterday alleged the Awami

League (AL) and its allies are con-

spiring to create conflicts among

target is to create rivalry among

Islamic parties so that BNP consid-

ers us a burden." he told Jamaat's

eighth regional representative

meeting at Paltan Maidan in the city.

countrywide representatives meet-

ing in Sylhet and is scheduled to

close the programme in Rajshahi on

Jamaat has joined the four-party

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Jamaat on March 13 launched its

"The Awami League's prime

Islamic parties for political gain.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He is the first Japanese prime minister to visit India since his predecessor Yoshiro Mori in 2000.

Koizumi was to meet President Abdul Kalam and hold talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh later Friday to discuss tightening the economic, political and security partnership.

The two premiers were to sign a joint statement outlining action plans for future cooperation, and confirm that stronger Japan-India relations would lead to stability and prosperity in Asia.

"I hope to reach agreement regarding a strategic orientation for the Japan-India Global Partnership in the new Asian era," Koizumo wrote in a full-page "landmark message to the people of India" published in The Times of India.

The two were also to call for more

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, left, speaks with Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam, right, at the

AL, allies trying | Extortionists murder

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia** 

Criminals killed a sand trader and

abducted another, while an outlaw

was killed in 'crossfire' between

police and his accomplices in sepa-

rate incidents in the district in the last

upazila on Thursday night killed

sand trader Saidur Rahman and

Saidur and chopped him to death

near Bahadurpur Bazar when he

was riding home at around 10:00pm.

had demanded Tk 50,000 from him

and threatened him with dire conse-

took away his motorcycle.

Extortionists in Bheramara

Police said the criminals stopped

Family sources said extortionists

trader in Kushtia,

'crossfire' kills outlaw

quences had he failed to give the

sum. He had filed a GD (general

into the house of Niyat Ali Pramanik

at Palashir Char village and

abducted Niyat's son Shariful Islam,

25, and demanded Tk 3 lakh in

his son's captors and is reluctant to

call the police, who could not give

Rahman, 40, top cadre of outlawed

Biplabi Communist Party (BCP),

ransom to be paid in five days.

In Daulatpur, criminals stormed

On his failure, the criminals

Niyat is trying to negotiate with

CROSSFIRE Police said Atiyar

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

diary) following the threat.

demanded Tk 30,000.

details immediately

Presidential Palace in New Delhi yesterday. Koizumi is on a two-day official visit to India.

two days

system UNB, Dhaka The World Bank (WB) has approved \$ 300 million credit to help

to improve

healthcare

its healthcare system.

Washington on Thursday

HIV/AIDS rates are rising.

dialogue over defence and antistrengthen public health sector piracy measures, and increased management, improve service educational and scientific delivery, and develop health awareexchanges. ness campaigns, especially target-The Japanese prime minister ng the poorest households. was also to meet Indian business

indicators have improved signifiment and trade. cantly over the past decade, the Koizumi's message said Japan country now faces the threat of an and India should cooperate as "true increase in non-communicable global partners" in what he termed diseases, such as cancer and as a "new Asian era."

"We are now in an era in which Asia is currently experiencing a process of transformation and India too is changing, thus elevating the importance even further of India and Japan cooperating as true global partners," Koizumi said.

frequent meetings among ministers,

leaders to promote bilateral invest-

A "new dynamism" was develop-An increasing incidence of iniu ing in Asia, which could be called "a **SEE PAGE 15 COL 7** 



report on power export, the USAID

report said Bangladesh could

annually earn \$130 million from

power export to India from a pro-

of Northeast India and Bangladesh

at less cost will reduce the transmis-

sion and distribution losses by 90

mw, resulting in a saving of \$79

The report notes that although

South Asia possesses vast energy

resources including hydropower

forests, coal and gas, per capita

energy consumption is very low.

accounting for only 5.9 percent of

the world's commercial energy

consumption. "The region's persis-

tent energy shortages have been a

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 4** 

million in investment for new capac

ity addition.

Interconnecting the power grids

posed 375 mw gas-fired plant.

A sailor readies lifebelts and life jackets on his vessel in Sadarghat in the city as launch owners have taken precautionary measures for inclement weather. The life-saving equipment, however, is not adequate for all passengers.

ELECTRICITY FOR ALL BY 2020

USAID study sees a

The study on 'Economic and

Social Benefits Analysis of Power

Trade in the South Asia Growth

Quadrangle Region' says that

regional power trade among

Bangladesh, India, Nepal and

Bhutan will help Bangladesh reduce

trade gap with India and attain better

in other commodities, changing the

composition of export baskets of

power-exporting countries.

Bangladesh's foreign trade figures

show the high cost of importing

petroleum products and increasing

demand for energy-- both of which

could benefit from value-additions

and natural gas-based power

Quoting a five-year-old feasibility

Power trade will encourage trade

relations with its neighbours.

buoyant economy

political instability

## No need to go to JS to recast caretaker system: Amu

tuberculosis remain prevalent, while

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

UNB, Dhaka

A key Awami League (AL) leader yesterday rejected the ruling party's contentions about reforms of caretaker government system, saying that they do not need to go to parliament for recasting the system.

"The then BNP government had to amend the constitution incorporating the caretaker system on March 26, 1996 in the absence of the opposition ... This time around they will have to do the same," AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu told the private news agency.

He rejected BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's suggestion for the Awami League to join parliament and discuss whatever the opposition wants to, by **SEE PAGE 15 COL 2** 

## Flash floods kill 34 in S Arabia

REUTERS, Riyadh

Flash floods killed at least 34 people in Saudi Arabia in the last two days, sweeping cars off roads and destroying houses, newspapers said yesterday.

Al Okaz newspaper said 37 people were killed in the southern Asir province and the Red Sea port city of Jeddah. Another daily, Al Watan, put the death toll at 34.

Newspapers published pictures of bodies covered in blankets, car accidents on waterlogged roads and dead cattle. Severe rain storms are common

in some areas of Saudi Arabia. In January, floodwaters killed 29 people in the western city of Medina.

### Pvt companies to check water vessels' fitness STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to introduce local classification society (LCS), a system practised worldwide to survey fitness of watercraft.

"We are now at the final stage to introduce the system through appointing three private companies to act as local classification society, Shafigullah, director general of the Department of Shipping, told The Daily Star recently.

A memorandum of understanding containing the terms and conditions of their job responsibility will be signed with the companies before giving them final approval for work, he said, adding that the companies will start working within a few weeks.

The companies selected for the job are Maritime Classification Society and Associates, South East Register of Shipping and Bangladesh Classification Society.

For surveying vessels, checking electricity will boost agricultural their designs, supervising the productivity, triggering a range of construction and planning of new off-farm activities. It will also slow vessels and issuing survey certifimigration of rural people to urban areas and reduce associated sociogovernment approved fees.

Ahmadiyya

up in Khulna

the religious bigots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police yesterday stepped up secu-

rity for the Ahmadiyya mosques in

Nirala and Labonchora areas,

fearing attacks on the mosques by

In the afternoon, Khulna district

unit of International Khatme Nabuat

Movement Bangladesh (IKNMB)

took out a procession in Khalishpur

Industrial area demanding immedi-

ate withdrawal of the cases against

IKNMB local chapter's Nayeb-e-

Ameer Mufti Noor Hossain Noorani

and Ameer Mahbubul Hasan

Moulana Golam Kibria, general

secretary of Khulna district unit of

IKNMB, and a member of Khulna

Imam Parishad led the procession, which was not allowed to march towards the Ahmadiyya mosques.

Addressing a rally at Khalishpur, the IKNMB leaders warned the

government of a tougher movement the cases against Mufti Noor

Hasan Mamtazi were not withdrawn

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### RO vows to ensure Security around fair CCC polls mosques stepped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

SHARIER KHAN

Electricity for all can push up net

gain in national income by Tk 671

billion (\$101.1bn) a year and signifi-

cantly improve literacy rate,

healthcare and women empower-

To realise the government's

policy of 'electricity for all by 2020',

the country will need \$ 1 billion a

year till that time or just \$16 billion. A

finance ministry projection shows

that Bangladesh needs 17,500

megawatt installed power to attain

The USAID study says access to

ment, says a USAID study.

The Returning Officer (RO) for Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls yesterday exchanged views with the ward commissioner candidates on how to ensure a free and fair election on May 9.

Over one hundred candidates attended the meeting held at Muslim Institute Hall with RO Golam Kuddus, also the additional divisional commissioner of Chittagong, in the chair. Deputy Election Commissioner of Chittagong Bishwash Lutfur Rahman was present at the meeting.

As many as 308 people are vying for ward commissioner posts while 83 for the 14 reserved seats for

A number of ward commissioner

"His regime's stability is in great danger today, more than in the past

The economic problems will get worse" following Syria's troop pullout

from Lebanon completed this week,

Aharon Zeevi said in the newspaper

view published yesterday.

Yediot Aharonot.

candidates at the meeting spoke of their fear for vote rigging.

They also accused some candidates of breaching the electoral code of conduct by erecting more than four election camps that the electoral rules permit for each ward. None of the candidates at yester-

day's meeting however made any major complaint about the overall environment. Referring to the concern for vote

rigging, the RO said that there would be no scope for casting false votes. He asked the candidates to carry

on the electioneering without fear and not to give in to the quarters that might try to spoil the 'prevailing congenial atmosphere for election'.

The ward commissioner candidates at the meeting asked for allow

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 2** 

## 2 to die, 2 get life for killing school airl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

The Speedy Trial Tribunal for Rajshahi Division yesterday awarded two persons with death sentence and jailed another two for life in the Bonya murder case in Bera upazila of Pabna

The death convicts are Farid and

Faruk of Basantapur in Bera, while Jamal and Masum were sentenced to life term. Judge AFM Aminul Islam also

acquitted two others -- Farid's mother Ferdousi and Jamal's mother Sahera Khatun.

Bonya Khatun, a student at Dhobakhola Coronation High School, was killed on October 30, 2003 on way to her home after school. Villagers caught Farid red-

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#### Enayetullah Khan successfully operated on STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Enayetullah Khan, editor of the daily

New Age and weekly Holiday, underwent a successful surgery in Toronto, Canada on Wednesday. During the nine-hour surgery,

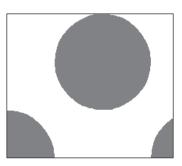
"He has problems with the doctors of the Toronto General Americans because of terrorists infiltrating from Syria into Iraq, water Hospital removed a tumour from the problems with Turkey, and an arguhead of Khan's pancreas. ment over territory that he should Soon after the surgery, Khan

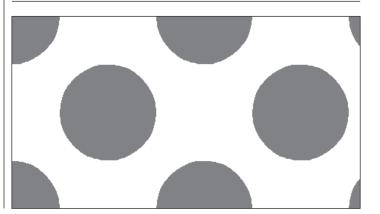
have transferred to Jordan. regained his consciousness and "He is seen as a weak leader. I'm talked with his family members. He is now in the post-operative

not sure that Bashar has the strength **SEE PAGE 15 COL 1** 

Syrian president	Prayer Timing April 30		
AFP, Jerusalem	Fajr	4-20	4-55
	Zohr	12-45	1-15
Syrian President Bashar al-Assad could be ousted from power as his regime fractures under immense political pressure, the head of Israeli military intelligence said in an inter-	Asr	4-45	5-00
	Maghrib	6-29	6-34
	Esha	8-00	8-30
	Source: Islamic Foundation		







Dancers bring out a festive rally from the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to observe the International Dance Day.

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