

"To remove ambiguities, we have

The BIWTA sources say that they

Government officials say they

and international factors need to be

taken into account in the case of

bringing about a change in the

signal system, which will make the

process lengthy, but it does not

mean the government has any

objections to doing it," Deputy

On the present situation in Sudan

he said the country is now calm

though there has been some tension

when the Security Council

Resolutions 1591 and 1593, pertain-

accused for their atrocities in Darfur,

were passed. In the south, the activi-

ties of the other armed groups (OAGs)

"However, we can't be complacent

and need to follow the developments

of South-South dialogue and OAGs

Collaborative Committee to ascertain

the future security situation in the

mission area of operations. My under-

standing of the security environment is

peacekeepers to use arms to protect

Asked if the UN has allowed the

that it's certainly not hazard free."

ing to sanctions and trial of those

locations of south Sudan.'

# ONE YEAR ON Shy Manmohan Singh confounds doubters

#### **BBC ONLINE**

When Manmohan Singh became India's prime minister one year ago many predicted that the affable and shy technocrat-turned-politician would not be able to handle the unusual pressures of his job. His critics' fears were not

unfounded. For one, Singh was not a prime

minister by natural political choice. He was reluctantly pitched into

the subcontinent's hottest seat by Congress leader Sonia Gandhi after the party won the general elections by a narrow lead He also leads an unlikely coali

tion government stacked with controversial politicians supported by a gaggle of blow-hot, blow-cold Communist allies.

Ranged against him is an opposition led by the bellicose Hindu nationalist Bharativa Janata Party (BJP), which has been boycotting parliament and calls him a weakling

At the end of an eventful year at the helm, Singh has not fared so badly, given the odds, analysts say. This despite a widespread

perception that his Communist allies are blocking crucial economic policy and a raging controversy over a clutch of "tainted" ministers.

At home, the economy is purring along at a steady clip, inflation is under control despite escalating oil prices, and the moribund domestic aviation sector is being revamped with dramatic results.

"This government shows a sophistication in the management of the economy which is rare in the Third World," says economist Kaushik Basu

"There is a popular view that the Communists have stymied the government's policies, but if one looks beyond the rhetoric to the actual action, it is clear that on most important matters, the left has eventually gone along with the market-oriented policies.

There has been a systematic, if slightly bureaucratic, engagement with issues of poverty, markedly absent during the previous administration.

Singh had pledged a reform of the country's moth-ridden and corrupt public institutions, and is now trying to make civil servants more accountable. ments of senior civil servants and in

Bangla-Pak JEC meet

#### ROAD TO PEACE

On the external front, Singh's gains have been impressive. He has moved ahead with peace initiatives with nuclear rival Pakistan and shown derring-do with the opening up of a landmark cross-Kashmir bus service.

He has also integrated the coun-Security Council.

ment or leading officials of China, Japan, Pakistan, the US and the UN arrive in Delhi in such quick succession? We have seen some remarkably astute moves on the external front," says political scientist Ashutosh Varshney. "The integration of energy and

economy "It has had a salutary impact on

for India's alliance patterns." **BALANCING ACT** 

track.

setbacks," says analyst Mahesh Rangarajan

had to deal with the likes of his railway minister and key ally, Laloo Prasad Yadav, a controversial and unabashedly populist politician who has been charged with embezzling public money when he was the chief

"Mr Yadav is an anti-system populist, which means he loves to be a gadfly. It is by being an indefatigable gadfly that he has built a political constituency for himself. "Both supporting him and oppos-

ing him constitute a problem. He has genuine political constituency, а equally, he is a problem for parlia mentary politics." says Varshney.

There is widespread speculation over the "fine balance" between the ruling Congress party (read party leader Sonia Gandhi) and the prime minister coming under strain because of conflicts between the two over economic policy, appoint-

tion. There are reports of ministers

try's energy and foreign policies, and lobbied the United Nations for a permanent seat for India on the

"When did the heads of govern-

foreign policies is the most imaginative development given the rising energy needs of an expanding

India-Pakistan relations, and is likely to have a long-run implications

On the political front, the coalition has held together, and the relations with Communists have remained on

> 'There have been no major Within the coalition, Singh has

minister of northern Bihar state.

scurrving to Sonia with their complaints and demands, instead of

settling them with the prime minis-The Congress party, of course, denies Singh's role is becoming

dealing with an intransigent opposi-

increasingly ceremonial. "He is in full command," says spokesman Anand Sharma **TASKS AHEAD** 

The separation of power centres in the Congress party is actually nothing new - until 1969, the prime minister and leader of the party were two separate entities. These two offices were "merged" only after Indira Gandhi - already the prime minister - took full control

"There is considerable virtue in separating policy from pure politics. It allows both Mr Singh and Mrs Gandhi to concentrate on what they can do best. Having one power centre is no guarantee of stability or peace," says Varshney.

A year on, a lot remains to be done - labour reforms on the economic front, for example

"The change that is needed and on which nothing has happened is the reform of labour laws. The economics of this is complicated. What looks like anti-labour is often pro-labour." Mr Basu savs

"This has to be debated much more in public so that a climate of change gets created and then one will need a huge amount of expertise to create the right laws. This cannot be left to politicians alone, left or right."

More importantly, Singh's bigticket spending to reduce poverty has to start showing results soon as there is a perception that most of it will remain stuck in red tape and will be badly delivered

The bad news for Singh is that he is leading a people impatient for change - and his curious coalition government might not turn out to be the best vehicle for such change.

The good news for him is that the filibustering opposition is riven by internal dissensions and has run out of appealing ideas.

Police foil FROM PAGE 16 activists of International Khatme Nabuwat Movement Bangladesh (IKNMB)

Khatme Nabuwat had announced to hold the rally as preparation for its June 1 being in place. programme to lay siege to the

# Storm warning

He points out that signal number two "I am very hopeful that these for inland river ports only prohibits proposals will soon be implevessels 65 feet and below in length mented." he adds to ply during possible storms with Experts agree the system needs winds between 41 to 61 kilometres to be clarified for the public. an hour. "But there are so many Arzumand Habib, deputy director of examples where launches even Bangladesh Meteorological above 100 feet in length have acci-Department, said the existing signal

dents amidst storms of such system is mainly comprehensible speeds." he said only to authorities The use of two sets of signals, one for inland river ports and the proposed to determine the storm other for sea ports, has also been warning signals on the basis of identified as a major system weakspecific wind speeds," she says, ness by a number of BIWTA experts. adding that a number of signals for who stressed the need for consissea ports are also reduced to six

tency. from ten, to bring consistency to the Up to 10 signals for seaports are signals for river ports. forecast to determine the possible intensity of a storm, with 10 being have also proposed six types of the highest, while only four signals signals for the river ports. are used for river ports. The different systems contribute to confusion are committed to the system's among the general public, preventoverhaul, however complicated the ing them from properly realising the process may be. "Many technical intensity of a possible storm, experts said.

Effective reforms, however, may be just on the horizon. Emdadul Haque, BIWTA joint director (marine). Conservancy and Pilotage Department, says that some proposals have already been tabled with a view to making the storm Shipping Secretary SM Shawkat Ali signal system more clear to the says

## Sudan-bound troops

#### FROM PAGE 16

Bangladeshi troops would be deployed in Sector 1 headquartered at Juba, the future capital of the Government of South Sudan. The sector includes three southern states of Sudan having an area bigger than Bangladesh itself. Juba is the heart of the mission and the main stronghold of Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A).

"Their success will be reflected elsewhere in the mission... As Force Commander, I am confident of my country's contingent. Allah willing, Bangladeshi troops will fly their flag high at Juba as they have done in other missions.

On soldiers of how many countries are being deployed and where they will be deployed, the force commander said 10,000 troops from China, Egypt, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Zambia and Bangladesh will be deployed to provide protection to UN personnel, establishments, humanitarian workers and unprotected civilians under immediate danger.

Bandladeshi troops with helicopte support from Russia will be deployed at Juba, the Kenyans and the Chinese in Sector 2 at Wau, the Indians in Sector 3 at Malakal, the Egyptians in component of the mission has Sector 4 at Kaduguli, the Pakistanis in Chapter VII Mandate, which means Sector 5 at Ed Damazin, the Zambians authority to use force when necessary. in Sector 6 at Abyei and the Nepalese in Sector 7 at Kassala

About security measures for the peacekeepers, the Sudan Mission Major General Akbar, however force commander said the said the deployment cannot be free of Comprehensive Peace Agreement hitches. "I have a mandate of 240 days to complete the deployment of 10.000 signed by both parties invites the UN to troops and already a month and a half monitor the implementation of the have passed by with only the agreement. "Therefore, the under-Nepalese contingent of little over 200 standing is that the peacekeepers are heir quests and the onus of providing

# City govt

should not be misunderstood as being meant for sharing the power of the state government. Rather it will help the government to implement projects," he said before a lunch he threw for the journalists at Chittagong Press Club yesterday afternoon.

AP, Jerusalem

can in this process."

Hisham's Palace.

Protesters besieged Laura Bush

during her visit yesterday to two of

Jerusalem's most sacred sites, with

Israeli police locking arms to

restrain the crowd and Secret

Service agents packed tightly

The demonstrations at the

Western Wall and the Dome of the

Rock showed "what an emotional

place this is as we go from each one

of these very, very holy sites to the

next," Mrs. Bush said later in the

West Bank town of Jericho as she

stood at the ruins of the 8th-century

every one of us would want. ... What

we all want is peace and the chance

that we have right now to have

peace, to have a Palestinian state

iving by a secure state of Israel,

both living in democracy, is as close

as we've been in a really long time,'

she said at an ancient home of

Mrs. Bush, who is on a tour

intended partly to help defuse anti-

American sentiment in the region.

placed a note in the Western Wall,

Judaism's holiest shrine. She wrote

Jordan to Israel, but wanted to keep

the contents private, a spokes-

Dozens of protesters stood

Jonathan Pollard, an

nearby, shouting, "Free Pollard

American Jew who is serving life

sentence in a US prison for spying

for Israel, was a civilian intelligence

protesters and local reporters, and

Secret Service agents and Israeli

police had to physically hold back

the crowd as she approached the

She then went to the Dome of the

The first lady was mobbed by

analyst for the US Navy.

slamic spiritual leaders.

woman said.

now."

wall.

our Muslims?"

"We're reminded again of what

Mohiuddin, who had earlier served as the CCC mayor for two consecutive terms, said, "I want to work for the development of the city taking all with me. I do politics of Awami League, yet I am the city mayor for all irrespective of party affiliation.

Regarding involvement of the city dwellers in development work. Mohiuddin said, "I would like to reverse the proverb, 'Vote for him who works' to 'Entrust him who votes with work'. I believe that the responsibility of a citizen doesn't end with the casting of vote".

To involve the citizens in development work, a Nagorik (citizens) Committee headed by the ward commissioner concerned will be formed in each of the 41 wards under the CCC that will identify problems and take up development work of the locality on priority basis

CCC will provide required supports including experts, technology and finance for implementation of these projects at the ward level while the Corporation itself will implement development projects like road expansion, and setting up educational institutes and healthcare centres.

The Nagorik Committee will also be responsible for maintaining law and order in the wards and take the note on the flight Sunday from measures like social boycotting of the criminals for curbing crimes, said the city mayor.

The residents of the wards will realise all the CCC facilities through the local Nagorik Committee that will use the ward commissioner's office as its office.

#### are a matter of concern for the mission The recent gathering at Nairobi for a Criminals gun down reconciliatory dialogue of various FROM PAGE 16 tribes and armed groups is a positive

face, killing him on the spot. The criminals had asked his wife to call Akhtar, but as she refused, they entered his room and fired, witnesses said.

Akhtar Hossain was the son of Mokbul Hossain in Bamongari village under Mirpur Upazila According to police, he was killed by the armed group because of a longstanding enmity.

#### themselves when under attack, Akbar 1 killed, 6 hurt said military observers would not have personal arms but be provided with FROM PAGE 16

necessary protection as and when Rajshahi headquarters lost control deemed necessary. The protection and fell in to a 30 feet deep ditch.

The body of Khitish was sent to his home at Fulbari in Dinajpur district after autopsy.

### Dr Kamal for unity FROM PAGE 16

ing the rights of journalists and the human rights. BDNEWS Editor Rashed

for his continual support in protect-

# Protesters mob Laura **Bush in Jerusalem**

their fingers at the US entourage Despite the chaos at both sites, Mrs

Bush kept smiling and said little. In Jericho, which is under Palestinian control, security was tight and no protesters were evident when Mrs. Bush visited the ruins and met at a hotel with leading Palestinian women.

around America's first lady. "As you can tell from our day Stepping into the long-running Middle Fast conflict, she appealed here, this is a place of emotions for Israelis and Palestinians to everywhere we went, from the Dome of the Rock to the Western commit to working for peace and Wall" she told reporters at the palsaid Americans "will do what they ace ruins.

> As for the peace process, Mrs. Bush said the US would do whatever it could, but that both sides share responsibility in helping achieve peace.

> "It will take a lot of baby steps and 'm sure that there will be a few steps backward on the way, but I want to encourage the people I met with earlier, the women I just met with, that the United States will do what they can in this process," Mrs. Bush said

> "It also requires the work of the people here, of the Palestinians and the Israelis, to come to the table obviously, and we'll see," she said.

> The first lady met in Jericho with leading Palestinian women before visiting the palace. Earlier, she held talks with Gila Katsav, the wife of Israel's president, and other leading Israeli women.

Anti-American sentiment is running high in the Mideast because of a variety of factors, including a now-retracted report in Newsweek Pentagon investigators had found evidence interrogators at the US Navy base at Guantanamo Bay Cuba, placed copies of the Quran the Muslim holy book, in washrooms to unsettle suspects and flushed a Quran down a toilet.

"We in principle don't reject anyone's visit to the Al Agsa Mosque (compound), but we see in the visit of Mrs. Bush an attempt to whitewash the face of the United States. after the crimes that the American interrogators had committed when they desecrated the Quran." the militant Islamic Hamas group said in

Rock, a mosque on a hilltop compound known to Muslims as Haram a statement on its Web site. Adnan Husseini, director of the as-Sharif and to Jews as Temple Mount. As she left the mosaue, one Islamic Trust that administers the mosque compound, said Mrs. Bush heckler velled. "How dare vou come tried to play down the heckling. in here?" and "Why do you hassle

saying it could have happened Mrs. Bush removed her shoes as anywhere. Husseini said he told her he she entered the mosque and walked barefoot on the red carpet. She held President Bush would hoped exert pressure to achieve peace in a black scarf tightly around her head the Holy Land. Bush is meeting on as she gazed up at the gilded dome Thursday at the White House with and the colourful mosaics on the Palestinian leader Mahmoud

They had been apprehending

such an end since Saturday and

started protesting against the delay

in rescue operation. That day the

authorities asked them to be patient

and to wait, assuring to refloat the

from Pabna, yesterday announced

a Tk 10,000 reward for any diver

who would go down and see the

condition of the launch. A BIWTA

diver, Abdur Razzak, undertook the

venture and dived into the water. But

he failed to reach the launch due to

Fire Service and Civil Defence,

succeeded in carrying out the task

He reported that the whole vesse

was buried under a deep layer of silt.

Later, Abul Khayer, a diver of the

Selim Reza Habib, a lawmaker

aunch for sure.

the heavy current.

marble walls Some of the women studying Abbas. inside the mosque were clearly annoyed at the intrusion and waved

Left to watery grave

FROM PAGE 1 blames to the authorities, but later The sunken launch has buried itself

the next Indo-Bangla JEC meeting,' said ERD Secretary Ismail Zabiullah.

"We will send a team led by a joint

secretary of External Resources

Division (ERD) to India by the end of

this month to discuss on the date of

The upcoming 8th JEC meeting with Pakistan will discuss on the negotiation on a bilateral free-trade area agreement, besides trade and investment, ERD sources said.

The meeting will also focus on possible solutions to the deadlock in the expert-level talks on the South Asia Free Trade Area (Safta) agreement, sources said.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia has proposed to host the 8th JEC meetng with Bangladesh at its capital Rivadh from June 14 to 15.

But, Bangladesh did not yet give its consent on the Rivadh's proposa about the time. ERD officials said.

#### UN slates FROM PAGE 16

mistreatment ranging from a female interrogator stepping on a detainee's neck and kicking another in the genitals to a shackled prisoner being made to kiss the boots of interrogators, according to the newspaper

US officials have characterised incidents of prisoner abuse at Bagram in 2002 as isolated problems that were thoroughly investigated, the newspaper said.

Two army interrogators have been reprimanded and seven soldiers have been charged, it said.

### China declares FROM PAGE 1

#### "People need not be too worried but should be confident that the new

cases can be brought under control as effective measures have been taken by the government," Cui was quoted as saying.

China successfully brought 50 cases of bird flu under control last year. No human infections have been reported there.

The H5N1 strain of bird flu has been discovered in eight countries since late 2003, including Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.

The disease has claimed the lives of at least 53 people, including 37 Vietnamese, 12 Thais and one Cambodian

World health officials warned last week of major doubts about their ability to detect and tackle a more virulent strain of the influenza virus before it spreads globally causing millions of deaths

More than 120 million birds were culled in two huge outbreaks of the virus throughout Asia last year.

ways on ensuring access of Bangladeshi goods to India as well as removal of tariff, para-tariff and non-tariff barriers. A JFC meeting with India is

According to ERD sources, the

government is giving importance to

hold a JEC meeting with India,

because such a meeting is the

platform to discuss and explore

urgent, said an ERD official, adding that Bangladesh needs to stress or reducing trade imbalance through revision of bilateral trade agreement, elimination of Indian non-tariff barriers on Bandladeshi exporting items and duty free access to its products to India

the sixth meeting of the JEC between India and Bangladesh held in Dhaka.

In 2003, after a long six-year gap

### Inflation FROM PAGE 1

### 300 a maund

Non-food inflation (moving average) however eased a bit after August when it reached 4.43 percent and stood at 4.18 percent in March. On a point-point to basis, it slowed down to 4.34 percent in March from 4.57 percent in August. The rise in inflation matched a

huge outflow of private sector credit during the same period. Against 7.61 percent growth during July-March of last fiscal year, it clocked a 12.60 percent growth this fiscal

Economist Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud told The Daily Star recently that the new pay scale may have a bearing on inflation next vear.

"The pay hike for government staffs will also have its effect on the private sector," said Dr Mahmud. he impact on inflation may come in two ways first, by increasing cost of production and then by raising demands.'

He pointed out that although the aovernment did not borrow from the banks as of now, but it may have to when expenditure will increase because of the pay scale. Bank borrowing has a direct link to infla-

Also, the government has decided not to slash the Annual Development Programme (ADP) this year as it wants to spend on party constituencies ahead of the elections. With the ADP implement tation still at a poor 46 percent in the first nine months of this fiscal year the government will have to speed up spending during the last three months, leading to bank borrowing. "So, the challenge for the gov-

nment is now to contain the adverse effect of pay scale through proper budgetary management," Dr Mahmud observed.

Ahmadiyya mosque in Sundarban Bazar of Shyamnagar. Over a hundred policemen in riot gear yesterday moved to foil the zealots'

Leaders of Khatme Nabuwat from a rally on April 30 threatened that they would capture the Ahmadiyya mosque in Sundarban Bazar of Shyamnagar on June 1, if the case filed against the IKNMB leaders is not withdrawn by May 30. They also demanded that the sign-

board, which they posted on the mosque on April 17, be hung again within May 30.

Ahmadiyyas filed the case with Shvamnagar Police Station accusing Khatme Nabuwat leaders including central leader Nur Hossain Nurani of carrying out an attack on the sect on April 17.

Supporters of the anti-Ahmadiyya outfit, which has long been campaigning for a government move declaring the sect non-Muslim, attacked the Ahmadiyyas, injuring over 50 people including women and children, and looted at least 10 houses at Sundarban Bazar of Shvamnagar upazila on April 17. They also had a signboard posted on the local Ahmadiyya complex. It read 'A place of worship for the Ahmadiyya Community, Sundarban Bazar' and it advised Muslims not to mistake the place

as a mosque. Meanwhile, an IKNMB press release yesterday said that its eaders will meet the reporters today in Satkhira district headquarters. During the meet, they will declare the outfit's next programmes

## Dr Kamal says

FROM PAGE 16 Mahbubey Alam and Secretary Advocate Enayetur Rahim unwanted on the court premises for, what they said, tarnishing the image of the Supreme Court and judiciary by cancelling memberships of the speaker and the law minister.

The Forum will form a human chain on May 23 and hold a rally on May 24 on the Supreme Court premises. It will also hold meetings on and take out processions from all the court premises, including the premises of the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka in protest against the proceedings of the SCBA.

"In south Sudan we have to make security for the guests lies with the every [chip of the block] and it's no small challenge when the weather is Sudan and the SPLM/A. also not friendly. Still, as military plan-"However, if the OAGs (other ners we have worked out every detail

armed groups) can't be brought on of the deployment with adequate board then they could pose considerflexibility. In spite of the anticipated able threat to the life of peacekeepers difficulties. I am confident that we will be able to meet the 240 days timeline," and hence we have the protection component in the force structure.'

> and what are its future plans, the senior Bangladesh Army officer said the Comprehensive Peace Agreement envisages UN presence for six years and six months. "On completion of the mandated

of the peacekeepers will be necessary for conducting the plebiscite, which may necessitate a further one year extension of the mission," Major General Akram said

# Japan may tag

#### FROM PAGE 16

Akbar added.

under way.

Asked when the force will start

operations in Sudan and what will be

the mission's strategy to restore

peace, Akbar said the operations are

"My Force headquarters is gradu-

ally getting operational with officers

from different countries joining in. I

must make mention of Standby High

Readiness Brigade (SHIR BRIG) from

Nordic countries that has guickly been

flown in to make my HQ operational...

Inshallah fly its flag in all the sector

In another 45 days, the UN will

reforms. The vice minister notes where Japan can effectively help to reform the police, "firstly, the police equipment is a very important area where Japan can assist. Training is the second area. Investigation of important cases seriously needs improvement of the forensic department.'

"I believe Japanese know how will be useful for Bangladesh. Bangladeshi police leaders will be invited to Japan to see and learn in this area." he adds.

Focusing on how Bangladesh can attract Japanese investment. Shuzen Tanigawa observes. "to attract investment, improvement of the infrastructure is a great help."

"But we should first identify what kind of investment will benefit both Bangladesh and Japan. Both the countries may discuss this issue to identify the areas." Tanigawa notes.

"I noticed that Bangladesh is blessed with wide cultural heritage. If tourism is promoted and its sector is developed, it will bring in huge foreign currency for Bangladesh. A large number of Japanese tourists will come too," he adds.

After his arrival on Thursday, Tanigawa met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to discuss Bangladesh's support to Japan for entering into the UN Security Council as a permanent member. "Bangladesh has extended its

hosts, that is the Government of

On how long the mission will run

tasks it is anticipated that the presence

support for Japan from 1994. Yesterday I met the prime minister to

learn about Bangladesh's current position. The support remains unchanged," Tanigawa quips. "Japan has been acting as a

country for peace. If Japan gets into the membership it will work to resist activities which are against the harmony of the world." he adds.

is happy about the impact of its aid in Bangladesh, the senior vice minister for foreign affairs notes, "it lies on Bangladesh itself to build its future.

On his visit to Bangladesh, which was marked by the inauguration of the Khan Jahan Ali Bride over Rupsha river, Tanigawa remarks, "My impression about Bangladesh was different before this visit. thought the situation was not very good. But after seeing Bangladesh find it much better. I may not have

well developed city line." In March, Japan committed Bangladesh of 11.3 billion yen (107 million US dollars) assistance for rural development. In the last fiscal year, Japan gave Bangladesh 16.8 billion dollars Yen (160 million US dollars) in debt relief.

Tanigawa left for Tokyo last night.

Chowdhury and News Editor Enamul Haque Chowdhury among others addressed the function.

## Hasina

#### FROM PAGE 16

members, the former prime minister said she could have easily avenged the mindless murders by getting the killers slain without trial when her party was in power.

"But I did not opt for such heinous activities as I have respect for law and justice. We arranged their trial according to the law of the land. We even did not form a special tribunal in this regard," she said

Hasina also alleged Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, having "wrested power through vote rigging", has destroyed all the democratic institutions. "She has turned the country into a jail and slaughter house."

AL leaders Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Haj Bazar and two others in Dhaka and Mohammad Selim and local lead-Manikganj, while three people were injured in lightning incidents yesterers were present. day

### TATA investment

FROM PAGE 1 week to resume formal negotiations

The negotiation committee is to finalise the modalities before the arrival of Tata officials, as the government wants to seal the investment deal within the timeframe set. the source added.

Tata representatives had earlier proposed the government to resume formal negotiations by May 23 and seal all negotiations by August 31. The group also plans to ink the investment agreement by November 30.

Tata group intends to set up a 1000-megawatt power station, a steel mill with an annual capacity of 420000 tonnes and a one million tonne fertiliser unit.

The proposed investment is the second highest after Singapore among Tata's overseas investment programme, sources said.

The company took six months to complete the feasibility study for the proposed investment.

Bangladesh has an abundance of gas reserves and simultaneously faces demand for power, fertilisers and steel, with no domestic iron ore

required for the latter

deep in the riverbed, under heavy lavers of mud and sand. We have tried our best, but the rescue wires have been snapping over and over again. Now it has become almost impossible to lift the ship up," said Lt Commander Mahbbur Rashid in charge of the salvage operation.

The salvage team later tried to hook and pull up the launch with a tugboat, but failed.

A BIWTA official said they do not have the proper equipment needed to salvage a sunken ship in such an nclement weather.

The announcement of closure sparked off wailing and grieving from the hapless crowd waiting on the riverbank to find their dear ones, dead, if not alive. They shouted

Three bolts struck at around 10 in

the morning amidst a stormy weather

at PM Khali, Jhilongja and

Choufaldondi unions under Sadar

Kabir Ahmed. 50. and Raiim Ullah.

30, died on the spot at a fishery

project in Mohsiniapara under PM

Khali union. They hailed from

Dhaonkhali and Mohsiniapara. A

man named Noor Hossain was also

At the same time, two other thun-

derbolts killed five people and injured

two at SM Para under Jhilongja union

and Shatgoriapara under the coastal

union of Choufaldondi. Their identi-

ties could not be immediately known.

boatman named Abdul Latif died on

the spot while crossing on the

Buriganga river struck by a lightning

at around the same time. He hailed

from Banaripara of Barisal and lived

BDNEWS Manikganj correspon-

dent reports: Bhola Nath, 35, a

farmer, died and two others -- Azam,

30, and Halim, 22, -- were hurt when

a lightning bolt struck them at Korjona

village in Gheor upazila. All of them

were harvesting rice in the fields.

Bhola Nath hailed from Belkuchi of

Sirajganj. The two iniured were

admitted to Utholi Health Complex.

atAganagar in Nawabbari area.

In the capital, a sexagenarian

Sources said Anwar Ahmed. 40.

upazila of Cox's Bazar.

wounded at that place.

Of more than 50 passengers Lightning kills from Pabna, only 10 bodies have been found so far. The missing also 10, injures 3 include eight labourers from Bagha upazila of Rajshahi. BDNEWS, Cox's Bazar

"What will I tell those waiting back home," asked a brother of a missing passenger, who hails from Eight people were killed in Cox's Raishah

> Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Joint General Secretary Iqbal Hossain Khan visited the spot later in the day and expressed dissatisfaction at the failure of the rescue mission.

Meanwhile, the authorities have filed a case with the Marine Court.

### Domestic help FROM PAGE 1

her condition critical, referred her to a hospital," Ataur told reporters, adding that Selina used to torture Rupali on trivial matters.

Rupali was taken to Suhrawardy hospital, where doctors referred her to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

While Ataur and Selina were accompanying Rupali to the DMCH. the taxi cab driver carrying them asked about injured the girl and got locked into an altercation with the couple

Then he informed a patrol policeman, who finding the girl dead arrested the couple at around 3:30am

Mirpur police sent the body to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. The morgue sources said the body bore marks of bruises.

Selina, a diploma engineer, admitted to reporters and police that she beat Rupali on occasions "as the girl was unruly.

On the question whether Japan

We are just helping Bangladesh. We believe it has attained plenty of achievements.

seen all of the parts, but I saw a very