

# Tata project may add 1.9pc to GDP growth

Says EIU study report

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

Tata's presence in Bangladesh could add 1.9 percent to the nominal gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the country's economy, said a report titled "Economic Impact of Tata Investment in Bangladesh".

The report prepared by Tata-commissioned Economist Intelligence Unit also said half the power to be generated by the Tata power plant will feed the national grid, adding to the "generating base", the total power generated by the country's power plants. It will also increase the GDP growth further by 0.2 percent.

The report was submitted to the Board of Investment (BoI) during the recent third round talks with the government for its examination.

The Tata steel plant will be located in the poor western region, initiating wider economic activity in the area, the report said.

Tata's role as an anchor investor could triple the inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) by 2009 in fixed assets such as factories and equipment, which will also underpin wider growth, the report added.

BoI sources said an analysis of the Tata report will be made by Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud before the Tata

executives and the government's negotiating committees and sub-committees sit for the next round of talks after Eid and the Saarc Summit.

Meanwhile, a member of the negotiation committee, which reviewed the overall progress after the third round of talks with Tata at a meeting on October 27 in Dhaka, said 60 percent of the work has been done for reaching an agreement for commissioning Tata's planned plants.

Committee sources said some issues might be referred to the highest level of the government for settlement with political considerations in mind. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 5**



A man buys attar to wear in Eid prayers from a makeshift shop on the footpath in front of Baitul Mokarram National Mosque in the city yesterday.

## SERIAL BLASTS

Accused held, 3 charge sheets filed against 17

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested a charge-sheeted Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) activist in a serial blasts case in Satkhira and pressed charges against 17 other accused in separate cases.

The arrestee is Belal Hossain, 27, who is accused of blasting bombs on the Satkhira Collectorate premises on August 17, reports our **SEE PAGE 15 COL 6**

Mortar shells, guns seized in CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Personnel of Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized two powerful mortar shells, two locally made light guns and 14 rounds of bullets, and captured two suspected extortionists in separate drives at Thanchi upazila and Royangchhari in Bandarban.

Based on a tip-off, members of the BDR led by Captain Mainuddin conducted a drive at Baliapara **SEE PAGE 15 COL 8**

## Footpath Eid sales see downslide

Diminished purchasing capacity of low-income clients blamed

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

While the high-rise modern shopping malls are glittering with lights and buzzing with shoppers just ahead of the Eid, business of the footpath vendors has slumped mainly due to the declined purchasing capacity of the lower and lower-middle class people.

The business generally grows with a lot of newly sprung-up shops at the footpath markets a few weeks ahead of the Eid. But their sales have fallen sharply this year, as the buying capacity of their target customers has not increased.

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## IRAQ WAR REVIEW

# Democrats impose rare closed session

REUTERS, Washington

Democrats accusing the ruling Republicans of stalling tactics imposed a rare closed session of the Senate on Tuesday to force the majority to complete a probe on whether the Bush administration misused intelli-

gence before the Iraq war.

Republicans, angered that the manoeuvre was sprung on them without warning, dismissed it as a stunt but agreed to form a bipartisan task force to report by November 14 on how the Intelligence Committee was

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Sehri-Iftar			
Ramadan	Nov	Sehri	Iftar
29	3		5-22
30	4	4-45	5-21

Prayer Timing		
November 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-44	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-22	5-37
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation