

Inside Today

Article

Israel Fails a Test of Good Intentions

by Michael Jansen
Page 4

International

Arafat's concession can break deadlock: Peres

Sino-Pak friendship is a model of inter-state relations

Page 5

Business

Jakarta government won't interfere in business affairs of state firms

US warns Japan to stimulate economy as promised

Pages 6, 7

Supplement

Special supplement on 49th Birthday of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and the National Day of Nepal

Pages 8, 9

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Dolls' World

Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Biswas, Khaleda greet Birendra

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday greeted the King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal on the occasion of his birthday. In a message, President Biswas expressed his firm conviction that the existing traditional bonds of friendship and close cooperation between the two countries would continue to grow in depth and dimension to the mutual benefit of the two nations. In a separate message to Nepali Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia felicitated the King on the occasion of his birthday, reports UNB.

12 Sirajganj AL activists held

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 27: Police today arrested 12 Awami League supporters in connection with Sunday's clash in Chiraghish union in Kazipur thana that left a man dead and 30 others injured, reports UNB.

1.8 kg heroin seized

JESSORE, Dec 27: Police today seized 1,800 grams of heroin worth about Tk 1.8 crore from a house at Kargarpa area in Chowgachha Tharha. Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Mafizur Rahman Shanti, 40, near Chowgahha Bazaar and recovered the heroin at about 8:00 am, reports UNB.

Prayer-Breakfast in Washington in Feb

State Minister for Establishment Barrister M Aminul Huq is likely to attend the 42nd National Prayer-Breakfast in Washington in February, officials said. Heads of state and government, ministers and dignitaries from different parts of the world join the programme to discuss various matters to promote peace and friendship among the nations. US President Bill Clinton will attend the function, scheduled for February 1-4 next year, reports UNB.

Joint Economic Commission meets today

Dhaka may propose \$ 40m each way STA with Delhi

By S Y Bakht

In an attempt to off-set the huge trade deficit with India, Bangladesh is likely to propose for concluding a 40 million US dollar each way Special Trading Agreement (STA) at the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting between the two countries due to begin in the capital today.

According to official sources, Dhaka would also seek tariff concessions for exporting certain local products and propose the setting up of joint venture import-substitution industries to reduce the trade imbalance.

The issue of avoiding double taxation between the two coun-

tries, which was discussed at the last meeting, would also come up for discussion, along with that of government-to-government credit.

On the other hand, India may renew its earlier request to allow transit facilities for the northeastern Indian states through Bangladesh, the sources added.

With a view to further minimising the trade deficit, the sources said, Dhaka is also likely to request India to enter into an agreement for one-way export of Bangladeshi goods worth 10 million dollars.

The cumulative trade imbalance with India currently stands at Tk 44,277.33 million while Bangladesh's exports to India totalled 9.8 million dollars and imports from that country was 342 million dollars during 1992-93.

Indian Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee, who arrived in the city yesterday, would lead a 16-member delegation at the

See Page 12 Col 3

Corporation of Bangladesh and the State Trading Corporation of India signed a memorandum of understanding for the annual two-way exchange of goods worth 10 million dollars.

"We'll discuss how to import more items from Bangladesh to maintain a balance in the bilateral trade," Mukherjee told newsmen on arrival at the airport yesterday afternoon.

The Indian Minister stressed the need for making the economies of the two neighbours complementary to each other in the new perspective of cooperation in South Asia.

He said discussion in the JEC meeting would take place in the light of the SAPTA (South Asian Preferential

See Page 12 Col 5

Trade Agreement) which came into force in 1992.

On Sunday, the BNP city committee and Mirza Abbas and the Jatiya Party candidate and a former mayor of the city Col (Retd) Abdul Malek took their forms to contest the polls, scheduled for January 30 next.

The nomination of Mirza Abbas was formally announced by the BNP city president and Food Minister Lt Gen (Retd)

See Page 12 Col 1

Curtain comes down on SAF Games

By Chandrashekhar Das

Sight, sound and fury of some kind of an unreal cosmic cataclysm engulfed the night sky as the closing ceremony of the Sixth SAF Games was enacted at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Delightful, deafening fireworks held the 'blacked out', jampacked Dhaka Stadium in a spell of awe and amazement. For ten minutes of uninterrupted exhibition executed by experts from Singapore, the benighted skies of the northwestern and northern part of the Dhaka Stadium turned into spaces of siderial explosion as particles of green, red, violet, yellow, and blazing white burst into many flashing forms before vanishing in the darkness.

"Adamya," the Royal Bengal Tiger cub chosen as the mascot of the Games, then entered the stadium on an automobile with the in-field sound system blaring music typical of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives and Sri Lanka.

The different national contingents then entered the ground only to march out for the last time. Ace shooter Ateequr Rahman led the hosts with the national flag. India's record-breaking athlete Bahadur Prasad had the honour of leading his country. Asgar Ali Chengizi led Pakistan out, Syed Ali, the Maldives, Prem Rai Bhutan, Daya Ranasinghe Sri Lanka and Kiran Sreshtha bore the Nepalese flag.

After a pageantry depicting indigenous and tribal culture, Sabina Yamin, the leading singer of the country, entered the bowl on a mobile stage to act to the tune of a pre-recorded song of hers, composed by Dr Moniruzzaman and set to tune by Samir Das.

A flimsy version of Adamya was sent up in the air with a

See Page 12 Col 2



Balloons tied to Adamya, the mascot of the week-long Sixth SAF Games which concluded in the city yesterday, being released during the impressive closing ceremony at the Dhaka Stadium.

— Star photo

See Page 12 Col 2

See Page 12 Col 3

See Page 12 Col 4

See Page 12 Col 5

See Page 12 Col 6

See Page 12 Col 7

See Page 12 Col 8

See Page 12 Col 9

See Page 12 Col 10

See Page 12 Col 11

See Page 12 Col 12

See Page 12 Col 13

See Page 12 Col 14

See Page 12 Col 15

See Page 12 Col 16

See Page 12 Col 17

See Page 12 Col 18

See Page 12 Col 19

See Page 12 Col 20

See Page 12 Col 21

See Page 12 Col 22

See Page 12 Col 23

See Page 12 Col 24

See Page 12 Col 25

See Page 12 Col 26

See Page 12 Col 27

See Page 12 Col 28

See Page 12 Col 29

See Page 12 Col 30

See Page 12 Col 31

See Page 12 Col 32

See Page 12 Col 33

See Page 12 Col 34

See Page 12 Col 35

See Page 12 Col 36

See Page 12 Col 37

See Page 12 Col 38

See Page 12 Col 39

See Page 12 Col 40

See Page 12 Col 41

See Page 12 Col 42

See Page 12 Col 43

See Page 12 Col 44

See Page 12 Col 45

See Page 12 Col 46

See Page 12 Col 47

See Page 12 Col 48

See Page 12 Col 49

See Page 12 Col 50

See Page 12 Col 51

See Page 12 Col 52

See Page 12 Col 53

See Page 12 Col 54

See Page 12 Col 55

See Page 12 Col 56

See Page 12 Col 57

See Page 12 Col 58

See Page 12 Col 59

See Page 12 Col 60

See Page 12 Col 61

See Page 12 Col 62

See Page 12 Col 63

See Page 12 Col 64

See Page 12 Col 65

See Page 12 Col 66

See Page 12 Col 67

See Page 12 Col 68

See Page 12 Col 69

See Page 12 Col 70

See Page 12 Col 71

See Page 12 Col 72

See Page 12 Col 73

See Page 12 Col 74

See Page 12 Col 75

See Page 12 Col 76

See Page 12 Col 77

See Page 12 Col 78

See Page 12 Col 79

See Page 12 Col 80

See Page 12 Col 81

See Page 12 Col 82