Telephone: 815306-09, 819625-29, Fax: 813062



Month-long business extravaganza begins Feb 22

24 countries may participate in Dhaka international fair

Bangladesh has received an encouraging response this year from foreign trading and manufacturing companies for participation in the international trade fair, 1997 beginning here

next month. The Ministry of Commerce and the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) will jointly organise the annual business extravaganza with local and foreign participation to be held from February 22 to March 21, EPB

sources told BSS yesterday. According to the EPB sources, 24 countries with their exportables have confirmed their participation in the trade fair to be held on a 15 lakh sq ft area at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. As many as 127 trade and manufacturing companies from these countries are expected to put their wares on display at the

BB bill auction

results

Day Bangladesh Bank Bill and

the 98th auction of the 91-Day Bangladesh Bank Bill were held

yesterday, says a BB press re-

of Tk. 415.20 crore and 21 bids

for a total of Tk 101.50 crore

were offered respectively

against the 30-day and the 91-

Tk. 410.20 crore against the 30-

day bill and 13 bids for a total

of Tk. 77.00 crore against the

91-day bills were accepted. The

weighted average prices of the accepted bids of the 30 day and

91-day bills were Tk 99.39 and

Tk. 98.05 per 100 Taka respec-

tively. The corresponding

yields are 7.31 per cent and 7.98

OPEC states under

US influence: Iran

supreme leader Ayatollah Ali

Khamenei said yesterday the United States was dictating

what Organisation of

Petroleum Exporting Countries

(OPEC) members should do with

their oil resources, reports

US dictated (to Iran) what price

to sell the oil at, and to sell the

oil to this person and not to

that person. Now we see similar

things in OPEC," Khamenei told

There are some countries

a mass prayer gathering at

which lower the price of their

oil to even less than zero for the

sake of the US and Western

states. Iran has in the past crit-

icised Saudi Arabia for its mod-

biggest oil exporter - is OPEC's

second largest producer behind

arrogance (West) it is unbear-

able that someone would not

follow their orders. This is the

root of their animosity against

Iran. Other statements are just

China's central

bank warns

loss-making

state banks

state-owned banks should not

tolerate officials who are re-

sponsible for heavy losses and

bank heads should be punished

for incompetence, central bank

governor Dai Xianglong said

government institutions, but

are enterprises in the real

sense, said Dai, head of the Peo-

greater importance to the qual-

ity of the loan procedures and

conduct better research to fully

understand the market, he said

at a meting with top officials of

the state-owned Agricultural

Bank of China, one of China's

vestigate cases involving large

amounts of money, and to pun-

ish officials who caused the

He urged state banks to in-

The banks must attach

State banks are no longer

yesterday, reports Reuter.

ple's Bank of China.

big four state banks.

BEIJING, Jan 18: China's

Khamenei did name any

Iran - the world's third

"For the superpower (US) and

Tehran University.

companies," he said.

erate oil policies.

excuses," he said.

Saudi Arabia.

"There was a time when the

TEHRAN, Jan 18: Iran's

per cent per annum.

Of these, 37 bids for a total of

day bills.

Reuter.

Thirtyeight bids for a total

The 28th auction of the 30-

The countries expected to take part in the annual trade fair here are: Australia, Bhutan, Canada, China, Denmark. Germany. Hong Kong. Iran. Italy, India, Indonesia, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Spain, Taiwan. Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates.

According to the countrywise position of foreign participants selected for the trade fair. trade and manufacturing companies, followed by India with

put up their goods in 44 and 17

General merchandise, elecbe the prominent items on display during the fair.

As many as 21 manufacturwill take part in the fair with

They are, among others, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), Sena Kalyan Sangstha, Janata Bank, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC). Rangs Group, Monno Ceramic Industries, Beximco Ltd, People Ceramic Industries, Limo Electronics, Saleh Group, HRC Syndicate, Nabisco Biscuit and Bread Factory, Banglacraft, Transcom Ltd, Square Toiletries, Bangladesh Automobiles Assemblers and Manufac-

Striking ROK workers to return to job tomorrow

SEOUL, Jan 18: In a dramatic turn in South Korea's largest labour protests ever. militant union leaders said Saturday that striking workers will return to work Monday at hundreds of idled export plants. reports AP.

The decision immediately eased more than three weeks of bitter labour confrontations that have rocked South Korea. The sometimes violent labour protests, which began Dec. 26, have crippled hundreds of auto and other export plants.

Union leaders said that tens of thousands of auto, shipyard workers, nurses and journalists at four major TV and radio stations will resume work Monday and stage only a one-day strike every Wednesday until mid-February.

They said workers will resume all-out protests unless the government rewrites by mid-February a disputed labour law they say would threaten workers' jobs. A revision of the law has been a key demand of striking workers.

We will launch a bigger strike if the government does not accept our demand by Feb. 18," said Kwon Young-gil, head of the outlawed Korean Confederation of Trade Unions which spearheaded the protests.

A few hours later, 10,000 workers, teachers, students, ministers and nuns marched through downtown Seoul streets demanding the abolition of the labour law.

"Disband the New Korea Party," demonstrators shouted, referring to the ruling party. The also shouted curses and insults against Presidents Kim Young-sam and demanded his

Led by about 20 Christian ministers holding a huge cross. the crowd marched after a rally at a Park. Many wore white masks over their mouths with a black "X" marked on them. Others wore black silk ribbons with signs: "funeral of the Kim Young-sam regime.'

Helmeted police, armed with batons and shields, escorted the marchers along the sidewalk. There were no immediate reports of clashes or arrests.

The federation's decision to scale back protests came at a time when public pressure mounted for both government and labour to compromise and resolve their dispute through dialogue.

It also came at a time when labour protests were showing signs of slackening. Many workers ignored a major nationwide strike call earlier this

In the southern industrial city of Ulsan, Hyundai Motors Co., the nation's biggest carmaker, opened its plant Saturday after a weeklong company lockout - the clearest sign yet that the protests were waning.

But the company reported little production as most striking workers refused to pick up their tools until Monday, following the labour group's guide-

Hyundai Motors was hardest hit by the unrest. Company officials said the strike has cost it 774 million dollars in lost production.

Two smaller car producers — Ssangyong and Asia — already had announced plans to reopen their plants on Monday.

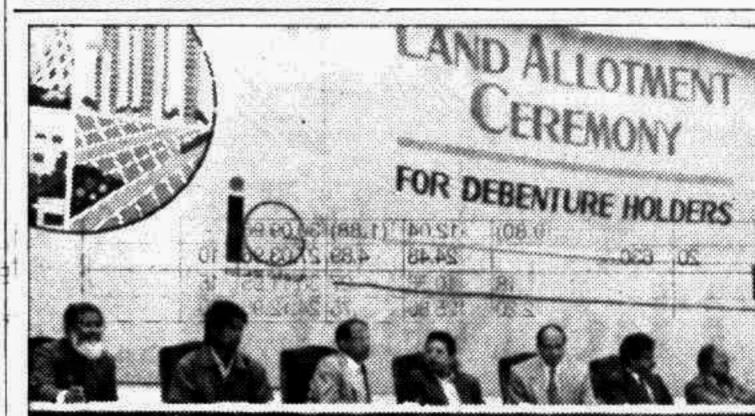
One more union leader arrested

AFP says: South Korean police today arrested the head of the union at Hyundai Heavy Industries Co on charges of obstructing work by leading strikes to protest a controversial labour law, a union spokesman said.

Kim Im-Shik, 42, was arrested in the southeastern industrial city of Ulsan, he said. If convicted. Kim could face up to five years in prison.

The arrest of Kim has brought to six the number of union leaders who have been arrested in a crackdown on unions leading the crippling strikes.





Eastern Housing Limited held a meeting of land-linked debenture holders in the city on Friday with its Chairman Manzurul Islam presiding.

EU jobless rate stuck at 10.9 pc for 7th month in row

LUXEMBOURG, Jan 18: The European Union's average seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was stuck at 10.9 per cent for the seventh consecutive month in November, representing 18.2 million jobless, the EU statistics agency said Friday, reports AP.

In its monthly bulletin, Eurostat said the November rate was up from 10.8 per cent in November 1995.

The EU rate remained double the US rate of 5.4 per cent and triple Japan's 3.4 per cent unemployment.

Of the 15 EU nations, Britain recorded the largest fall in unemployment over the month. British unemployment fell 0.4 percentage points from October to 7.5 per cent.

The monthly rate rose most in Finland where a 0.3 point rise took the total to 15.3 per cent — the second highest in the EU after Spain. The next highest rise was in Germany where a 0.2 percentage point hike took the total to 9.3 per cent.

Over 12 months to November, unemployment in the EU crept up steadily in the Union's two biggest economies. Germany recorded rise of 0.8 per cent points from November 1995. France had an increase of 0.7 points to 12.5. France has the EU's third highest level.

Britain and Denmark showed the biggest falls in unemployment over the year with drops of 1.1 points.

Eurostat gave these November unemployment rates, followed by the corresponding figures for October, 1996, and November, 1995, in brackets,

Belgium, 9.5 per cent (9.6-10.0); Denmark, 5.5 per cent (5.6-6.6); Germany, 9.3 per cent (9.1-8.5); Spain, 22.3 per cent (22.3-22.7); France, 12.5 per cent (12.5-11.8); Ireland, 11.9 per cent (12.1-12.4); Luxembourg, 3.3 per cent (3.2-2.9); Austria, 4.0 per cent (4.1-4.0); Portugal, 7.1 per cent (7.1-7.4); Finland, 15.3 per cent (15.0-16.2); Sweden, 10.1 per cent (10.0-9.3); Britain, 7.5 per cent (7.9 - 8.6)

The latest Eurostat figures for Italy were from July, showing unemployment at 12.2 per

In the Netherlands, latest figures were from October when unemployment was 6.4 per cent down from 6.7 per cent in September and 7 per cent in November 1995.

Eurostat gave no figures for

was agreed to Wednesday after

more than three months of tor-

tuous negotiations and intense

US mediation, also calls for

improved trade ties between Is-

Coming AGMs Company Diwidend Proposed Book Closure Venue & Time Hotel Agrabad Clg 10 am Chittagong Cement 01/03/97-20/03/97 1R:2(Pre & Tk 1000) 1R:1 (Pre & Tk 125) BD Zipper (Deb) 27/01/97-03/02/97 1R:2(at par) 17 Hotel Sonargaon, 10 am BOC Ltd 05/01/97-02/02/97 Sonargaon Hotel 2 pm 16/01/97-30/01/97 Sohag Community Centre 11am

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/3	Kana Naree					
	(48) Khanak	CI	Sing	Everett	15/1	20/1
J/4	Fu Ping	CI	Sing	Prog	7/1	23/1
J/5	Guardian Angel	Salt (TCB)	Ind	CCNL	31/1	22/1
J/6	Globe Trader	C Peas	Sing	Seacom	12/1	30/1
J/7	Fujishan Maru	Wheat	Sing	Aass	10/1	23/1
J/8	Anodad Naree	Wheat(P)	P Land	Seacoast	25/1	20/1
J/9	Soya	Depeas	Wala	Rainbow	14/1	22/1
J/10	Mirna	CI	Sing	UMTL	14/1	25/1
J/11	Feng Ge	Urea(G)	Chin	BDship	30/12	19/1
J/12	Taeping	Wheat(P)	Sing	Seacom	30/12	18/1
J/13	Da Fu	Cont	Sing	Apl(B)	14/1	21/1
CCT/	QC Pintail	Cont	Sing	Qcsl	15/1	19/1
CCT/2	Fong Yun	Cont	Sing	BDship	12/1	18/1
	Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	BDship	16/1	20/1
CCJ	Jon Jin	C Clink	Yant	BMA	2/1	
GSJ	Banglar Mamata	Wheat(G)		BSC	R/A	1
TSP	Ozge Aksoy	R Phos	Anna	Litmond		
RM/3	Margaletta	Tallow	Col	JF	11/1	
RM/4	Hong Gu Cheng	Fert	Fang	BDship		20/1
RM/5	Mekhanik Ilchen		Sing	MSPL		11.15.T.C
DOJ	Banglar Shourab		2000 Marin 1900	BSC	(i) (i) (ii) (ii) (ii) (ii) (ii) (ii) (19/1
- Middistricture	1Tanary Star	Idle	Para	Psal		31/1
RM/9		Repair	Mong	BSC		20/1

CUFLJBlue North (Attch. 10/7)		rwpan	ALCOHOL:	LANC	13/	20/1
		Cement	Qing	Psal	3/0	5 31/1
	Vessels	due at o	ther anc	horage		
Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last Port			rgo	Loading Port
Rising Tide	18/1	Viza	OTL	GI(Lo	gs)	
Nazym Khikmet	18/1		Ahz	Scrap	ing	74
Parnassus	18/1	Mong	Umtl	Scrap	ing	
Gao Cai	19/1		Simni	Scrap	ing	12
Jutha Pariyanat	19/1	Sing	Umtl	Scrap	ing	
Susak 11/1	21/1	Col	Baridhi	C	ont	Col
Fong Lee 16/1	20/1	MGL	BDship	C	ont	Sing
Chin Shwe Haw	20/1	Yang	MTA	GI (Le	ogs)	- 2
Star Craft						
(Roro/24)5/12	20/1	Sing	BBA	Vehi(1 Pk	(gs)	7
Mecca-1	20/1	Jedd	BSC	Passeng	ers	72
Yong Tong	20/1	Ores	Litmond	U	rea	8
Al Swamruz	20/1	Sing	Asll		CI	52
Al Muztuba	20/1	<u>S</u> et	CLA		GI	
Meng Yang 11/1	22/1	Sing	Aml	C	ont	Sing
Ramdas (E/L) 16/1	21/1		SSL	1	E/L	Ant Dundee
Lady Rebecca	22/1	S Hai	Prog		CI	
Stamford 14/1	22/1	Sing	RSL	C	ont	22
Banglar Robi 12/1	22/1	Sing	BSC	c	ont	Sing
Meng Kiat 16/1	23/1	Sing	BDship	C	ont	Sing
Consistence 16/1	24/1	Sing	RSL	C	ont	Sing
Kota Bintang 14/1	24/1	Sing	PIL (BD)	C	ont	Sing
Tong He	30/1	3.0	Rainbow	Cem	ent	5
Sea Pioneer	25/1	191	Oil		CI	
QC Teal 16/1	26/1	Sing	QCSL	c	ont	Sing

Taker due MBL

Gas Gloria

Berth

Mongla Port

Ammonia

Makh

BDship

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 18-1-97 Date of Name of vessels

No	Traine of vedecis	cargo	agent	arrival
MCM JTTY	M/V Mezhdure Chansk	Clinker	Marh	2/1/97
A/2	M/V Al Salma	Exp	Atlas	25/12/96
A-3+M-1	ET Ocean 7+Barge	Tug+G.C	SI Chau+	16/1/97+
	Opsure-7		SI. Ch.	16/1/97
M/2	M/V Banglar Asha	Wheat	BSC	2/1/97
M/3	M/V Navira Express	Ferti	Bsll	2/1/97
M/4	M/V Cheetah	Wheat	S Sine	14/1/97
M/5	M/V Sugar	Cement	Tania	3/1/97
M/6	M/V ADA	Мор	Owsl	10/12/96
M/7	M/V Filiasi	Exp	Owsl	12/1/97
A/7	M/V Astrasky	Cement	Makh	6/1/97
A/8	M/V Daxian	Ferti	Makh	5/1/97
A/9	M/V Mathos	Cement	Viking	7/1/97
A/11	M/V Gold Spring	Clinker	Aera	3/11/96
A/13	M/V Forum Power	Cement	Ustc	3/11/96
A/14	M/V Thetisk	Cement	H&H	17/1/97
A/17	M/V Motovun	Ferti	Pioneer	18/12/96
A/17(A)	M/V Canan Arichin	Cement	Ustc	15/1/97
A/18	M/V Guil in Yang	Clinker	R Bow	16/1/97
A/19	M/V Fix Star	Clinker	RK Int	12/1/97
A/20	M/V Alexandra	Exp	Owsl	20/10/96
A/21	M/V Begae Bone	Ferti	Cosmus	3/1/97
	Departure progra	amme on	18/1/97	

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong & Mongla Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Conti

MCM JTTY M/V Mezhdure Chansk Clinker

M/V Fong Lee

Dxchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies with Bangladesh Taka as on 18th Jan '97.

	S	elling	Buying		
	T.T. & OD	B. C.	T.T. (Clean)	O.D. Sight	O.D. Transfer
JSD LB.TK.	42.6105	42.6505	42.3150	42.1550	42.0580
GBP.I.B.TK.	71.2819	71.3488	70.2159	69.9504	69.7894
OMI B.TK.	26.4801	26.5049	26.0267	25.9283	25.8686
FRF.1.B.TK.	7.8503	7.8577	7.7162	7.6870	7.6693
CAD.I.B.TK.	31.9388	31.9688	31.3900	31.2713	31.1994
SFR.I.B.TK.	30.6036	30.6323	30.0782	29.9644	29.8955
YEN.I.B.TK.	0.3669	0.3672	0.3570	0.3556	0.3548

B) Usance export bill buying rates (B. Taka for one unit of US Dollar) 60 Days DA 90 Days 120 Days DA 180 Days DA

DA 41.1748 40.1170 40.8222 41.5275 C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Same as O.D. sight export bill, buying rate Indicative rates (B. Taka for one unit of

roleigh currency).					
Currency		Selling T.T. & O.D.		Buying O.D. Transfer	
Saudi Riyal	=	Tk	11.3613	11.2125	
UAE Dirham	1=	Tk	11.6089	11.4490	
Kuwaiti Dinner	1=	Tk	141 8459	139.9135	
D Guilder	1=	Tk	23.8127	23.4948	
S. Krona	1=	TK	6.1233	6.0396	
Malaysian Ringgit	=	Tk	17 1519	16.9227	
Singapore Dollar	1=	Tk	30 3105	29.8962	

The following are the Janata Bank's dealing rates (BD Tk for one unit of Foreign Currency) to public as on 18/01/97

Selling			Buying		
Name of	TT& OD	ВС	T T Clean	() D Sight Export Bills	O D Transfer
JS Dollar	42.6120	42.6650	42 32(N)	42 1541	42 ()455
JB Pound	71 2869	71 3703	70.2268	69 9378	69.7544
) Mark	26 4779	26.5088	26 0308	25 9237	25 8557
Franc	7 8497	7 8588	7.7174	7.6856	7 6655
P Yen	0.3674	0.3679	0.3588	() 3574	() 3564
Dollar	31.9362	31 9734	31 3949	31 2657	31 1837
Franc	30.6010	30 6367	30.0829	20 9591	29 8805
anata Bank	's selling	and buying ra	ites in Eash ci	rency for publ	l¢.
	US DLR	GBP	SRIYAL	UAE DH	KU DINAR
SELLING	42.6000	70.2869	11.5000	11.5500	140.0000
BUYING	42 (XXX)	67.5369	11 0000	11 (1500)	134 500 0

month-long fair. The international trade fair. 1996 saw only 16 foreign countries participating, the sources

Pakistan tops the list with 45 18 such companies, who will

stalls respectively.

tronics, light industry and steel products, food items, sports goods, cosmetics, fruits and juice, arts and crafts, refrigerators, telephone exchange, computer accessories, textile and silks, leather and garment goods, gems and jewellery, surgical instrument, wooden handicrafts, bed linen and shawl, carpets and fabrics, decoration items, marble products, plants and machinery, sanitary accessories and plastic products will

ing companies including several state-owned organisations varieties of goods and services.

turers Association and Bangladesh Furniture Industry. The trade fair will have 28 pavilions, 46 mini-pavilions and a total of 264 stalls for both local and foreign participants. The preparation for holding the fair has already started, the sources said.

A 27-member delegation of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry led by its President Yusuf Abdullah Harun called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Dollar hits new high against German mark

NEW YORK, Jan 18: The dollar closed Friday at its highest level against the German mark in two-and-a-half years, re-

Likewise, it was strong against other major currencies after the release of US trade deficit figures for November that were lower than analysts

expected. The goods-and-services trade deficit grew slightly to 8.4 billion dollars compared to eight billion dollars in October. Experts had anticipated the deficit to reach 10.4 billion dol-

Loss-limiting purchases accelerated the dollar's climb above 1.6135 marks. It briefly surged above 1.6180 after US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin remarked that a strong dollar was in the United States'

The dollar is not expected to meet much resistance should it climb to 1.6250, said trader

interest.

Paul Farrell with Chase Manhattan Bank.

Farrell said the dollar should remain strong until early next month, when the Federal Reserve is scheduled to meet and the government releases jobless figures for January.

Monday's session is expected to be quiet because of banks' closing for the Martin Luther King holiday.

Around 2200 GMT, the dollar was trading at 1.6175 German marks compared to 1.5953 marks on Thursday, and 117.35 yen compared to 116.63.

Against other major European currencies, the greenback was trading at 5.4530 French francs compared to 5.3805 francs on Thursday, 1.3995 Swiss francs compared to 1.3768, and 0.5997 pound sterling compared to 0.5987.

Gold rose 1.40 dollars an ounce to 355.70 dollars from late Thursday.



Al-Ameen Chaudhury, Managing Director, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, awarded certificates of appreciation to the resource persons at the concluding ceremony of the course on Identification of Foreged Travel Documents held at BATC Biman. The course organized jointly by Biman, the British High Commission and the Canadian High Commission was attended by 315 participants from Biman, Immigration Department and several foreign airlines. Nicholas Etheridge, Canadian High Commissioner, and G Fairhurst, First Secretary, British High Commission, Dhaka, were present at the ceremony.

treasury.

Eastern Housing allots plots to 451 debenture holders

Eastern Housing Limited (EHL) has alloted plots to 451 land-linked debenture holders, says a press release.

The allotment was made at a ceremony held at the premises of Navana Pharmaceuticals Limited at Purana Paltan in the city on Friday. Manzurul Islam, Chairman

of the company, presided over the function. It was attended by a large number of debenture holders, representatives from Dhaka Stock Exchange and trustee to the debenture Pragati Insurance Limited.

Each of the EHL debenture holders who opted for plots of land in lieu of interest and redemption of debentures have been allotted plots of land measuring 2.5, 3 and 3.5 kathas in the Aftab Nagar area of Banasree Project at Rampura. The location of plots for each of the debenture holders was determined by lottery.

The plots of land were scheduled to be handed over within 31st December 1999 as per prospectus of debenture is-

The debenture holders deposited Taka 1.30 lakh per katha in October 1994. Present sale price of land in the same area is Taka 4.50 lakh per katha. This is expected to rise to Taka 6 lakh in 1999. So, the return on investment in landlinked debenture has been around 72 per cent per year.

New GM of Agrani Bank

Md Enamul Huq Choudhury has joined Agrani Bank as general manager recently, says a press release.

Prior to his present assignment, he was general manager in Janata Bank and Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

During his career, he held very responsible positions in different banks. He received several prizes

performances in banking. He attended numerous seminars, workshops, training and study tour programmes at home and abroad including Thailand, USA and UK.

and citations for outstanding

Israel expects economic dividends from Hebron accord Qatar, Oman and Morocco, agencies such as Standard and three Arab countries which had Poor's and Mody's had raised taken the first steps toward normalising ties with Israel,

Israel media had also raised the possibility over the past few

Such an action would be a

their confidence measure of Israel because of the peace process begun with the country's Arab neighbours. Israeli business leaders also are predicting a flurry of trade

with the newly autonomous Palestinian areas following Israel's troop redeployment from Hebron, the last major town on the West Bank to obtain selfrule. "The Palestinian au-

tonomous territories represent one of Israel's primary export markets, with sales of two billion dollars in 1996, six times more than Egypt," Blizovsky said.

But this will prove difficult unless Israel greatly loosens its repeated closures of the Palestinian territories, which disrupts the flow of people and goods. The closures, which Israel

rael and the Palestinians.

says are for security reasons. have squeezed the economic life out of the Palestinian territories, causing an explosion in unemployment and a 39 per cent drop in revenue for residents of the West Bank and Gaza

The Hebron accord, which

Strip over the last four years. according to a UN report.

JERUSALEM, Jan 18: Israel rose 80 per cent to 60 million hopes to draw new foreign investment and tourists, while relaunching trade ties with Arab countries, after the pull-back of its troops Friday from the

volatile West Bank city of He-

bron, reports AFP.

The Tel Aviv stock market is already expecting a resumption of the Middle East peace process, frozen since right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in June. The Michtanim indicator of

leading stocks has climbed 13 per cent since the beginning of the year, reaching 239.13 in Thursday trading. The market was close down Friday.

The volume of transactions. after an empty stretch last year,

dollars in January from De-Foreign investors, who control 10 per cent of stocks on the

Tel Aviv exchange, have stayed on the sidelines for several months because of rising political tensions due to the near collapse of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. The investors, however,

plunged back into the market buying star stocks such as hapoalim bank, food company ossem and industrial group koor, according to traders. The Israeli government on Thursday also quickly sold 750

million dollars in bonds on the

New York exchange backed by

loan guarantees from the US

Israeli central bank Governor Yaakov Frenkel predicted that the Hebron accord, the first concluded between Israel's New right-wing government and the Palestinian Authority, would boost foreign investment and bring back tourists, the number of which dropped six per cent "Businessmen and tourists

last year. don't like risks, or uncertainty. For them, the Hebron accord can only have a positive effect," Frenkel said. The Director of the Israeli Industrial Association, Yoram

Blizovsky, also expected that

tries which were frozen last

joint projects with Arab coun-

year "will now move forward."

the Jewish state after Netanyahu's election victory. weeks of a resumption of the Arab boycott of the Jewish state, which was lifted in 1994 after the launch of Palestinian autonomy.

froze their trade relations with

rude shock to Israel's economy. Multinational corporations, believing that Middle East peace was on the way, have invested heavily in Israel since International risk-rating