

## A costly love affair!

PESHAWAR, Mar 20: A love affair in conservative north-western Pakistan led to the killing of nine people, including three infants, all from the same family, police said Monday, reports AP.

Armed men shot dead two men and four women and beat the infants to death during the weekend to punish Mohammed Siddique, who was dating a young woman. Three relatives of Siddique's girlfriend Tahira Bibi have been arrested, but so far no charges have been laid.

Siddique was not at home when the attack occurred in Katha Kalandha, 104 kilometers (63 miles) east of Peshawar. The culprits also set the homes on fire, police said.

In Pakistan's deeply religious and conservative families, extramarital relations are considered a sin and a disgrace to the family. Such affairs often result in blood feuds and so-called honor killings, which involve the killing of a woman by her family because they have been disgraced.

Human rights groups want laws against honor killings.

Under Pakistan's Islamic law a person can be beaten or imprisoned if convicted of having sexual relations outside of marriage. There is a death penalty for adultery.

# Kashmir, N-issues to dog Clinton's India visit

NEW DELHI, Mar 20: US President Bill Clinton begins a five-day state visit to India on Tuesday, with differences over non-proliferation and Indo-Pakistan tensions over Kashmir likely to figure high on the agenda, reports AP.

Clinton, who spent Sunday night in the Indian capital before flying for a day-long visit to Bangladesh, will begin his official visit to India with a welcoming ceremony at the presidential palace on Tuesday morning.

After a visit to the mausoleum of India's independence hero Mahatma Gandhi, Clinton will hold talks with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee.

It will be the first visit to India by a US president for more than 20 years and both countries are looking to bring a new dynamic to their neglected bilateral relationship.

But Clinton has made it clear that he wants India to show more restraint in its nuclear programme and make efforts to reduce tension with arch-rival Pakistan.

"Narrowing our differences on non-proliferation is important to realising the full potential of our relationship," Clinton said in an article published on the front page of the Times of India.

"As the United States and Russia move towards deeper

cuts in our nuclear arsenals, South Asia should not be headed in the opposite direction."

India and Pakistan conducted tit-for-tat nuclear tests in May 1998, prompting US sanctions which have since been partially lifted.

"We will raise the question of sanctions," India's National Security Advisor Brajesh Mishra said after Clinton's arrival on Sunday evening.

"They are an impediment in the relationship between the two countries including in areas of trade and commerce."

Over the territorial dispute over Kashmir, which has triggered two wars between India and Pakistan, Clinton acknowledged India's strong opposition to any third-party interference.

"I am not going to mediate the dispute between India and Pakistan. America cannot play that role unless both sides want it," he said.

"But I will urge restraint, respect for the Line of Control (LoC) and renewed lines of communication."

The LoC -- the de facto border dividing Indian- and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir -- witnessed a bloody two-month conflict last summer, when Indian troops beat back an incursion by Pakistan-backed guerrillas.

"Both India and Pakistan have legitimate security concerns. But neither can achieve its aims in an escalating contest of inflicting and absorbing pain," Clinton said.

Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh said in an interview carried on the BBC Monday, that instead of meddling in the Kashmir dispute, Washington would best serve stability in the region by exerting pressure on its old Cold War ally Pakistan.

"I think the best way the United States of America can help is really not to wish to facilitate, mediate or intervene," Singh said.

"They can help by recognising the reality of what is happening within Pakistan and having recognised it, thereafter address themselves to that much older ally."

After leaving India, Clinton will stop over in Pakistan for several hours for talks with military ruler General Pervez Musharraf, who came to power in a military coup in October.

"Engagement with Pakistan does not represent endorsement (of the military regime)," Clinton said.

"Staying away only would strengthen hardliners in Pakistan who want their country to turn away from the world."



US President Bill Clinton (C) is offered flowers by Indian State Minister for External Affairs Ajit Panja (R) upon his arrival at Palam Air Force Base in New Delhi Sunday as his daughter Chelsea Clinton looks on. Clinton arrived for a six-day South Asian tour. —AFP photo

## Chelsea joins Holi

NEW DELHI, Mar 20: Chelsea Clinton today joined members of a royal family in the desert city of Jodhpur in Rajasthan for the Hindu festival of colours as her father was on a state visit to Bangladesh, reports AP.

Chelsea, who was accompanied by grandmother Dorothy Rodham, splashed colour on maharajah Gaj Singh, a former Indian ambassador to the United States, and his family members at his sprawling Umed Bhawan palace, a source from the palace said.

"They are playing Holi at the rose garden and after that they shall lunch," the source told AFP by telephone from the sandstone palace, which boasts an underground swimming pool made with jade and a fabulous clock museum.

"Chelsea started playing Holi from the airport itself where the maharajah put some colour on her face," the source said.

Chelsea, who is accompanying President Bill Clinton on his six-day South Asian tour, was invited to celebrate the Hindu colour festival and visit the 19th century Mehrangarh fort overlooking the Thar desert in Jodhpur.

## BRIEFLY

### Pilot dies as F-16 crashes in US:

An Air Force F-16 fighter jet crashed Sunday afternoon while performing manoeuvres as part of an air show near Kingsville Naval Air Station, killing the pilot, authorities said. AP reports from Kingsville, Texas.

The pilot's name was withheld pending notification of relatives. He was a member of the 78th Fighter Squadron from Shaw Air Force Base near Sumter, South Carolina. The plane crashed in a field about 10 km north of the naval base about 12:45 pm, said Navy Master Chief Jim Rostohar.

### Quake shakes Japan:

A moderate earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.4 struck near the northern coast of Japan early Monday morning but there were no reports of damage or injuries, AP reports from Tokyo.

The quake hit at 6:26 am (3:26 BST Sunday) under the seabed of the Pacific Ocean about 50 km off the coast of rural Miyagi Prefecture, or state, the Meteorological Agency said.

The tremor was centered at a depth of about 80 km, it said.

## Pak SC orders govt to explain ban on rallies

ISLAMABAD, Mar 20: Pakistan's Supreme Court today ordered the army-led government to explain its decision to ban public rallies, strikes and processions, reports AP.

Last week the military outlawed political demonstrations ahead of Saturday's visit to Pakistan by US President Bill Clinton.

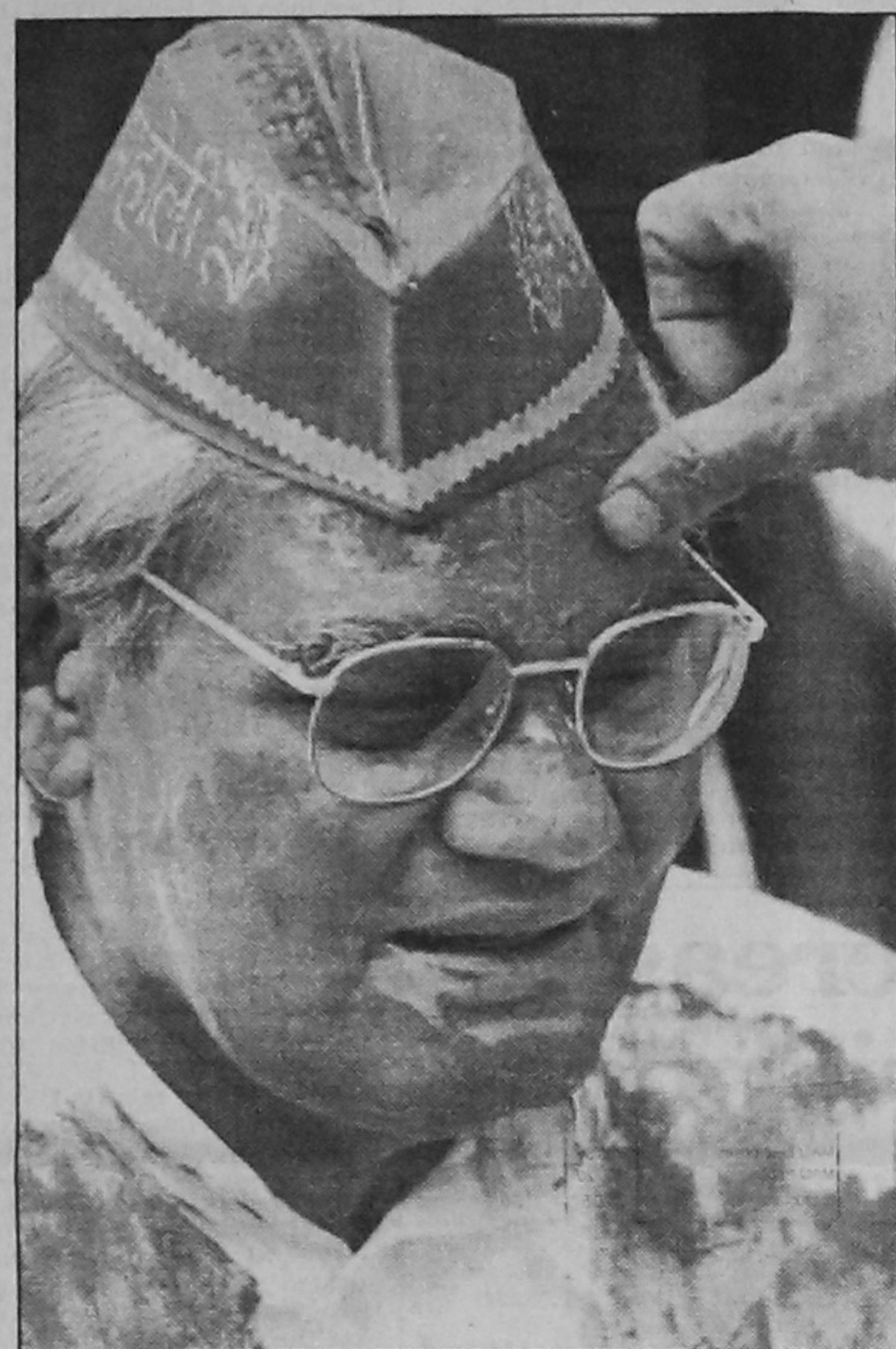
Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider said that the ban will likely remain after Clinton leaves because the government wants tranquility in Pakistan to implement its reform programme.

Gen. Pervez Musharraf has rebuffed US attempts to get him to set a time frame for a return

to democracy in Pakistan. He says that his reform programme is a difficult one that can't be restricted by a time limit.

On Monday Supreme Court Chief Justice Irshad Hassan Khan ordered Pakistan's Attorney General to appear March 3 "to show cause as to the validity of banning political activities throughout Pakistan."

The Supreme Court's order comes as a surprise given that the government earlier this month required Pakistani judges to swear allegiance to a provisional constitution which makes it illegal to challenge army decisions.



Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee is daubed with festive "Holi" colours by an unidentified reveller during Holi celebrations, which mark the end of winter, at his residence in New Delhi yesterday. Vajpayee will hold talks with US President Bill Clinton today as part of his five-day visit to India.

— AFP photo

## Asia-Pacific nations open confce on global crimes

BANGKOK, Mar 20: Warning that globalisation and high technology are making organised crime harder to crack, Asia-Pacific nations opened a conference today urging support for international laws tackling crimes like the trade in arms, drugs and human beings, reports AP.

Prime Minister Chuan Leek-pai of Thailand to justice ministers and officials from more than 20 countries that changes in the global economy mean that no nation can fight organised crime — everything from money-laundering to smuggling nuclear weapons technology — on its own.

"We must work harder not only to catch up with the criminals, but also to ensure that we are one step ahead of them, lest we be caught in a vicious cycle, fighting 21st Century crime with 19th Century tools," Chuan said.

The two-day conference is aimed at building up support for a UN draft convention against trans-national crime, which Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan said may be adopted by the UN General Assembly by the end of the year.

The convention should help countries adopt legislation to fight international crime, which the UN Office for Drug

Control and Crime Prevention estimates is worth more than 1.5 billion dollars a year in profits to criminal groups.

It would enable states to develop legal tools to make participation in an organised crime group a criminal act, to confiscate crime proceeds and combat money-laundering and corruption, improve cooperation between law enforcement agencies, protect witnesses and improve training.

One proposal is for the United Nations to establish a fund from seized criminal assets to pay for technical assistance to poor countries in fighting crime.

## Taiwan's president-elect agrees to talk with China

TAIPEI, Mar 20: Taiwan's president-elect Chen Shui-bian held out an olive branch to China Monday calling for a peace summit, as protests erupted for the third day amid anger at the ruling Kuomintang's election defeat, reports AP.

The pro-independence Chen, whose election sparked panic on the Taiwan stock market when it opened Monday, agreed to Beijing's demand to discuss the "One China" policy in a huge shift of ground having previously refused to even talk about the issue.

But he threw the ball back into China's court saying the talks could only proceed if China treated Taipei as an equal.

"There is nothing that we cannot talk about. We can talk about any issue but under an equal relationship," he said.

"One China, as long as it's not a principle (under China's definition) is something to discuss and I'm willing to talk about the One China issue."

The "One China" definition is the key obstacle in cross-strait relations.

Beijing's interpretation is that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China.

Taipei, under the Kuomintang rule, held that "One

China" meant the Republic of China, Taiwan's official name.

Chen said: "I'm looking forward to the holding of a peace summit between the two sides."

And in a further placatory move, he promised to divorce himself from party interests as president saying he wanted to be "president of the whole people... therefore I guarantee to place the country's interests over those of individuals and the party."

Chen of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) smashed the Kuomintang's 50-year stranglehold on power when he won Saturday's presidential election taking Taiwan into a new political era.

But the defeat of the KMT, which has ruled the island for more than 50 years, has unleashed angry protests here from demonstrators who blame outgoing President Lee Teng-hui for the humiliating loss.

Riot police Monday struggled to quell the protests for the third day repeatedly charging demonstrators outside the Kuomintang party headquarters who at one point tried to storm the gates.

About 200 demonstrators, mostly middle-aged or older, massed outside the party headquarters calling on Lee to step down immediately as party

chairman. Lee on Sunday, in face of ugly demonstrations, said he would step down in September after a party congress, but his offer has failed to pacify the angry party supporters.

The Taiwan defense ministry Monday meanwhile lifted the state of "heightened alertness" which had been in effect during the election period.

"Everything is returning back to normal," a defense ministry spokesman said, without elaboration.

But the stock market remained nervous falling 2.6 percent.

## Kashmir's chief cleric under house arrest

SRINAGAR, India, Mar 20: Indian police today put Kashmir's chief cleric Omar Farooq under house arrest, following US President Bill Clinton's arrival in New Delhi for a six-day South Asian tour, reports AP.

Farooq had planned to travel to New Delhi on Tuesday to try to meet Clinton and request his help in resolving the long running territorial dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

Local police cordoned off Farooq's lakeside residence in the Kashmir summer capital Srinagar early Monday, after Clinton's arrival in India the night before.

## Uganda vows to crack down on 'dangerous' sect leaders

KAMPALA, Mar 20: Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni vowed today to crack down on "dangerous and opportunistic" religious leaders after more than 235 members of a doomsday cult perished in a mass suicide, reports AP.

Police estimate that at least 235 people died in the fire at the headquarters of the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God cult led by self-styled prophet Joseph Kibwetere.

But the death toll could be much higher, Inspector General of Police John Kibombo told AFP on Sunday.

Seven criticised leaders of religious cults for increasingly luring unsuspecting people and then taking advantage of their property.

## Bangladesh Railway Tender Notice

Tender Notice No: 480EE/6/LKM PUMP/WB Dated: 2/3/2000

1. Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the following work from the approved Electrical Contractors having valid Electrically 'ABC' Class contractors licence issued from the Electricity Licensing Board of Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh and enlisted as 1st class electrical contractor with the department of PDB, PWD, MES, WASA or BADC who have previous experience of supply and installation with necessary electrical works of Submersible, DWT or Centrifugal pumping set in Government or Semi Government organization.

2. Name of work: Supply and installation of 5 (five) Nos 15 Kw centrifugal pumping set having capacity 18000 IGPH at 60 metre head and other ancillary electrical works for Pahartali, CGPY, LKM & CDR.

3. Approximate cost: Tk 6,50,000/= (Six lacs fifty thousand) only.

4. Earnest money: 2% of the quoted value.

5. Tender documents will be available from the offices of the Chief Electrical Engineer/East, Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong and Divisional Electrical Engineer, Bangladesh Railway, Dhaka & Chittagong on cash payment of Taka 400.00 (Taka four hundred) only (non-refundable) between 10-00 hrs to 13-00 hrs of all working days up to 28/03/2000. On production of original & updated electrical 'ABC' class contractors licence, supervisory licence, current enlistment particulars with PWD/PDB/MES/WASA/BADC and previous working experience certificate of similar work, receipt of payment of income tax, VAT etc.

6. Tenders are to be dropped in the tender box which will be kept in the above three offices upto 12-00 hrs on 29/03/2000 and will be opened on the same date at 12-30 hrs in presence of the tenderers or their authorised representatives (if available).

7. After finalisation of tender, letter of intent will be issued within seven days and agreement is to be executed within next seven days and work order will be issued within next following days. Work is to be completed within 30 (thirty) days from the date of placement of work order.

8. All other terms and conditions will be available in the tender documents.

9. Railway Administration reserves the right to accept any tender either in whole or in part or to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

No. Rail/B/55  
DPP-5947-13/3  
G-493

for Chief Electrical Engineer/East  
Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong.

## Clinton to meet with Assad on ME peace

DHAKA, Mar 20: US President Bill Clinton announced today he will meet with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad in Geneva at the end of his South Asia tour to discuss the stalled peace process, reports AP.

"When I conclude my visit in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, I do intend to go to Switzerland to meet with President Assad and we'll just have to see what comes out of the talks," Clinton said as he made an historic visit to Bangladesh.

The Syrian-Israeli negotiations have been frozen since January 10, with Damascus demanding that Israel commit itself to withdrawing from the Golan Heights before talks resume.

"We've worked very, very

hard with the parties to get the Palestinian-Israeli track back going and they're doing very, very well indeed," said Clinton, referring to the resumption of talks between those two parties Tuesday in Washington.

Clinton, who has made the Mideast peace process a priority of his final year in office, said all the negotiators "have a lot of energy and a real plan for the future and I think this is the next logical step."

But conscious of the painfully slow progress, Clinton also cautioned: "I don't want to unduly raise expectations."

The president is expected to stop in Geneva for the meeting on Sunday after his brief visit to Pakistan, a White House official said.

## Jordan rolls out red carpet for Pope

AMMAN, Mar 20: Jordan today rolled out the red carpet for Pope John Paul II who was due to fly into Queen Alia Airport in the early afternoon on the first leg of a historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land, reports AP.

Jordan's King Abdullah II will welcome the pontiff at the airport's royal pavilion when he arrives at 2:00 p.m. (6:00 pm BST) on the first papal visit to the conflict-plagued Middle East in 36 years.

"I will be with His Holiness the pope in heart and spirit from the minute he leaves the Vatican until the minute he returns" March 26 following visits to Israel and the Palestinian territories, Abdullah said recently.

His uncle, Prince Hassan, a champion of inter-faith dialogue in the Arab world, said in a letter to the pontiff published Monday that Jordan's Muslims and Christians "welcome you as a man of peace."

He lauded the pope's tireless efforts to promote inter-faith harmony saying: "In our part of the world where Christianity, Islam and Judaism are integral parts of the fabric of society, this need is not a simple com-

modity."

Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelis hope the visit will give a much needed boost to efforts to secure Arab-Israeli peace and bring economic prosperity to the troubled region.

On the eve of his departure for the region the pope told a congregation of 30,000 in the Vatican that he was preparing for the trip with "great emotion" and insisted on the spiritual character of the visit.

The pilgrimage will start at Jordan's memorial to Moses on Mount Nebo and end next Sunday with a mass at Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where according to Christian tradition Jesus was buried.

"The pope wants his journey to serve the cause of peace and contribute to bringing peace and justice to a region which has not known either," Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II (L) is escorted by Sir William Deane (R), Governor-General of Australia, during an official welcoming ceremony in front of the Sydney Opera House yesterday. The British monarch is in Australia on a 16-day nationwide visit, her first since 1992. —AFP photo

**Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Director  
CEMSU, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229  
গাছ লাগান, গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন  
এবং পরিবেশকে বাচান  
বিমান বন্দরকে পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন

## Notice Inviting Tender

Tender No. CEMSU-12/1999-2000

Sealed tenders under Two-Envelope System are hereby invited from the CEMSU enlisted A-unlimited contractors or bonafide suppliers for the undermentioned work which will be received up to 12.00 hrs on 13-04-2000 in the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka and in the office of the Director, CEMSU, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka and the Technical offers will be opened on the same day at 12.15 hrs in presence of the tenderers or their authorised representatives (if any). The date and time for opening of the Financial offers shall be notified later on.

Name of work: Supply of Tyre with Tube for MORITA Fire Fighting Vehicle at different Airports.

Fixed Earnest Money amounting to Tk 70,000/- (Taka seventy thousand) only (refundable) in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order drawn on any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of Director, CEMSU, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka must be submitted alongwith the Technical offer.

Tender papers and schedule of items of work may be had from PS to Chairman, CAAB and office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka, PA's to Member (Ops & Plans), Member (Finance), Chief Engineer, Superintending Engineers (E/M), Director (ZIA) and Cash Section of the office of the Director (Finance) of CAAB HQ and Director, CEMSU, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka during office hours on payment of Tk 750/- (Taka seven hundred & fifty) only (non-refundable). The intending tenderers may apply in their letter heads for purchase of tender documents. No tender paper will be sold on the date fixed for opening of tender. Other terms and conditions can be seen in the office of the Director, CEMSU, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka.

The authority reserves the right to accept any tender or part thereof or reject all the tenders without assigning any reason.

DPP-5976-13/3  
G-494

Deputy Director (Supply)  
for Director, CEMSU,  
CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka.