

FAKHRUDDIN TO MEET MANMOHAN

Trade imbalance to figure in talks

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will raise the issue of trade imbalance with India during the talks between Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh early next month in New Delhi.

The chief adviser, who will lead Bangladesh at the 14th Saarc Summit on April 3-4 in the Indian capital, will hold bilateral talks with Manmohan on the sidelines of the summit.

Foreign ministry officials are busy preparing Bangladesh's position paper for the summit as well as the points the chief adviser will discuss with the Indian prime minister.

India focuses on multi-modal connectivity with Bangladesh for boosting bilateral trade. It also wants quick implementation of Sealdah-Joydevpur passenger train service for what they called increasing people-to-people contact. Bangladesh agreed on it,

but it would require a renewal of the train service agreement signed in 2001.

On bilateral trade, Bangladesh has been suffering annual trade deficit of over \$ 2 billion with India. To reduce the yawning gap, Dhaka is pressing for withdrawal of non-tariff and para-tariff barriers and direct trade with India's seven northeastern states. Bangladesh is also seeking a trade office at Agartala but New Delhi is yet to give a positive response.

Other issues that might figure in the talks between Fakhruddin and Manmohan are implementation of 1974 Mujib-Indira agreement to settle issues like demarcation of 6.5 kms undemarcated border, transfer of enclaves and adversely possessed lands and sharing of waters of the common rivers.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Abritty Samannaya Parishad takes out a colourful procession from Public Library in the city yesterday to mark the Jatiya Shishu Abritty Utsab 2007.

Wooden sculpture donated to Liberation War Museum

A wooden sculpture titled 'Path theke Pathe' (from road to road) by sculptor Hasibur Rahman Kiron was donated to the Liberation War Museum at a function in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Piere Alan Bud, one of the main curators of Bangladesh Shilpa Uthsab (art festival) scheduled to be held in France and wellwisher of the sculptor, handed over the sculpture based on the theme 'movement-genocide-victory' to the museum.

Prof Syed Anwar Hossain received the sculpture on behalf of the Liberation War Museum.



PHOTO: STAR

A Manipuri artiste performs at a cultural programme at Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban in the city yesterday. Chhayanaut organised the programme as part of its two-day celebrations marking the 74th birth anniversary of Waheedul Haque, a renowned journalist and exponent of Tagore song.