

Mixed reactions over Clinton's victory

World leaders in mixed reactions over Bill Clinton's victory yesterday expressed both their hopes for renewed cooperation with US and fears of growing protectionism, report agencies.

Prime Minister John Major congratulated Bill Clinton yesterday after his presidential election triumph and said he looked forward to continuing the special relationship between Britain and the United States.

Major also paid tribute to President George Bush as an exemplary leader of the western world and praised him as a good and wise friend.

"I have sent a message to president-elect Clinton offering him my congratulations," Major said in a statement from his 10, Downing Street Office.

Yeltsin
President Boris Yeltsin drafted a cable of congratulations to Bill Clinton for winning the US presidency and said he hopes for a continuation of the Russian-US partnership, his spokesman said Wednesday.

Helmut Kohl
German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said "close solidarity with the United States" is even more important as we face

Police firing
AL activists gherao Ctg DC office

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Nov 4: Several hundreds supporters of Awami League including some of its local leaders today gheraoed the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong for two hours. They demonstrated in front of the office protesting Tuesday's police firing on student rally at Nizampur College under Mirsarai thana.

The demonstrators also demanded judicial inquiry into the Tuesday's incident.

The trouble occurred when police tried to remove road blocks put up by Chhatra League workers on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway near the college. Police said an exchange of gunshots with the workers of Chhatra League had taken place on that day.

China to ask Myanmar

From Page 1 Col 8
for their speedy and early repatriation since Beijing is known to be close to Yangon.

The Chinese Vice Foreign Minister said his country's ties with both Bangladesh and Myanmar were close and China would use this aspect of the relationship to persuade Myanmar towards speedy repatriation of the refugees.

China wanted a "peaceful and negotiated" settlement of the problem.

The two countries also discussed the trade imbalance which is adverse to Bangladesh and spoke of methods to reduce the gap. Two sides agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation.

Bangladesh thanked China for the three credits, each amounting to US dollar 5.5 million.

The Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, who is a top official in the Foreign Ministry, arrived here Tuesday evening on

Salt bill deferred

From Page 1 Col 4
moved by Jamaat members Shajahan Chowdhury and Maulana Habibur Rahman seeking to send the bill for public opinion assessment. Both were rejected by the House by voice votes.

Ziaur Rahman Khan moved an amendment to the bill which was readily accepted by the minister and was unanimously passed before the bill was passed by voice vote in the House.

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan introduced the Inland Water Transport Workers (appointment-control) Bill. Noting that although the affairs of the Inland Water Transport workers were being looked after by a board, he said that the ministry still had to look after some of the functions of the board.

Thus, he added, for administrative convenience the affairs of the Inland Water Transport workers should be vested with the ministry.

Two amendments seeking

Editor: S. M. Ali
Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36, Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No 11, Road No 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500091-4. Advertisement: 500091. Fax No: 55-02-863035. GPO Box No 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.

new challenges after the end of the East-West conflict.

"Our hopes for a more peaceful world and for the carrying out of human rights, democracy and a market economy everywhere in Europe and in the world still have not been fulfilled," he declared.

Japan
Japan both fears and favours a Clinton administration.

On one hand, the advent of any Democratic administration sends shivers through Tokyo because of fears that protectionism will rise. The Reagan-Bush years were a halcyon time here because of the Republicans' emphasis on keeping US markets open despite allegations of unfair trade against Japan.

This time, however, many Japanese government officials and businessmen profess a deeper worry. They are concerned that the US economy is in an irreversible decline, in large part because of the Reagan-Bush budget deficit.

China
Bill Clinton's presidential victory could push tottering Chinese-US relations into a new phase of overt hostility.

Disagreements over human rights, nuclear proliferation, trade and most recently, the US decision to sell F-16 fighter planes to Taiwan already have generated mutual ill will.

President Bush, once Washington's envoy to Beijing, had a personal interest in maintaining contacts even in the days after China's 1989 massacre of pro-democracy protesters. He repeatedly vetoed efforts by the Democrat leadership in Congress to punish China by raising tariffs on its exports.

Clinton, with no personal stake in China, has called Chinese leaders 'tyrants' and may threaten to use blunt, high-pressure tactics.

WB, ADB

From Page 1 Col 8
Bangladesh from November 23 to evaluate and finalise the project during its three week stay. The project work is likely to begin next year, a Communication Ministry press release said.

a three-day visit.

This is the first ever visit at the level of foreign secretary from China to this country.

The talks at the high official level stressed the need for a mechanism for periodic consultations between the two friendly countries on different matters of mutual interest, a foreign office spokesman said.

The two delegations discussed regional situation and China welcomed the evolution of the SAARC as a South Asian regional catalyst to forge cooperation.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's visit to China in June last came for discussions and it was seen as a positive direction towards promotion of the bilateral ties.

They reviewed the international situation and agreed to harmonise their positions in the multilateral activities and international forums to promote world peace and stability.

to send the bill for assessing public opinion were moved by Jamaat members Gazi Nazrul Islam and Mufti Maulana Md Abus Sattar.

Saying that there was no need to change the existing set up, they questioned whether the bill was designed for partisan reasons. Both the amendments were rejected through voice votes by the House before it was passed.

Earlier, Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali informed the House that as the State Minister for Finance was not present due to illness, the Excises and Salt (amendment) Bill, 1992 would not be moved during the day.

He said he would like to give his ruling in the presence of the State Minister and that he would give it in the next session.

Saying that a number of important matters needed to be dealt with, the Speaker adjourned the House till 10 am today (Thursday) and said if needed there would also be an afternoon session.



Clinton's fans in city celebrating his landslide victory in the US presidential election yesterday.

— Star photo

Clinton new US President

From Page 1 Col 3
men and minorities made dramatic gains in the new Congress.

"The American people have voted to make a new beginning," Clinton said in a victory speech in Little Rock, Ark. "This election is a clarion call for our country to face the challenges of the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the next century, to restore growth to our country and opportunity to our people."

Clinton vowed to confront problems "too long ignored," from the economy to AIDS and the environment.

"We will seek the best and most able and most committed people throughout this country to be a part of our team," Clinton pledged, promising to consider Republicans and independents as well as Democrats.

His first priority: An economic stimulus package, anchored by road, bridge and other projects designed to create jobs quickly. Clinton also promised legislation providing health care for all Americans within 100 days, and pledged to push quickly for a family leave law, and campaign finance reform.

Foreign affairs got relatively scant mention during the campaign. Bush and Clinton both agreed that the US military should be cut back — although Clinton wanted bigger cuts.

Bush, held to 38 per cent in a three-way race, pledged his cooperation in the transition of

power. "There is important work to be done and America must always come first," said Bush, the fourth president in this century denied a second term. "So we will get behind this new president and wish him well."

As he walked off stage in Houston, his three decades in American government near an end, Bush whispered to his wife, "It's over."

Ross Perot, whose candidacy was the very symbol of the turbulent political season now ended, saluted Clinton too.

"We need to all work together and work with the new administration and give it a world class best effort to get these problems solved," said the Dallas billionaire, who ran a strong but distant third after spending \$60 million on his campaign.

Beginning was a new day for the Democratic Party and its young ticket, the 46-year-old Arkansas governor and his 44-year-old running mate, Tennessee Sen. Al Gore. On Jan. 20, the nation's leadership will be passed for the first time to members of the generation shaped by the Vietnam War.

"We feel good tonight," Gore said. "But think of how we're going to feel when we change a country."

Change was the theme of virtually every campaign, from the White House to the statehouse. To varying degrees, the voters delivered.

More than 100 new mem-

bers were elected to the House of Representatives, but Republicans made only modest gains after predicting much more.

Democrats appeared likely to lose 11 seats from a lineup that was 268 Democrats, 166 Republicans and one independent heading into the balloting.

In the Senate, the Democrats could pick up one seat for a 58-42 split.

The biggest change of all came in a big way. Clinton won 43 percent of the popular vote, the lowest for a presidential winner since Richard Nixon matched that in 1968.

But Clinton won 32 states and the District of Columbia with 355 electoral votes and had a slim lead in Georgia, the last undecided state. Bush won 18 states with 168 electoral votes. It takes 270 to win the

White House.

US presidents are not elected directly by the people, but by the Electoral College — essentially a rubber-stamp body that casts its electoral votes according to state results on a winner-take-all basis. Each state has as many electoral votes as it does House and Senate seats — from 3 to 54.

Perot won no states, but his 19 percent showing was best by a third-party candidate since Teddy Roosevelt's 27 per cent in 1912.

Nearly 100 million Americans voted, the largest number in history. The turnout, expected to be about 55 per cent of those eligible, was up sharply from 1988 when barely 50 per cent cast ballots.

Even as he claimed victory, Clinton made appeals for unity.

Related stories on pages 5, 7, 8. Editorial on Page 4.



BUSH VS CLINTON: CNN estimate at 9.30 am BST yesterday.

Clinton (top) and Al Gore with members of their families.

— USIS photo

Fighting claims 3000 in Liberia

MONROVIA, Nov 4: Up to 3,000 civilians and combatants may have died in and around the Liberian capital since fighting began on October 15, the local head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Fire at city garments factory, travel agency

By Staff Correspondent
A store room of a garments factory and an office room of a travel agency at DIT Extension Road, Fakirerpool, in the city, were burnt Wednesday evening.

Originating from an electric short circuit in the store room of Metropolis Garments, the fire engulfed the office room of the neighbouring Rahmania Travel Agency at around 7:35 pm yesterday.

Saddam's way

From Page 1 Col 5
of Ramadi, 150 km west of Baghdad.

Asked by a citizen whether Bush underestimated the strength of Iraq, Saddam, in an apparent reference to US President-elect Bill Clinton, said: "Even if Bush did not understand Iraq and the Arab nation others should learn from what took place."

Bosnia: JS condemns

From Page 1 Col 4
change the ethnic character of the local inhabitants of different republics of former Yugoslavia by taking recourse to killing, repression, force and intimidation.

The Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury came up with the draft resolution following a discussion on the issue initiated by the Jamaat leader Mattur Rahman Nizami.

Nizami earlier gave a notice to discuss the issue as a matter of urgent public importance under Article 68 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

The Jamaat leader taking the floor said that the Serbian forces had already occupied 90 per cent of the total lands of Bosnia-Herzegovina, tortured 12 lakh and 5 thousand people in 105 concentration camps and raped innumerable women of Bosnia only because they were Muslims by religion.

Nizami accused the Organisations of Islamic Countries (OIC), Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) and other leader of Islamic Ummah for not playing what he called 'effective role to save the Bosnian Muslims from the all pervasive Serbian attack.

The Jamaat leader urged the government to play a pioneering role in persuading all international organisations including the United Nations (UN) to resist the Serbian atrocity on the Bosnian Muslims.

Low moves slightly westwards

Deep depression over east central Bay and adjoining west central Bay moved slightly westwards and was centred at 12 noon about 670 kilometres southwest of Chittagong port, reports UNB.

It is likely to intensify and move initially in a north westerly direction at a speed of about 12 kilometre per hour.

Leaders greet

From Page 1 Col 7
express my sincere hope that the warmth, understanding and close cooperation that so happily characterise the relations between our two countries will acquire greater depth and dimension in the years to come.

UNB adds: Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday extended her hearty congratulation to Bill Clinton for his victory in the US Presidential Election.

In a message to President-elect Clinton, Hasina said, "On behalf of democracy loving people of Bangladesh and on behalf of Bangladesh Awami League, we extend our heartfelt congratulation to you on your well-deserved victory in the presidential election."

"We hope that your dynamic leadership will bring hope and inaugurate a new dawn of harmony, peace and prosperity not only for the people of the United States but also for the peace loving people around the world," said Hasina.

Low moves slightly westwards

Deep depression over east central Bay and adjoining west central Bay moved slightly westwards and was centred at 12 noon about 670 kilometres southwest of Chittagong port, reports UNB.

It is likely to intensify and move initially in a north westerly direction at a speed of about 12 kilometre per hour.

Leaders greet

From Page 1 Col 7
express my sincere hope that the warmth, understanding and close cooperation that so happily characterise the relations between our two countries will acquire greater depth and dimension in the years to come.

UNB adds: Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday extended her hearty congratulation to Bill Clinton for his victory in the US Presidential Election.

In a message to President-elect Clinton, Hasina said, "On behalf of democracy loving people of Bangladesh and on behalf of Bangladesh Awami League, we extend our heartfelt congratulation to you on your well-deserved victory in the presidential election."

"We hope that your dynamic leadership will bring hope and inaugurate a new dawn of harmony, peace and prosperity not only for the people of the United States but also for the peace loving people around the world," said Hasina.

The Midnight File

Russia, Cuba to resume construction of N-plant

MOSCOW, Nov 4: Russia and Cuba have agreed to resume construction of a long-stalled nuclear power plant on the Caribbean island, a newspaper reported Wednesday. Under a trade agreement signed Tuesday in Moscow, Russia also will continue to supply spare parts to Cuba for weapons systems, although no new arms are included in the pact, the newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta said, reports AP.

Kashmiri leaders invited to Delhi talks

NEW DELHI, Nov 4: The Indian government has for the first time invited leading pro-militant Kashmiri politicians to talks on the state's bloody Muslim secessionist movement, officials said today. Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Abdul Gani Lone, who have been vocal in their support of the insurgency, were included among delegates summoned to the meeting here Saturday, a Home Ministry official said, reports AFP.

Two housewives robbed in city

By Staff Correspondent

Within a span of one hour, two housewives were robbed of their gold ornaments at Tajmahal Road, Mohammadpur, in the capital Wednesday.

Four muggers stopped Asgari Begum, 35, near Kisholoy School at around 12.30 pm and snatched her gold bangle and a chain weighing four tolas at gun-point.

Asgari Begum was going to Motijheel branch of Janata Bank from her Babar Road residence by a rickshaw.

After an hour another housewife, Fatema Haq, 19, was robbed of her gold chain weighing about two tolas at Tajmahal Road. Three muggers immediately after the incident fled by an auto-rickshaw, she said.

Two separate cases were lodged with Mohammadpur police in this connection but no arrest was made, said police.

Hasina terms Ctg firing unprovoked

Sheikh Hasina has expressed her strong resentment at what she said unprovoked police firing on the student-mass demonstration in Mirsarai on Tuesday, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, the Awami League president said that the more the government is being isolated from the people, the more it is becoming "aggressive and imbalanced."

Hasina expressed her grave concern at the anarchic situation arising out of "widespread terrorist acts by Chhatra Dal activists" in Mirsarai of Chittagong district.

Terrorism of Chhatra Dal and the police rampage led to road blockade creating problem in public life, she said.

Hasina said the terrorist incidents by Chhatra Dal and police at Nizampur College in Mirsarai and at Dhaka New Model Degree College exposed the autocratic and anti-people character of the BNP government.

Whatever moves are taken by the government to camouflage its terrorist character by adopting the so-called anti-terrorism law, it is evident that the government wants to keep alive terrorism, the Opposition leader alleged.

"The anti-terrorism law is but a stage-managed game to harass and corner the opposition parties," Hasina said.

PM: CHT

From Page 1 Col 5

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and parliament member Mrs Mama Ching also addressed the gathering.

Prime Minister Begum Zia expressed the hope that local government institutions would play their role to ensure social peace for smooth development activities.

Begum Zia urged the tribal leaders to convince those who have left the country to come home. She said, "we are all Bangladeshis and Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is a part of Bangladesh. It is our responsibility to develop the country unitedly through restoration of congenial atmosphere."

Turning to those who have left the country, she said they are passing their days in hardship and neglect. They should be back to their normal life in their homelands, she said.

She praised the skill and hardworking nature of the tribal people which, she added, could be utilised for all-out development of the hill tract districts and other parts of the country.

Listing a number of programmes of her government aimed at overall national development and welfare of the people, she said peace and discipline are the preconditions to progress and prosperity of a nation.

Begum Zia mentioned steps of her government for restoration of peace and normalcy in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and also development of the area.

Air tickets

From Page 1 Col 8

From the airlines.

The strike was withdrawn on October 27 following a meeting between the Finance Ministry, Civil Aviation Ministry and ATAB representatives in which it was decided that 15 per cent of the three per cent of total ticket value would be realised from the passengers as VAT and be deposited to government exchequer through the airlines.

There are no instructions for airlines to collect VAT from travel agents (such a procedure would be impossible). We regret we are unable to assist you in this matter," Obson said in his letter to ATAB president.

"So as not to cause further confusion we respectfully request you to omit all references to the airlines in your advised procedure," the chairman of FAREPCO representing 30 airlines in Bangladesh said.

The ATAB circular citing the meeting at the Finance Ministry, elaborated the decisions of the meeting.

A FAREPCO sources said that the ATAB officials were seemingly unwilling to talk on the issue.

The ATAB officials were unavailable for comment.

PM: Conspiracy

From Page 1 Col 7

people of the country.

Referring to her party's people-oriented rule, Begum Zia asserted that BNP which had been with people in the past, was now with them and would always remain with the people in future.

The meeting was addressed among others by Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tarikul Islam, State Minister for Education Principal Yunus Khan, State Minister for Irrigation and Flood Control Mosharref Hossain Shajahan, Mosharref Hossain Manju MP and local BNP leader Dr. Nurul Islam.

Earlier, the Prime Minister formally commissioned an emblem here. It was constructed at the cost of Taka one crore and forty lakh along the Nayabhanagani river to protect the Muladi river port from erosion.

CHT talks

From Page 1 Col 7

demand by the Shantibahini eight camps of security forces were withdrawn, and five other camps made completely inoperative with effect from November 1, five days ahead of the talk.

It would remain effective even after two days of the dialogue.

However, it was not hinted by the government what would be the political package for resolving the longdrawn CHT issue. Analysts fear a failure of tomorrow's talk with Shantibahini could lead to afresh outbreak of violence as the 3-month-long truce unilaterally declared by the tribal rebels would end November 10. A lull prevailed during the period.

Above all, officials here expecting a breakthrough in tomorrow's talks said 'we hope for the best.'

Shantibahini earlier had a preparatory talk September 28 with the 6-member Liaison Committee, meant for brokering the negotiation led by Nongshadur Chakma.

During Ershad's rule six rounds of talks were held between Shantibahini and security officials but all of them ended inconclusive as some demands placed by the Shantibahini in the talks, went against the sovereignty and constitution of the country.

UNB adds: A joint declaration would be issued by PCSJ and the government on Friday or Saturday on conclusion of the meeting. Liaison Committee sources said.

A squad of 26 volunteers, comprising both tribals and Bengali-speaking hill people, has been formed for a disciplined meet.

Eighteen of them will remain at the Circuit House and the rest at Dudyukhari.