

Come to CHITTAGONG Come to  
**BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT**  
 The only place for ORIGINAL THAI FOOD & SEAFOOD  
 in CHITTAGONG (NO BRANCH). Please try us and you  
 will love BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT more than  
 ever before.  
 1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y. M. C. A. NASIRABAD.  
 CHITTAGONG, TEL : 226803, FAX : (880) (31) - 225258

# The Daily Star

**NIRMAN TILES**  
 Broken Marble Tiles  
 In More Shades  
 Than The Rainbow  
 Tel : 605957, 661988

VOL. III NO. 77 REGD. NO. DA 781

CHAITRA 22, 1399 BS,

DHAKA MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1993

SHAWAL 12, 1413 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

**Inside Today**

**Article**

Devaluation of Indian currency poses problems for Bangladesh  
 Column: Along My Way  
 by S B Chaudhuri  
 Page 4

**International**

US offers to revise a peace plan to gain support of Serbs  
 Armenians seize Azeri town  
 Page 5

**Business**

FFYP to bring women into mainstream of development  
 Page 7

**Special Business Feature**


Page 8

**National**

Child labourers on rise in Maulvibazar  
 Page 9

**Metropolitan**

Dhaka Day by Day



Of Leaves and Little Children  
 Page 3

## Clinton, Yeltsin hold second round talks

# US announces \$ 1.6 b aid package for Russia

VANCOUVER, Apr 4: The Clinton administration on Sunday announced a \$1.6 billion aid package to Russia and said it was ready to begin spending the money almost at once, reports AP.

The plan, outlined on the final day of President Clinton's two-day summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, includes \$90 million in direct grants, \$700 million in grain and other food credits and \$230 million in other aid.

Clinton's package — designed to help maintain political and economic reforms in Russia — also would establish a "Democracy Corps" of Americans to engage in "people to people" contacts with Russians.

The administration said that the package uses funds that have already been appropriated by Congress, but had been bottled up, and that no further congressional action is needed on the package.

"In effect, all of these programmes could begin tomorrow, said an administration official who briefed reporters on the package on the condition of anonymity. "The president is determined we will deliver on this commitment this year."

VANCOUVER, Apr 4: Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin went into a second round of face-to-face talks here today shortly after the US said it would grant Russia aid worth \$1.6 b. The talks were scheduled to last two hours followed by a joint news conference. The two leaders were both scheduled to leave Vancouver later Sunday, reports AFP.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen described the package as just the starting point of a "multilateral effort in trying to see democracy progress in Russia and going back to a market system." He was interviewed Sunday on CBS.

The finance and foreign ministers of the G-7 industrialized democracies are meeting in Tokyo April 14-15 to discuss further aid for Russia and the other former Soviet republics.

The package also includes a \$6 million programme to help build housing units to resettle demobilized Russian troops, a \$38 million package to help repair and make more efficient oil pipelines and a \$50 million Russian-American "enterprise fund" to encourage joint US-Russian business ventures.

The administration also

## Politics of violence won't bring any good: Khaleda

MEHENDIGANJ (Barisal), Apr 4: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today lambasted the opposition for "their politics of violence and destruction" which, she warned, will hold back the nation from the path of progress, reports UNB.

"They are resorting to the politics of violence and destruction with a motive to hamper the development process initiated by the government," she told a public meeting at Mehendiganj Patharhat Rasik Chandra College ground this afternoon.

Without naming any particular political party, the Prime Minister said that certain political quarters were trying to push back the country to the age of darkness and backwardness by unleashing chaos and anarchy.

"Those who give frequent hartal calls are not friends of the people. They are against welfare of the people and country," she said.

The Prime Minister, who is also the chairperson of BNP, advised the people to ask those who are spearheading a politics of hartal, whether their actions bring any good to people at all.

She categorically said that the politics of hartal and anarchy would never help achieve progress and prosperity of the country for which the people fought to bring independence and restore of democracy.

"The main objective of democracy is to bring about the economic emancipation of the

## Malpractice by Pak firm may affect garments export to US

Fraudulent practice by a Pakistani firm operating from Chittagong Export Processing Zone may affect Bangladesh's garments exports to the United States, reports UNB.

The administration's failure to take legal action against the offending firm has already angered the US authorities, official sources said.

They said the Pakistani firm — Azmat Bangladesh Ltd — exported bed sheet and pillow covers worth 675,000 dollars to the United States in August 1991 from Pakistan but showing the consignment as of Bangladesh origin.

The consignment was actually exported from the Karachi port while the firm, in violation of rules, showed Chittagong as the port of shipment in an effort to exploit the facilities enjoyed by Bangladesh.



Pearabagh slum area in Magbazar gutted by fire yesterday. — Star photo

## 6 children burnt to death in slum fire

By Staff Correspondent

At least six children were burnt to death, scores of others injured, in a big fire that broke out in a slum area at Pearabagh Mogbazar in the capital Sunday.

Several children were also reportedly missing.

Over 200 thatched houses of 167 families, on land owned by Bangladesh Railway, were completely gutted in the devastating fire that originated from an oven in a house at around 1 pm yesterday.

"It took just 40 to 45 minutes for all our belongings of the past 35 years to turn into ashes", said Mohammad Khairuddin, a rickshaw-puller, now living under the open sky.

Firemen said that they rushed to the spot ten minutes after the fire started and tamed the flames within half an hour.

Seven fire service units and civil defence headquarters from Khilgaon and Tejaon battled the fire that rendered nearly 800 people homeless.

Witnesses said that local people and police also took part in the rescue operations.

Firemen said that narrow lanes and alleys had obstructed their reaching the spot immediately.

The children who died in the fire were identified as Shameem, 5, Suman, 7, Rabul, 9, Tahnia, 3, Ripon, 4, and Rubel, 3.

Of the three seriously injured two were identified as Amena Begum, 40, and her one and a-half-year old daughter Fatema. They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), reports our DMCH correspondent.

Witnesses said, "the monsoon winds helped the fire

## Opposition call to make Apr 8 rally a success

A meeting of all-party opposition yesterday urged the democratic and pro-liberation forces to make its public meeting in the capital on April 8 an all-out success, reports UNB.

The call was given after a meeting with acting President of Awami League Abdul Mannan in the chair.

Among others, Zillur Rahman, Abdur Razzaq, Tofael Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Abdul Mannan from Awami League, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Abdullah Sarkar, Mafnuddin Khan Badal, Saiful Islam from 5-party Alliance and Nurul Islam Nahid, Afzal Hossain, Ahmedur Rahman Azmi, Belayet Hossain and Al-haj Abdus Samad from JDF were present in the meeting held at the Awami League central office.

In a resolution, the meeting said the government ignored the people's constitutional rights to holding meetings on

## Stage set for SAARC summit

Preparations for the seventh SAARC summit has reached a crescendo with less than a week left for the twice postponed most important gathering of the South Asian leaders, reports BSS.

The summit which to take place here on December 12 and 13, last year, was called off at Indian request as Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao was unable to attend due to communal trouble at home sparked off by the Ayodhya developments.

The event was then rescheduled for January 13 and 14, this year, but it was once again postponed because of fresh trouble in India and New Delhi said the holding of the summit could be more propitious when the general environment in the region stabilised.

Bangladesh, as the host of the seventh summit, was obviously disappointed at the postponements of the summit in quick succession but agreed that it would wait for fresh dates suiting the convenience to all the seven member states.

The stage is now once again set for the occasion with the necessary preparations continuing at a feverish pitch.

The staging of the summit in Dhaka has a special relevance as it was from the Bangladesh capital that the SAARC formally took off the ground in 1985.

The hosting of the seventh summit will mark the beginning of the second cycle of the SAARC summits, signalling the onward march of the regional forum even though the eight-year-old quest to enhance the regional cooperation has often been marred by occasional differences of opinion over timing of the annual gathering of the leaders.

Thanks to the willingness of the member states to carry forward the SAARC to its cherished objectives, all leaders of seven nations have confirmed their attendance at the upcoming summit.

The leaders will arrive here a day before the summit and devote themselves in the deliberations of the two-day conference.

Senior officials under the aegis of the programming committee will start discussions from April 7 to be followed up by the foreign secretaries and then by the foreign ministers — finally leading to the summit. Much of the preparatory works had already been covered earlier before

## Sheraton booked from tomorrow

By Nazmul Ashraf

The Dhaka Sheraton Hotel is once again preparing to accommodate SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) leaders and officials of the member countries of the grouping.

The host government of Bangladesh has booked the hotel for April 6-12 and is scheduled to take over control of it from April 6 noon, official sources said.

The twice-postponed summit is now scheduled for April 10-11 when the heads of government/states are expected to decide on regional issues together and some bilateral subjects separately, government sources said adding that the Foreign Ministers would meet April 8 while the high officials of the SAARC are due to meet April 7.

According to the SAARC sub-committee for reception, the leaders of the regional forum start arriving in the capital April 6.

## Professionals start 15-day movement from today

By Staff Correspondent

Some 52,000 doctors, engineers, agriculturists and other professionals launch a 15-day movement from today (Monday) demanding restructuring of the country's existing administrative system.

Speaking at a press conference at the BMA Bhaban Sunday, leaders of the professional groups declared that they would wear black badges from today until April 11, observe a two-hour work abstention from April 12 for one week, organise rallies at all the district towns April 12, abstain from work for a full day April 19 and arrange a grand rally in the capital the same day as part of the movement programme.

Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Engineers Institution of Bangladesh (IEB), Krishibid Institution and Bangladesh Civil Service Coordination Council have supported the programme that presses for implementation of a 17-point charter of demands of the professionals.

The demands include appointment of professionals to the function-based cadre, transfer of executive power to the public representatives and restructuring the present bureaucratic administration.

Professor M A Majed, convener of the Engineers-Agriculturists-Doctors Coordination Committee, BCS Coordination Committee Chairman M Abu Hena, Secretary General Engineer M Ruhul Matin, BMA Secretary General Dr. Gazi Abdul Huq, IEB President Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Krishibid Institution Secretary General Javed Iqbal and Honorary Secretary General of IEB M A K Azad were present at the press conference.

Prof. Majed, also the President of BMA said that the

## Promotion of sub-judges: Next hearing on Apr 11

Star Report

The hearing of the Writ petition challenging the government decision on the promotion of Sub-Judges, resumed Sunday.

However, the hearing was adjourned again till April 11 by the Divisional Bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice Anwarul Huq Choudhury and Justice K M Ilesan.

Noting that he was pre-occupied with the hearing of the Writ petition challenging the cancellation of the citizenship of Golam Azam, at the moment, Justice Choudhury adjourned the hearing till Sunday the next motion day.

Moreover, the Attorney General's office was not represented during the day's hearing.

However, Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, on behalf of the petitioners,

## Kashmir marchers smash roadblock, continue journey

MUZAFFARABAD (Pakistani controlled Kashmir), Apr 4: Thousands of Kashmiri marchers smashed their way through a roadblock today, defying an initial government attempt to prevent them from advancing toward the border with India, reports AFP.

No casualties were reported after the red-capped guards of the Opposition Azad Kashmir People's Party (AKPP) worked with iron bars and bamboo sticks to remove the boulders placed in their path by the authorities.

The Pakistani government has vowed to prevent the completion of the march to avert an escalation of border tension. AKPP officials and other sources said road barriers had been erected at four more points en route to the border town of Chakhatt.

A party spokesman said the marchers, who continued on their journey after dismantling the roadblock, would have to stop at around sunset, postponing their final advance until Monday.

However, official sources said the army and paramilitary contingents spread out ahead of the marchers would not allow them to go "beyond a certain point" near the border.

Many marchers were seen dropping out along the way, and the official strategy seemed to be to tire the participants out, as has been done on similar occasions in the past.

Three previous marches were turned back about seven kilometres (four miles) from the border after authorities allowed protesters to vent their anger over the killings of thousands of Kashmiris by Indian troops battling a three-year Muslim insurgency.

After setting off from the state capital of Muzaffarabad at round midday — two hours behind schedule — the slogan-chanting marchers managed to cover about 10 kilometres of their 60-kilometre journey in about three hours.

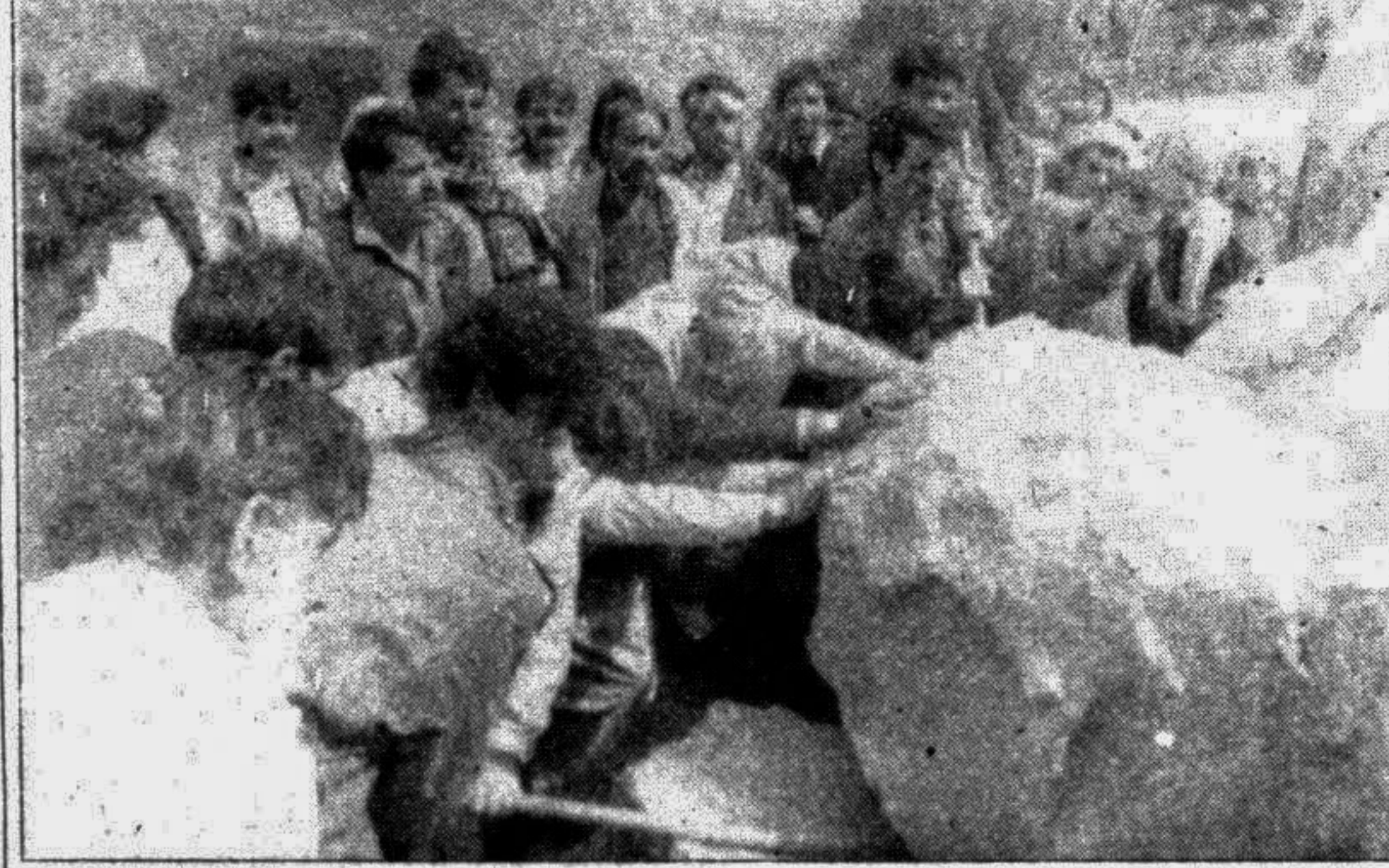
Meanwhile, Indian troops on the Kashmir frontier stepped up security and clamped a curfew today on 25 villages to thwart a proposed border crossing by activists of a Pakistani group, officials said.

Military helicopters carried out constant surveillance of the line of control dividing Indian and Pakistani zones of the disputed state, as infantry troops maintained a round-the-clock vigil.

The Kashmir administration slapped a curfew across 25 villages in the Rajouri and Poonch zones and ordered people to stay indoors in line with the heightened security, a state government spokesman said.

The curfew would prevent any infiltration, the Kashmiri spokesman said in Jammu, the state winter capital.

He said groups of people had gathered at 13 points on the Pakistani side far from the line of control but reported that no "untoward incident" had taken place and no attempt had been made to breach the border by Sunday evening.



Azad Kashmir People's Party marchers try to clear the way to the Indian border yesterday by removing big stones placed on the road to Srinagar by Pakistan authorities to block their way. — AFP photo

## Blasts, looting in city: 6 hurt

By DMCH Correspondent

Six persons, three of them children, were seriously injured in two separate incidents at Mirpur and Green Road in the city Sunday.

Three children, Sohel, 2, Munna, 4, and Laboni, 3, sustained burn injuries as unidentified men hurled a cracker at their house on Road No-2, Block-c, 8, Sherpara, Mirpur

## Auranga released

Awami League MP Hemayet Ullah Auranga was released from Mymensingh jail yesterday, a press release of the party said, reports UNB.

Leaders of Mymensingh district Awami League and its front organisations greeted him at jail gate.

Earlier, a High Court Bench declared as illegal the detention of Auranga and directed the government to set him free immediately.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**More WFP aid for Rohingya**

The World Food Programme (WFP) has approved the request of Bangladesh government for the allotment of an additional total of 42,180 tons of emergency food assistance for the refugees from Myanmar. This is the third expansion of the world food assistance for the Myanmar refugees bringing the total WFP contribution to 32 million US dollars since March 1992, reports BSS.

## 4 terrorists held: Arms recovered

Police yesterday arrested four terrorists and recovered arms and ammunition from Banani and South Baddha Bazar areas in the city. Gulshan thana police upon a secret information, rushed to South Baddha Bazar and arrested three youngmen who were preparing for terrorism. One foreign made cut-gun and one round bullet were recovered from them. The arrested were identified as: Rashedul Hasan Sumon (22), Mohammad Ibrahim (20) and Mohammad Jalaluddin (23), reports UNB.

## Relief for city fire victims

The Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry yesterday sanctioned a substantial amount of relief materials for immediate succour and rehabilitation of the victims of a fire at Pearabagh near Moghbazar. The sanctioned relief materials included 100 bundles of C 1 sheets, 25 metric tons of rice, 300 pieces of sarees and 300 pieces of lungis, reports BSS.

## Zakaria dead

By Staff Correspondent

Md Zakaria, a renowned drama actor of the country died of old age complications in Suhrawardy Hospital at 10.30 pm yesterday. He was 70.