



Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandarnaike Kumaratunga placed a wreath at the National Memorial, Savar yesterday. — PID photo

Hillary Clinton in New Delhi

NEW DELHI, Mar 28: US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in India today saying she wanted to exchange ideas on how to help women, children and the poor, reports Reuter.

Hillary on the second leg of a 12-day goodwill tour of South Asia with her 15-year-old daughter Chelsea, was greeted by Junior Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid and US ambassador Frank Wisner at a low key airport welcoming ceremony.

In a written arrival statement, President Bill Clinton's wife said she was "extremely pleased" to visit India and help strengthen US ties with the world's second most populous country.

"The great Indian traditions of democracy and cultural pluralism have much to teach the world," she said.



US First Lady Hillary Clinton is greeted by nuns at an orphanage run by Mother Teresa yesterday in New Delhi. Mrs Clinton is expected to visit Bangladesh on April 2. — AFPUNB photo

The Midnight File

Turkish troops kill 62 Kurds

TURKEY, Mar 28: Turkey said its forces killed 62 Kurdish rebels in a single clash today during its anti-guerrilla offensive in northern Iraq. Military spokesman Colonel Dogu Silahcioglu told a news briefing.

Russia launches Israeli satellite

RUSSIA, Mar 28: After decades of arming Israel's enemies, Russia on Tuesday launched an Israeli satellite on a rocket originally designed to carry nuclear warheads. Hours after the launch, however, there was concern by ground controllers that the satellite and two others aboard the rocket had failed to reach their orbit. Attempts to establish radio contact with them were unsuccessful, reports AP.

Woman's body recovered from clinic

By Staff Correspondent
The police recovered the body of a young woman from a clinic in Mohammadpur in the city yesterday afternoon. The name and address of the victim, aged about 24 could not be gathered. The authorities of the clinic at Shahjahan Road found the body in a room yesterday morning. The cause of death was not immediately known. Sources said the woman had come to the clinic with a young man a couple of days ago. The young man was also not available yesterday.

Big fires in Sylhet, Barguna

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Mar 28: Property worth about Taka 15 lakh were gutted in a fire at Champara tea garden of Komolganj thana under Moulvibazar district Sunday afternoon. The fire that reportedly originated from a kutcha house in the labour colony in the garden soon spread to adjacent houses. Some 52 houses were gutted rendering about six hundred members of the tea labourer families homeless. Fifteen labourers were injured while extinguishing the fire. Our Barguna Correspondent adds: Two houses and 10 lawyers' chambers were gutted in a devastating fire at Strajganj Road (Ukilpatti) here early today. A fuel station was also partially gutted. The loss of property was estimated at Taka 10 lakh.

New CCCI executives

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Mar 28: Sarwar Jamal Nizam was elected President of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) here today for the year 1995-96. Zafrul Islam Chowdhury and Nurul Quayum Khan were



Sarwar Jamal Nizam elected senior vice president and vice president respectively of the CCCI. Prominent businessmen of the port city, they were elected uncontested, a press release issued by Chittagong chamber said today.

Fresh hartal

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announcements, the hartal on April 9 would be enforced at five divisional headquarters including Dhaka while on April 10 it will be observed throughout the country. The opposition's agitation programmes after their resignation from Parliament also include a peasants-workers grand rally at Panthapath in the city on April 16 and demonstrations across the country from April 1 to 8.

Policeman

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and lobbed teargas shells to disperse the mob. The agitating farmers then pelted stones at the police leaving about a dozen people including policemen wounded. At least eight injured policemen were admitted to Sadar Hospital. Police said they recovered most of the looted bags of fertilizer and rounded up 55 people from the scene.

Rohingya babies

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However, unofficial sources put the number of new born babies at 26,000. According to official estimate, 20 babies are born in 12 refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts every day. But NGO sources claimed the number is more than 25 a day. Moreover, nearly 2,000 pregnant women are now in the camps. Rohingya's are reluctant in adopting family planning methods and they even avoid health and family welfare workers.

BJMC mills

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the coming months due to the current political crisis. Four of the least efficient BJMC mills were closed down earlier as per the condition of the 250 million US dollar Jute Sector Adjustment Credit (JSAC) while the closure of five additional mills was due to be completed by December last. The authorities were learnt to have said that closure of any mills might not be possible in next six months to one year. Closure of the five state-owned mills is required to get the second instalment of the JSAC released.

Diarrhoea

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ICDDR,B hospital in Dhaka also recorded an increase in recent days, hospital officials said. As of yesterday, 450 patients were admitted to the hospital while during the first half of the month, the number of patients averaged 200. "For this time of the year, the number of patients at the hospital is significantly higher compared to previous years," as physician at the specialised hospital added.

Formal talks today

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Biswas and Begum Biswas at Bangabhaban today. A 21-gun salute heralded the arrival of the Lankan head of state. As President Kumaratunga, attired in the traditional dress for women of the island state, alighted from the aircraft, two little children presented her bouquets. Her 28-member entourage includes Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar and Minister for Internal and External Trade, Commerce and Food Kingsley Wickremaratne. Foreign Secretary Faruq Sobhan, Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Bangladesh S B Atugoda, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Shamsheer Mubin Chowdhury and high officials were also present at the airport. The airport ceremony over, President Kumaratunga flew to Savar to place a wreath at the Jatiya Shaheed Smriti Soudha

Khaleda

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as homage to the memories of the martyrs of the 1971 War of Liberation. The city has been given a festive look with the airport and main thoroughfares and traffic islands decorated with the national flags of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and colourful festoons. Placards inscribed with 'Long live Bangladesh-Sri Lanka Friendship' and large portraits of President Kumaratunga and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia adorn different points in the city. Kumaratunga will address a seminar at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) today. She will also attend a luncheon in her honour by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI). The Lankan President is scheduled to leave for home tomorrow.

Tom Hanks

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"geous" in 1937 and "Boys Town" in 1938. The 38-year-old Hanks, who choked up and was clearly moved during his speech last year, again appeared deeply emotional. Choking back tears, he told a star-studded audience at the shrine auditorium and up to one billion TV viewers worldwide: "I feel as though I'm standing on magic legs in a special effects shot that it too amazing to imagine." Not only was "Gump" the people's favourite, riding a wave of "Baby Boomer" nostalgia to become the fourth highest-grossing film ever, but the Paramount Pictures release was the betting favourite from the start with 13 nominations, one shy of the record 14 collected by 1950's "All About Eve." In the competition for best picture, "Gump" was up against the ultra-violent satire "Pulp Fiction," Robert Redford's "Quiz Show," the prison drama "The Shawshank Redemption" and the small British film, "Four Weddings and A Funeral." Most US reviewers gushed over Hanks' performance and conservative politicians praised its depiction of bedrock small-town values. But some film critics, including a coterie of London writers, panned it as a saccharine tale filled with meaningless platitudes.

5 killed, 30 injured in road accidents

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Mar 28: Five people were killed and 30 injured in accidents involving a bus and another between two tank lorries at Choriashikha in Ullapara thana on the Dhaka-Dinajpur highway midnight last night. A Sirajganj-bound night coach skidded off the road and plunged into a roadside ditch at 2 am leaving 30 injured. The second accident occurred on the same spot during rescue operation when two speeding tank lorries coming from opposite directions collided killing three injured passengers of the bus and two villagers who came to rescue the trapped passengers. Three other rescuers sustained injuries. The dead were identified as: Faridul, 30, of Bera thana, Pabna. Shahjahan Ali, 50, of Nishi Boira in Belkuchi thana, Sirajganj. Afsar Ali, 60, and Sarwar, 32, of Choriashikha village in Ullapara thana and the bus conductor aged about 30. Seven of the injured were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital. The bodies were sent to Sirajganj General Hospital morgue for post-mortem examination.

91-member Jubo Dal body formed

By Staff Correspondent
A 91-member central executive committee of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal was formed yesterday with Mirza Abbas and Goyeshar Chandra Roy as its president and general secretary respectively, says a press release.

Emdad: Confessional statement

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proof that the accused fired the shot? they asked. Moreover, he has no intention to flee, the lawyers said praying for bail on any condition. The AC (prosecution), Bakhtiar Hossain Bhuiyan, opposed the bail petition and said it is a sensational case. The confessional statement of the accused proved that he was involved in the murder, he contended. Besides, it is a pre-planned murder, the AC (prosecution) said adding that due to delay in collecting necessary documents the case was filed late. The court, however, gave hearing to Emdad who said that he was compelled to carry out the order of his superior under the circumstances. "No body else was there in Bangladesh under that circumstance to defy the order of his superior" Emdad argued. Turning to his confessional statement Emdad told the court that earlier he could not understand it. But he became aware of it after reading a book on BPC (Bangladesh Penal Code) at Comilla jail, Emdad added. Emdad was produced in the court room through the back door from court hazat. Where he stayed after being brought here around 8 am. He was given hand-cuff in his left hand. He was not found nervous or puzzled. Emdad informed the court that in 1992 he had on his own given a report on Manzur's murder to the then chief of an intelligence agency. Hundreds of curious people gathered in the court building

premises to see Emdad when police was taking him to a blue coloured micro bus for returning to Comilla jail. The next date of hearing of the case is April 11. Meanwhile, Emdad's wife Nazreen Haq, her elder sister and a brother, who is a lawyer by profession also came to the court. The lawyers who moved for Emdad included advocates Enamul Huda, Abdul Wahab, Jindutta Barua, Nasiruddin and Nuruddin. Was it a slip? Was it a slip of tongue of Major (Retd) Emdad or a wrong information he gave to the court? This question surfaced in the court when Emdad told the court that he had become aware of Section 164 after reading a book on the BPC (Bangladesh Penal Code) while in Comilla jail and before that he could not understand it. But according to senior lawyers and officials of the judiciary, Section 164 is contained in the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr PC) and not the BPC. When contacted the AC (Prosecution) concerned, admitted that Emdad had said a wrong thing and it will not stand. However, this point came up for serious discussion, mostly among lawyers in the court today. Meanwhile, in Dhaka, there was no major development in the investigation although investigating officer Abdul Kahar Akand was busy for the whole day. No fresh arrest was made

nor anybody taken to the office of the Criminal Investigation Department at Malibagh for interrogation yesterday, CID sources said. "The officials are now analysing the information already gathered", one CID official told the Daily Star last night. According to sources, Lt Col (ret'd) Shamsur Rahman was sent to the Tangail District jail while maj gen (ret'd) Abdul Latif was still in the Dhaka central jail. When contacted over telephone, the wife of Shamsur Rahman said, "She does not know where her husband is now detained." Mrs Rahman said, she and some of her relatives went to the central jail on Monday but they were not permitted to visit him. She added, "A jail official received court orders from me and entered the jail, but on return after a few minutes, he said, Col Rahman was not in this jail." According to her one of her relatives contacted the jailer of the Dhaka Central Jail who said he did not yet received any orders from the higher authorities to allow them to see Shamsur Rahman. Meanwhile, Mrs Latif and her daughter met Latif in the jail on Monday. They were allowed 15 minutes for talks on family matters only, a family member said.

PLO, Israel resume talks

CAIRO, Mar 28: Israel and the PLO met in Cairo today to hammer out a formula for elections of an autonomy council as the Palestinians expressed hope in some progress in resolving deep differences, reports AFP.

EC receives

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Meherpur-1 and 2, Kushtia-1, 2, 3 and 4, Chuadanga-1 and 2, Jessore-2, Bagerhat-1, Khulna-3 and 5, Satkhira-1, 2 and 3, Barguna-1 and 2, Patuakhali-2, 3 and 4, Bhol-2, 3 and 4, Bakerganj-1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, Pirojpur-1, 2 and 3, Bakerganj with Pirojpur, Tangail-1, 2, 4 and 6, Jamalpur-1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Sherpur-1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8, Mymensingh with Netrokona, Netrokona-1, 2, 3 and 4, Kishoreganj-4, 5 and 6, Manikganj-3 and 4, Munshiganj-1 and 2, Dhaka-1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 11, Gazipur-1, 2, 3 and 4, Narayanganj-1, 3 and 5, Faridpur-4 and 5, Gopalganj-1, 2 and 3, Madaripur-1, 2 and 3, Shariatpur-2 and 3, Sunamganj-1, 2 and 4, Sylhet-2, 3, 4 and 6, Moulvibazar-1 and 2, Habiganj-1, 2, 3 and 4, Brahmanbaria-1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Comilla-1, 2, 9, 10 and 11, Chandpur-2, 3, 4 and 6, Noakhali-1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Laxmipur-1, 2, 3 and 4, Chittagong-12, 13 and 14, Cox's Bazar-1 and 2, and Khagrachhari Hill Tracts.

Hasina

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Hasina said "We are struggling for democracy and the interests of all will also be safeguarded if democracy is restored. The AL chief reached the rally venue in a jeep, breaking police cordon near the GPO. Blaming the government for the current 'crisis of fertilizer and food items,' the AL chief said 'the country is now witnessing a farmers' revolt and the government is trying to suppress it by killing the angry farmers.' "The ministers are amassing wealth by selling fertilizer," she alleged and warned that people would try the 'corrupt and tyrant' rulers of the BNP. She urged the people to make a list of the fertilizer dealers who created the crisis and made 'undue profit of Taka 400 crore.' Reminding the Prime Minister of her promise to ensure 'daal-bhat' for everybody, Hasina claimed that the PM had even failed to ensure supply of salt for each citizen. She reiterated the demands for dissolution of parliament, resignation of the government and holding fresh elections under a non-party caretaker administration. She asked her party workers to resist all sorts repressive act by this government. "You must fight whenever you are obstructed in your movement, against this government," Hasina said. The rally was also addressed by AL central leaders Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Tofael Ahmed, Abdur Razzak, Suranjit Sengupta, Salauddin Yusuf, Amir Hossain Amu, Mohammad Nasim, Matia Chowdhury, Dr Alauddin and Sudangshu Shekhar Halder.

Dhaka siege: 75 hurt

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The clash started at about 11:30 am when police prevented a BCL procession near the Shikha Bhaban which was proceeding towards the AL central office in Gulistan area. Obstructed by barbed-wire fences manned by police, someone from among the marchers threw a crude bomb at the police who retaliated with rubber bullets and teargas. The processionists retreated towards the TSC of the Dhaka University and, on way they broke open the gate of the Atomic Energy Commission office. Two buses of the Commission parked in the office premises and an autorickshaw were set ablaze while two other buses were badly damaged. Some window-panes of the Commission Office were also smashed, according to witnesses. When police arrived, the demonstrators fled the spot after firing blank shots from sawed-off rifles, stenguns and pistols, they said. The police fired rubber bullets and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the demonstrators and then chased them up to the Jagannath Hall. The students ran away in all directions. Many suffered injuries in their frenzied efforts to escape the bullets and tear gas. From early morning, the police put up barricades on all roads leading to the high-security Secretariat and its adjoining areas to avert violence. Police in full riot gear, backed by BDR, was deployed at the strategic points in the city. All cars, buses, minibuses deserted the streets while rickshaws and small number of autorickshaws plied. Offices at the Motijheel commercial area remained closed while commuters were seen going to their places of work on foot. In the afternoon, however, automobiles began to come out on the streets. Inter-city buses remained parked during the 'siege' but later left the stations. In Gulistan area, opposition supporters hurled brickbats and crude bombs immediately after an Awami League rally. Witnesses said that hundreds of activists wielding sticks jeered at the police who used batons, tear gas and coloured water during the off-and-on clashes that started from 11 am. Dozens of crackers were set off as the demonstrators shouted anti-government slogans. Several crackers were hurled during Jatiya Party's rally after the 'siege' at the Shapla square at about 4 pm. None was, however, hurt. Sporadic clashes also took place in the stadium, Mirpur, Kalabagan, Shearpara, Malibagh, Khilgaon and Jatrabari areas. Confere on climate opens in Berlin BERLIN, Mar 28: A United Nations conference on climate change opened Tuesday with a dispute over voting rules that would give oil-exporting nations a veto on measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reports AP.

STOL service begins soon

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STOL operation and reduction of fuel price. According to sources in the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), the state minister assured the private entrepreneurs that the government would consider their demands keeping in view the facilities enjoyed by the national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines. Talking to The Daily Star, Noor Ali, Managing Director of Borak Air, one of the eight PATOL holders, said the minister had verbally assured them of removing problems in launching the STOL service. Once the authorities came up with a concrete decision in this regard, the STOL planes would start flying within four months, he hoped. In August 1993, the Cabinet had approved a proposal from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism to open the domestic skies for private en-

STOL service begins soon

trepreneurs, enabling them to operate STOL planes. The authorities, however, set a condition that STOL would only be allowed to operate in the routes where Biman does not fly. Following the Cabinet approval, eight firms got PATOL in phases. These are — Royal Bengal Airlines, Borak Air, Victory Aviation Limited, Air Parabat, Falcon Aviation Limited, Green Air, Eagle Air and South Asian Airlines. Initially, the authorities decided that Barisal, Comilla, Ishwardi, Lalmonirhat, Thakurgaon and Shamsenagar in Sylhet would be linked with the capital through STOL service. Accordingly, the CAAB refurbished those airstrips. Though the PATOL holders' licence expired in October last year, it was renewed for six months with the intention of starting the STOL service, resolving the problems faced by the prospective operators.