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## Clinton to visit Pakistan

Islamabad welcomes, Delhi concerned



President Clinton

NEW DELHI, Mar 8: US President Bill Clinton has decided to make a brief stop-over in Pakistan on his way back home after a five-day visit to India and a one-day tour of Bangladesh later this month.

Clinton conveyed his decision to Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee late on Tuesday night over telephone. Vajpayee's Press Adviser H K Dua said.

Vajpayee, expressing concern, told Clinton that his visit to Pakistan is likely to be projected by Pakistan's military rulers as a signal of US backing.

From Pallab Bhattacharya

according to highly-placed sources in Indian Prime Minister's office.

In recent weeks, New Delhi has maintained that it was a sovereign decision of the United States to visit Pakistan but at the same time said Clinton's decision could evoke a negative reaction in India.

The US has insisted that Clinton engagement with Pakistan military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf did not imply a support to his regime.

In fact, the Clinton administration has been told by lobbyists at home to avoid Pakistan

during his South Asia visit. But there were groups in the United States which favoured engagement with Musharraf.

During his conversation with Vajpayee last night, Clinton expressed the hope that his visit to India would open "a new chapter" in relations between New Delhi and Washington. Vajpayee told the US President that a warm welcome awaited the latter in India.

Clinton is scheduled to arrive in New Delhi on March 19 and will leave for Bangladesh on March 20 before returning to

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## 'Women are still hungry for power, or just hungry'

PARIS, Mar 8: As International Women's Day is being observed across the World today the latest studies show that women are still hungry — hungry for real power or just plain hungry, reports AFP.

In the industrialised world, women are marking the day by stepping up their fight for the political equality that seems to elude their comrades in all but a handful of Nordic countries.

But in the rural economies of the impoverished south, women face an even tougher struggle as the wealth gap between men and

women grows ever wider, according to figures released Tuesday by the United Nations World Food Programme.

In France, women in public life have grown so tired of having to endure the misogynist

More story on page 5

tirades from male politicians, union leaders and demonstrators that they have set up a campaign group, called the "Guard Bitches."

French campaigners will mark International Woman's Day in Paris by laying a wreath

to "The wife of the unknown soldier."

And in Austria, where the new government coalition including the far-right Freedom Party has abolished the post of women's minister, feminists have accused the government of wanting to send women "back into the kitchen."

A "World march for women against poverty and violence" will begin simultaneously in Geneva and Montreal, and separate protests will take up the cause in Tokyo, Bangkok and Prague.

Morocco's protest will attack the economic policies of the industrialised world towards the poor and in Athens the national telecoms firm will be targeted for having allowed an anti-abortion group to sponsor a phonecard.

In New York, the UN Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), published on Monday a study showing that only 13 per cent of lawmakers in 65 surveyed countries were women, and that entrenched attitudes in male-dominated political parties

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## US advance team in city, security detail due today

By Diplomatic Correspondent

A ten-member advance team arrived yesterday afternoon to finalise the details of United States President Bill Clinton's visit to Bangladesh.

The team, headed by Terry Bish, will finalise Clinton's schedule and itinerary.

Clinton will arrive on the morning of March 20 on the first leg of his three-nation South Asia tour, which will include stops in India and Pakistan.

A 51-member security detail, led by Marine Captain Eric Shambora and comprising members of the U.S. Marine Corps and Secret Service, will arrive today.

The security and surveillance equipment used to protect the president continues to arrive.

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## '5 political persons are custodians of Shikdar's illegal arms'

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Mar 8: 'Jama' Farooq and Nasir Khan have disclosed names of five political persons as the custodians of Ershad Shikdar's arms and ammunition.

They disclosed the names to senior officials of KMP during interrogation on Tuesday night. The sources, however, declined to give details for the sake of investigation.

Noor-e-Alam was also brought before 'Jama' Farooq and Nasir Khan during the interrogation at KMP headquarters.

Three Deputy Commissioners of KMP, Nazmul Huq, Mazharul Huq and Sarwar

Alam — interrogated the three accomplices of Shikdar.

'Jama' Farooq has been sentenced to death by the Special Court in Zainal murder case, while Noor-e-Alam has been made government approver.

Both 'Jama' Farooq and Nasir Khan told police officials that Ershad Shikdar divided his arms into two categories few days before his arrest.

He deposited the brand new arms with two influential leaders of the ruling party while the old arms were given to three others of the same party.

'Jama' Farooq said, of the five persons, one is ward commissioner while four others are

front ranking leaders of Awami League and its youth front Jubo League.

Tuesday night's interrogation took a dramatic turn when 'Jama' Farooq and Nasir disclosed names of the custodians of Shikdar's illegal firearms.

"We are now hopeful in recovering these arms within the shortest possible time," said one of the three senior police officials.

Police apprehend violence during the operation to recover the illegal arms from the possession of five ruling partymen, said a reliable source in the KMP.

## Eid cattle markets on 6 busy roads

DCC defies its own ban

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation has leased at least six of the city's busy thoroughfares for Eid cattle markets, defying its own ban on holding meetings and obstructing traffic.

The roads designated for the markets are Nayabazar main road, Karwan Bazar Mosque Road, Dholakhal Road, Azimpur Road, Hosni Dalan Road and the Postogola Shashanghat Road.

The DCC hasn't finalised the lease of Azimpur Graveyard Road since it had to float the tender again.

Estate Department officials

admitted the roads have been leased, but claimed the land that is supposed to be used for the cattle markets has been occupied by squatters.

However, sources said the DCC did not own any land in the areas, with the exception of Nayabazar. They said the DCC deliberately selected the thoroughfares to earn some quick cash. The DCC will earn more than Tk 70 lakh from the leases.

DCC specifications allow cattle trading to start four days before the Eid. However, many

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## Ratification of CTBT: Legal or illegal?

By Staff Correspondent

An influential opposition lawmaker has challenged the process of ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) by an executive order of the government and suggested that it be done by the parliament.

Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan of BNP in a faxed statement to The Daily Star yesterday said that Article 145A of the Constitution made it mandatory for any international treaty to be placed before the parliament.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury however told The Daily Star last night that Article 145A did not speak about

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To quicken a new birth

A spring wind blows away the dead and withered leaves, setting the stage for nature's rebirth.

— Star photo by A.K.M. Mohsin

## JS goes into session

Mar 28

By Staff Correspondent  
Jatiya Sangsad will go into its 17th session at 9:30 am on March 28.

The last session was prorogued on January 30.

The opposition has been boycotting parliament session since August last year following a cabinet decision to examine a proposal for granting transhipment facilities to India.

There is still no indication of the opposition's return to parliament.

## Women repression is complicated issue, solution not easy: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that effective enforcement of the Woman and Child Repression Prevention Act, 2000 with provision for capital punishment would reduce incidences of cruelty against women and children in the society, reports UNB.

"Women in our country, particularly in rural areas, are not aware of their legal rights. Because of ignorance they are being ignored and repressed in this male dominant society," she said while inaugurating the International Women's Day at Osmani Memorial Hall.

The prime minister said women repression is a complicated problem in our country and the solution is not very easy. But the government is continuing its efforts to resolve the problem.

A women repression prevention cell is working under Women and Children Affairs Ministry to stop torture on women, she said informing that

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## Rift over Kargil clashes prompted coup

Musharraf manufacturing charges out of grudge, says Sharif



KARACHI, Mar 8: Deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif took the stand for the first time today to tell the court that his government was thrown out by the army because of a rift with the military over last summer's bitter border dispute with neighbouring India, reports AFP.

He accused the army chief Gen Pervez Musharraf of manufacturing the charges against him "because he bore a grudge against me."

Sharif spoke for the first time at his trial before an anti-terrorist court in southern Karachi, where he faces charges

of terrorism, hijacking, kidnapping and murder — charges that carry the death penalty or life in prison.

As he spoke, his wife and daughters whispered readings from the holy Quran. They cried quietly as Sharif spoke and occasionally his wife sobbed when he spoke of his prison conditions and those of his son, Hussein, who is in custody on corruption charges.

Sharif flatly rejected army accusations that he tried to divert a passenger aircraft returning Musharraf to Pakistan on October 12 — the day the army

took power in Pakistan, arrested Sharif and several of his close aides and family members.

The army revolted after Sharif announced Musharraf's dismissal as army chief and his replacement by a junior general. At the time of his dismissal Musharraf was returning to Pakistan. His aircraft was eventually allowed to land, but only after the army was in control and apparently with only seven minutes of fuel remaining. There were 200 passengers and crew aboard the

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## 2 tribal youths shot dead in Khagrachhari

From A Correspondent  
KHAGRACHHARI, Mar 8: Two tribal youths were shot dead and two others wounded when unidentified gunmen opened fire on them at Taraban Chara in Pujgaon Union of Panchhari thana today.

Police said Rupam Chakma alias Kalaiyya, 25, and Tara Kumar Chakma, 24, were killed in front of a shop belonging to Palab Chakma near the frontier with India.

Police and villagers said that the incident took place at about 8 am. Police recovered the bodies and sent them to Khagrachhari Hospital for post-mortem.

Senior police officers visited the spot and the investigation is going on, police said. None was arrested till filing of this report at 8:30 pm today.

Rupam Chakma is from Dhumbul village and Tarakumar from Korolachari. Further details were not immediately available.

The United People's Democratic Front, which broke away from Jana Sanghati Samity (JSS) after the CHT peace accord, claimed that the deceased were activists of its student front.

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Sammilita Nari Samaj brought out a procession in the city yesterday marking the Women's Day. — Star photo

The Daily Star in collaboration with **ASSET International** (Aptech School for Software Export Technologies) is organising a seminar on **e-commerce: The Business of the New Millennium**

### Objectives:

- Highlight the tremendous opportunities in global e-commerce
- To highlight the critical requirements for implementing e-commerce in Bangladesh
- Guidelines for formulating the corporate strategy for e-commerce

Date: March 14, 2000

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Venue: Ball Room, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel  
Registrations on first come first serve basis

Contact:

Dhanmondi Centre: 7-13 Satmasjid Road (4th fl), Dhanmondi, Dhaka  
Ph: 9128354-8, e-mail: asset@adcom-bd.com, Fax: 9128359  
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FROM PAHELA BAISHAK

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