

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. fax	To Nicole Rabner from Regina Rhea re: Wednesday's South Asia Briefing (partial) (1 page)	04/25/1995	b(6)
002. list	Re: invitees (partial) (1 page)	n.d.	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20053

FOLDER TITLE:

South Asia [Folder 5]

2013-0534-S

ry1644

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

PHOTOCOPY
HRC HANDWRITING

DRAFT

April 6, 1995

The President

MEMORANDUM FOR/ SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER *these should be cc's*
cc: NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR TONY LAKE *plus*

FROM: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
RE: REPORT ON SOUTH ASIA TRIP

*Deputy Sec Strobe Talbott
Deputy NSC ^{Advisor} Sandy Berger
Brian Atwood Administrator
A/D*

Thank you for asking me to make
I ~~hope~~ that ~~during~~ ^{recent} my trip to South Asia, I ~~was~~ able to
~~represent~~ ^{both you and} the American people ⁱⁿ and convey ⁱⁿ to ~~both~~ the governments
and the people of the countries I visited how important the United
States thinks this region of the world is. ~~I also sought to convey~~ ^{and}
how significant ^{you} ~~we~~ believe the development of the people of this
region to be, important not only for the futures of their own
countries, but also for our entire global family. I hope also that,
through my visit, Americans at home ~~perhaps~~ learned more about this
part of the world and, like me, developed new ways of thinking
about the region.

My trip to South Asia was designed to highlight the importance
of investments in ^{people} ~~human~~ capital, especially ~~social development~~
~~targeted to~~ women and girls, and to demonstrate that the United
States is committed to engagement in this critical region. My
visit to Pakistan was a part of our overall effort to broaden
relations strained in recent years by sanctions. In India, while
investment opportunities are expanding to attract U.S. business,
investments in social programs also remain critical. In the poorer

countries of Nepal and Bangladesh, in which U.S. assistance has long been the major element in our relationship, improvements, particularly in ^{health and} population control, are evident. Finally, Sri Lanka, a more developed small island nation with which we have historically had ^{an ~~frayed~~ uneven relationship} ~~worn~~ ties, has made significant progress in universal access to education and health care.

Before describing specific activities in the countries I visited, I would like to underscore some observations:

-- South Asia has the largest number of absolute poor in the world. It faces enormous challenges in creating a better life for the great majority of its people.

^{The countries I visited are}
-- ~~It is~~ making progress in meeting the ^{ir} challenges. Economies throughout the region are expanding and private investment is rising. Progress is also significant in addressing the key problems of population growth.

-- But progress to date has rested, to an important extent, on improvements in the social sectors - health and education. Broad based economic growth in the future must include more significant progress in these areas or it will prove unsustainable. Private investment by itself is necessary but not sufficient - in South Asia as well as elsewhere in the world.

-- I underscored this issue in ^{my speech at} the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, in

which I said, "I recognize that discussion of such problems as education and health care for girls and women is viewed by some as "soft," labeled dismissively as a women's issue belonging, at best, on the edge of serious debate about all the problems we confront on the edge of the 21st century. I want to argue strongly, however, that the questions surrounding social development, especially of women, as discussed at the recent social summit in Copenhagen, are at the center of our political and economic challenges. Governments, businesses and citizens must recognize and act upon that truth for the betterment of nations and our global family."

single
space
set 91

-- The empowerment of women must be an important aspect of development in this and other regions. Women represent over half of the population of most of these countries and have proven again and again in the projects I visited how quickly and effectively they can become income earners when given a chance. No investment pays greater dividends in a nation's development and productivity than investments in the education of girls and women.

-- The U.S. has long been engaged in assisting the countries of the region in development. I met countless individuals who had been helped in education, in health, in support for creating private enterprises or NGOs -- by our assistance. The U.S. has been effective in the past in helping these countries progress and must remain engaged and effective in the future.

-- U.S. assistance has had a direct impact on the lives and

prospects of Asians, but more importantly it has been a catalyst for further social development (for example, the population program in Bangladesh) by leveraging aid from other donors and local governments in expanding effective activities.

-- The U.S. now channels much of its aid to South Asia through NGOs. Governments remain important, but experience shows that NGOs can be very effective partners in development. They are close to the people, accountable to the people and often are effective advocates for the people. Our ^{governments'} partnership with NGOs -- our own and indigenous -- must continue to grow, while the U.S. must remain capable (as it is today) of ^{channelling} programming its aid in an integrated and strategic fashion ^{toward} against overall development objectives. This is a partnership where the capabilities of our government and NGOs are complementary.

-- Our bilateral and multilateral aid programs are now threatened with deep cuts or even elimination (as in the case of our contributions to the World Bank). These programs absorb less than 1% of the federal budget, as I observed on my trip, yet their contributions^s to our foreign policy are enormous. Cuts of the magnitude now being considered in Congress could force us to drastically reduce or terminate our aid to South Asian countries -- just as we are beginning to see a real impact of ^{our past aid} ~~that and~~ in those countries. Other governments would likely follow our lead in cutting aid budgets.

The United States has been of great assistance in this region for many, many years, and I was pleased to see the results of those years of effort. The kinds of investments that we have made in the people of the counties I visited have produced results, and I hope that my visits to successful programs and projects in the region helped to highlight the importance of our investments. I also believe that there are lessons that we can all learn from some of the projects that I visited.

In each country I emphasized U.S. interest in helping improve people's lives, particularly the lives of women and girls who still suffer from cultural prejudice, the lack of government investment in education for girls, are marginalized and bear the brunt of poverty. This theme seemed to find resonance as a welcome ^{Complement} counterpoint to the recognized concerns for global stability, non-proliferation, and market access.

My reception was very heartening. Government leaders and villagers alike went out of their way to make me feel welcome and to demonstrate the well-spring of respect and affection for the United States and the values they believe we represent. The local press was ~~overwhelmingly~~ positive, and, ~~I think, predictably~~ impressed that our delegation braved the subcontinental heat to undertake such site visits as a village in rural Bangladesh, or SEWA headquarters in Ahmedabad, India.

While some leaders (most notably Prime Minister Bhutto who had

her trip to Washington very much on her mind) ~~were determined to~~
raise ^{specific} bilateral political issues, most used the private meetings to
get acquainted, and to share ideas and experiences on the problems
of social development. ~~I was impressed that~~ the top leadership of
these countries ^{appears to be} ~~has been~~ grappling with the problems of poverty and
women's empowerment to a significant extent. I was also struck by
how much our nation has contributed to the debate and to real
progress over the years through USAID, World Bank and voluntary
programs. Many commented positively on my speech to the UN World
Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen. Women ministers and
non-governmental leaders, in particular, talked about the
significance of the upcoming UN Fourth World Conference for
progress for women and the advancement of their human rights.

It was often remarked during our meetings that it had been a
very long time since the last White House trip to the region.
There was a palpable sense, particularly in the smaller countries,
of pride and relief that the U.S., a country they had long admired
and considered a friend, was finally making an official visit
focussed on direct observation of progress in economic development
and poverty alleviation. On the cusp of the 21st century, the
"good will tour" seemed to have new meaning and ~~undiminished~~
importance in securing relationships.

I believe the journey helped to renew and revitalize interest
in the United States and make it easier for governments in the
region to support our broader global agenda. From the positive

press that the trip engendered in the U.S., we can hope that it helped to educate Americans on the importance of South Asia as well.

PAKISTAN

In Pakistan, outside Lahore, I visited a village school educating girls and a health clinic where I had a chance to talk with some of the mothers now using the family planning services of the clinic. At Pakistan's current rate of population growth (fill in), its population -- already 120 million (check) will double in 28 years (check). This rate of population growth will make significant economic progress in Pakistan unattainable. The current government in Pakistan recognizes this, and PM Bhutto indicated in her discussions with me that she is moving to address the population issue more vigorously. However, family planning programs in the past run by the Pakistan government have proven ineffective - services have been poor, unpredictable and difficult for Pakistani women to access. A new USAID project is set to begin to finance family planning and related health and education services through U.S. and local private voluntary organizations in an effort to make these services effective.

The Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) could not represent a sharper contrast to the village school I visited. It is a world class management school (built with seed money from U.S. assistance together with private and public support from Pakistan).

I gave a speech at LUMS (which is attached), and met with some of its very impressive students to discuss barriers to women in management. The University is preparing women and men to take responsible positions in the expanding private sector in Pakistan. These and other ~~local~~ women I met on my trip were ~~very~~ dynamic, but ~~very~~ conscious of their roles as pioneers in ^{or} societies where female professionals remain rare, ~~and in some quarters, disapproved of.~~ They are proving that change in their roles in society is ~~not~~ impossible if approached sensitively. The U.S. has played an important role in supporting them with programs to educate girls and women throughout South Asia.

INDIA

In India I attended a meeting in Ahmedabad of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), led by the legendary Ela Bhatt. This is a group of extremely poor women engaged in work like paper picking and selling fruits and vegetables. They are both residents of the city of Ahmedabad and the countryside for miles around it; many walked for hours to come to the meeting with me. The women have joined together in a trade union and cooperative which provides them with job training, micro-credit and opportunities to save together with mutual support and solidarity. The latter - while intangible - was clearly critical in giving these women, mostly uneducated, the confidence to take the initiative to become ~~small~~ entrepreneurs.

SEWA has been effective and has had a positive influence on government, police and programs. I was so pleased that the U.S. has been able to provide some support to SEWA and private voluntary organizations like it, for it is these organizations that help women begin to earn incomes and better their own lives and those of their families. Without these kinds of efforts (even where economic policies are supportive of growth), the mass of the populations of poor countries like the ones I visited will remain trapped in poverty for the foreseeable future. And women in particular will remain excluded and disadvantaged, and their countries severely disadvantaged by their lack of education and productivity.

Also in India, I visited a ~~model~~ home for children run by Mother Teresa and toured a school project housed at the Indian Institute of Technology whose mission is to provide education to children of the neighboring slums and to empower their mothers through skills training and community support. Finally, I addressed the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and a distinguished group of Indian public and private sector leaders on the topic of investing in women and girls. In it, I focused on the theme of girls and women's social development. (The speech is attached.)

NEPAL

Nepal was the poorest country I visited, and one of the very

poorest in the world with literacy at only 25%, child mortality at ___ per ___, and life expectancy at 53 years (check). It is one of the few ^{countries} ~~places~~ where men outlive women. Yet, even here, enormous progress has taken place over the past three decades since Nepal opened to the rest of the world.

Health is a particular problem for women in Nepal; 8 out of 100 childbirths result in the death of the mother, usually for want of proper hygiene. At a small health and family planning clinic in Kathmandu (financed by a partnership of Save the Children Foundation, the government of Nepal and USAID), I was given a "safe birthing kit" that expectant mothers receive. The primitive nature of the contents of the birthing kit (soap, ^{twine, wire and razor blade} plastic sheet, ~~etc.~~) say a lot about conditions in Nepal and how far it has to go to reach an acceptable standard of living for its citizens. Development remains the central challenge for Nepal, ~~and~~ it is clear that our assistance plays a key role in that development and in our relations with the Nepalese.

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh is the most densely populated ^{native} in the world and ^{the size of} ~~just~~ the crowds that surged around the village I visited ^{Outside} ~~in~~ Jessore were ^{Overwhelming} ~~indicative of the sheer numbers of the populace.~~

~~But Bangladesh -- recently thought of as a basket case in terms of development --~~ is increasingly an example of development

success. Because of effective family planning services (pioneered in a project financed first by USAID through the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Control (ICDDC), which I visited, and later by a number of other donors), population growth rates have fallen dramatically in the country -- from 3% to 2.2% at present.

The ICDDC is a world class success story in saving lives of people suffering from cholera and malnutrition and diarrhea. It is a prime example of a small USAID investment over many years leveraging significant support from other partners to attack a problem that affects people around the world.

One of the most moving events of my trip was a visit to a small village outside Jessore where the Grameen Bank, founded by Mohammed Yunus, has been active. ^{The women in this} This ~~had been a~~ very poor village of untouchables ~~many of whom -- especially the women --~~ had significantly ~~had~~ improved their incomes and living conditions through the micro-credit and savings programs of Grameen. This village was an impressive example of Grameen's success, but not unusual. Nearly 2 million Bangladeshi's -- most of them women -- have benefitted from Grameen loans, along with many others benefitting from a variety of micro-credit schemes modeled on the Grameen approach in other countries, including the U.S. Like SEWA, which I visited in India, Grameen demonstrated the benefits of microcredit for women in the reduction of poverty, increasing employment and promoting social integration. It contributes to

women's self-confidence and their decision-making power in the household and in their communities.

SRI LANKA

My last stop offered a contrast to the other countries I visited. Sri Lanka has made the most social progress of any country in South Asia and is, on average, the best off. Its experience shows how important education and universal access to health care are, not only as an end in itself, but also in laying a foundation for healthy growth. (Overall economic growth was nearly 7% last year.) Low population growth (1.2% per year) has undoubtedly played a role in facilitating real economic growth as well as the inclusion of women in the country's economic life. There I met the only woman bank president in South Asia, as well as women journalists and TV producers, lawyers, professors and women heading ^{private voluntary organizations} (PVOs) helping other women with training and credit to improve their lives. If my visit to other countries in the region highlighted the development challenges and opportunities facing the region, my visit to Sri Lanka underlined the fact that those challenges can be met ~~and overcome~~ and just how important health, education and the inclusion of women can be in achieving economic progress anywhere in the world.

file

5 Asia
reception

1

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the First Lady
phone 202/456-6266
fax 202/456-6244

TO Kim

FROM Nicole

FAX # ~~66233~~ pb 2028

PHONE # _____

PAGES (with cover) _____

COMMENTS I hope this is
final -- sorry for
the headache! -
Nicole

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE 4/25/95TO: Nichole Rabner456-6244FROM: Regina RheaG/CSOffice of the Conference SecretariatRoom 1318, Department of StateWashington, DC 20520Tel: 202-647-3129FAX: 202-647-4787SUBJECT: Wednesday's South Asia BriefingThis message, including this cover, contains 1 pages.COMMENTS: Attendees will include:Curtin, Mary T.Hendrix, KathleenKotok, SharonLoar, TheresaMarshall, EllenMear, Jeffrey

(b)(6)

and Heather Foote

(b)(6)

Alice Miller

(b)(6)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 25, 1995

MEMORANDUM TO: KIM WIDDESS
SOCIAL OFFICE

FROM: NICOLE RABNER
OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

RE: SOUTH ASIA BRIEFING

The following people are additions to the guest list for the South Asia briefing. Can you please call and invite them. Thank you.

Ms. Nancy Rubin	244-8247
Ms. Kathy Screedhan	965-8947 (home) 659-8475 (office)
Ms. Linda Tarr-Whelan	387-6030
Ms. Sarah Lai	371-6592
Ms. Regan Ralph	371-6592
Prof. Susan Roth	662-9650

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

25-Apr-1995 06:06pm

TO: Nicole R. Rabner
FROM: Kim B. Widdess
Office of the First Lady
CC: Marjorie C. Tarmey
SUBJECT: "No Responses" for tomorrow's briefing

*I hope
this is
helpful.
Nicole*

Everyone was called again today to see if they would be able to attend the HRC Trip Briefing tomorrow at 3pm. Following are the people who we haven't heard from. If you can help in any way to get in touch with them, I would appreciate it!

BERLIN, Gwen	Left message
BIGGINS, Veronica	We have the wrong phone # → she should call in w 404/577-7826
CASTALDI, Mimi	Hasn't called us back 219-6611
CHOCAS, Elaine	Now that we've added her to the list, we don't have a phone #
COUSINS, Erthrain	No phone #
GOLDSTEIN, Ann	Left message
HEIGHT, Dorothy	Left message
JONES, Elaine	Left message
KIMBLE, Melinda	No phone # On vacation
KUNIN, Madeline	Hasn't returned phone call 401-1000
LOAR, Theresa	No phone # On list sent you last.
MILLER, Jill	Hasn't called back
PERRYMAN, Lavonia	No phone #
RUBIN, Nancy	Left message
TARR-WHALEN, Linda	No phone # 387-6030

If you know if any of these people are coming, please forward the

#1

Additional invitees for the South Asia Briefing:

Tipper Gore, 66640

Skila Harris, 66640

Robin Raphel, Asst. Sec. of State
736-4325

Carol Lancaster, Asst. Administrator, USAID
647-9620

Doris Matsui, 62930

Alexis Herman, 66455

Barbara Wooley, 62155

Jennifer Klein, 62599

Jan Piercy, World Bank, 458-0110

Phillis Oakley, State, 647-7826

Karen Nussbaum, 219-6611

Mimi Castaldi, 219-6611

Iris Burnett, 619-4742

Carol Rasco, 62216

Laura Tyson, NEC

Donna Shalala, 690-7000

Sarah Kovner, 401-3000

Madeleine Kunin, 401-1000

Susan Blumenthal, DHHS, 690-7650

Caren Wilcox, DNC

The following have been invited by ltr and will RSVP:

Marjorie Margolies Mezvinsky

Melinda Kimble

Veronica Biggins

Antonella Pinalto

Lynn Cutler

Linda Tarr-Whalen

Amy Sobel

Theresa Loar

Elaine Shocas

Suzanne George

Gracia Hillman

Erthrain Cousins

Anne Bartley

RCV BY:

: 4-18-95 : 8:50AM :

CCITT 03-

SOCIAL OFFICE: # 2

TO: Maggie Williams
FROM: Ann Lewis
DATE: March 31, 1995

These are primarily Council of Presidents members with some additions:

Anne Bryant
American Assoc of University Women
1111 16th St., NW
Washington, DC 20036
785-7788

F/S
fax: 872-1425

Eileen McGrath
American Medical Women's Assoc
801 N. Fairfax St. #400
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-838-0500

F/S
fax 703 547 3864

Virginia Trotter-Betts, JD, MSN. RN.
American Nurses Assoc
600 Maryland Ave., SW #100 West
Washington, DC 20024
554-4444 615-371-0101

F/S
fax (202) 51-7006

Ellen Topf
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1650 Tysons Blvd.
McLean, VA 22102
703-506-3290

F/S
fax (703) 506-3266

Christine Benaro
Association of Junior Leagues International
1319 F St., NW #604
Washington, DC 20004
393-3364

F/S
fax (202) 393 4517

Susan Bruck
B'NAI B'RITH WOMEN
1828 L St., NW #250
Washington, DC 20036
857-1300

F/S
fax 857-1380

F Dr. Margaret Batchelor-White

Black Women's Agenda

3501 14th St., NW

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886-2265

Fax 202 387-4659

Audrey Taysa Haynes

BPW

2012 Mass Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20036

293-1100

Fax 202 861-0298

Frances Kissling

Catholics for Free Choice

1436 U St., NW #301

Washington, DC 20009

886-6093

Fax 202 332-7995

Linda Tarr-Whelan

Center for Policy Alternatives

1875 Connecticut Ave., NW #710

Washington, DC 20009

387-6030

Fax 202 986-2539

Leslie Wolfe

Center for Women Policy Studies

2000 P St., NW #508

Washington, DC 20036

872-1770

Fax 202 896-8162

Martha Burke

Center for the Advancement of Public Policy

1735 S St., NW

Washington, DC 20009

Fax 202 265-6245

Marian Wright Edelman

Children's Defense Fund

25 E St., NW

Washington, DC 20001

628-0931

Fax 202 628-3580

Nancy Chupp

Church Women United

110 Maryland Ave, NE

Washington, DC 20002

644-8747

no fax # 543-1247

202 506-7066

202 986-2539 F

F/S

no answer

662-3520

F/S

F Gloria Johnson
Coalition of Labor Union Women
1126 16th St., NW
Washington, DC 20036
286-1200

~~fax~~ 185 4563

F Kathy Bonk
Communications Consortium
1333 H St., NW #700
Washington, DC 20005
682-1270

~~fax~~ 202 682 2154

F Ellen Malcolm
EMILY's List
805 15th St., NW #400
Washington, DC 20036
326-1400

~~fax~~ 326 1415

F Ellie Smeal
Feminist Majority
1600 Wilson Blvd #801
Arlington, VA 22209
703-522-2214

~~fax~~ 703-522-2219

F Mildred Klefer Wurf
Girls Incorporated
3101 New Mexico Ave. #241
Washington, DC 20018

775-8181 301-657-0000

~~fax~~ 301-652-6240

F Dr. Heidi Hartmann
Institute for Women's Policy Research
1400 20th St., NW #104
Washington, DC 20036
785-5100

~~fax~~ 202 833 4362

F Becky Calne
League of Women Voters
1730 M St., NW
Washington, DC 20036
429-1965

~~fax~~ 202 429 0854

F Kathryn Rodgers
NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund
89 Hudson St., #1201
New York, NY 10013
212-925-6635

~~fax~~ 212 226 1066

Kate Michelman
NARAL

1156 15th St., NW #700
Washington, DC 20005

873-3000 - phone # - 202 973 3000

973-3097 fax #

Julia Scott

National Black Women's Health Project
1211 Connecticut Ave., NW #310

Washington, DC 20036

fax 833-8790 (202) 835-0117 phone #

Susan Bianchi Sand

National Committee on Pay Equity
1126 16th St., NW #411

Washington, DC 20036

331-7343 phone #

fax (202) 331-7406

Susan Katz

National Council of Jewish Women
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New York, NY 10010

212-845-4048

fax (212) 645-7466

Dorothy Height

National Council of Negro Women
1001 G St., NW #800

Washington, DC 20001

fax 828-0233, (202) 628-0015

Patricia Ireland

National Organization for Women
1000 16th St., NW #700

Washington, DC 20036

331-0066

fax (202) 785-8576

Lavonia Fairfax Perryman

National Political Congress of Black Women
600 New Hampshire Ave., #1125

Washington, DC 20037

(202) 338-0800 ph #

Marcia Greenberger

Nancy Duff Campbell

National Women's Law Center

1616 P St., NW #100

Washington, DC 20036

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phone # (202) 328-5160

F/S

F/S

F/S

F/S

F/S

F/S

Dolores Tucker
F/S

F/S

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Joan Kurlansky
Older Women's League
666 11th St., NW #700
Washington, DC 20001
783-6686

fax # 202 638-2356

Kathy Dress
Organization of Chinese-American Women
11912 Andrew St.
Wheaton, MD 20902

~~202-702-8778~~

Pamela J. Maraldo, Ph.D., R.N.
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
810 Seventh Ave.
New York, New York 10019

ph # 212-261-4601

fax # 212-247-6453

Julie Burton
Voters for Choice
2604 Connecticut Ave., NW #200
Washington, DC 20008
588-5200

fax # 202/588-0600

Cindy Morano
Wider Opportunities for Women
815 15th St., NW #916
Washington, DC 20005
638-3143

fax # 202/638-4885

Judith Lichtman
Women's Legal Defense Fund
1875 Connecticut Ave, NW #710
Washington, DC 20009
986-2600

fax # 202/986-6539

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: THE FIRST LADY

WHAT: SOUTH ASIA BRIEFING

WHEN: Wednesday, April 26, 1995
3:15 p.m.

WHERE: State Dining Room

of Guests: Approx. 100/Closed Press

FROM: Ann Stock, Sarah Farnsworth

=====

3:00 p.m. Guests arrive at the East Visitors Gate and are escorted to the State Dining Room where they are seated family theatre style.

3:15 p.m. **THE FIRST LADY** is announced from the Red Room and proceeds onto small platform at the south end of the State Dining Room.

THE FIRST LADY gives remarks from toast lectern and begins slide show.

Note: Q&A option following slide show

3:45 p.m. (Approx. time) Upon conclusion of the slide show, **THE FIRST LADY** proceeds to the Blue Room to begin receiving line with guests.

NOTE: Guests proceed from State Dining Room, thru Red Room to Blue Room and out Green Room into the Grand Foyer where iced tea, coffee and pastries will be offered. WH photo only.

4:15 p.m. (Approx. time) Upon conclusion of the receiving line, **THE FIRST LADY** departs.

Guests will depart the East Gate.

REPORT DATE 04/25/95
REPORT TIME 06:45PM

HRC Briefing on Trip to South Asia - Wednesday, April 26, 1995 - 03:00PM
Contact Social Office X7136

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Senior Editor & National Affairs Director, Good Housekeeping Magazine

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Anne Bartley
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Dr. Margaret Batchelor-White
Black Women's Agenda

Ms. Christine Benero
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Ms. Gwen Berlin
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Ms. Susan Bianchi Sand
National Committee on Pay Equity

Hon. Veronica Biggins
Atlanta, GA

Ms. Liz Boyer
Office of the First Lady

Ms. Leah Browning
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Ms. Susan Bruck
B'NAI B'IRTH WOMEN

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Center for the Advancement of Public Policy

Ms. Iris Burnett
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Sister Margaret Cafferty
Executive Director, Leadership Conference of Women

Ms. Becky Caine
League of Women Voters

Dr. Joan Campbell
General Secretary, National Council of Churches of Christ

Ms. Nancy Duff Campbell
Executive Director, Women's Law Center

Hon. Lisa Caputo
Deputy Assistant to the President & Press Secretary to the First Lady

Ms. Mimi Castaldi

REPORT DATE 04/25/95

REPORT TIME 06:46PM

HRC Briefing on Trip to South Asia - April 26, 1995

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Ms. Nancy Chupp
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Mrs. Esther Coopersmith
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Mr. Betty Dooley
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REPORT TIME 06:46PM

HRC Briefing on Trip to South Asia - April 26, 1995

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REPORT TIME 06:46PM

HRC Briefing on Trip to South Asia - April 26, 1995

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REPORT TIME 06:46PM

HRC Briefing on Trip to South Asia - April 26, 1995

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Ms. Kimberly Youngblood

**SUPPLEMENTAL NEWSCLIPPINGS FROM
THE TRIP OF THE FIRST LADY TO SOUTH ASIA
MARCH 24 - APRIL 6, 1995**



Reuters

So long, Ceylon

Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, wave goodbye at the airport in Colombo, Sri Lanka, yesterday as they conclude their South Asia tour. They also visited Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

THE WASHINGTON POST

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1995

First Lady 'Moved,' 'Overwhelmed' On Asian Journey of Self-Discovery



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter, Chelsea, right, carry trays of flowers to place at a Buddhist temple in Colombo.

1/2

First Lady 'Overwhelmed,' 'Moved' On Asian Journey of Self-Discovery

By Molly Moore
Washington Post Foreign Service

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 5—In a Bangladeshi village of the lowest of low-caste Hindus—often called “untouchables”—dozens of children stretched their arms to touch the hands of a beaming Hillary Clinton, the woman they’d been told was Queen of the World.

In villages like Moishahati, where government officials and high caste Hindus—much less foreigners—seldom venture, it is believed that just touching someone of higher caste will bring more respect and honor to a person at the lower end of the social scale.

But in a reversal the villagers couldn’t possibly comprehend, it was the poor inhabitants of the mud and straw huts of the rice-paddy community who won the respect of the first lady of the United States.

“I’ve come away overwhelmed,” Clinton said of the Bangladeshi villagers and dozens of other women she encountered in a 12-day visit across the Indian subcontinent that ended today in Sri Lanka. “What any of us in America go through is minor in comparison.”

In the first few jet-lagged days of her journey through India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, Clinton recited numerous parallels between programs and problems in the United States and those in South Asia, often sounding as though she were plugging her husband’s policies on the campaign trail in Middle America, half a globe and worlds away.

But this was alien to the daily lives of most of her Asian audiences. Before a group of Indian women ragpickers and junk dealers—most of whom had never ridden in a car—she mentioned a White House proposal to take away drivers’ licenses as punishment for certain offenses.

By tour’s end, however, what Clinton first billed as a trip to learn

about different cultures and countries became a journey of self-discovery both for her and her daughter, Chelsea. “Chelsea has been writing many postcards to her friends to explain in words what this meant to her,” Clinton said.

As for Chelsea’s mother, she still seemed to be struggling to come to terms with the sensory overload she experienced on a trip that took her from extravagant palace dinners to medical research centers where emaciated children writhed with the pain of malnutrition and dehydration.

Clinton said she and Chelsea were “overwhelmed . . . by the conditions some of the people we met were living in, but also very moved by how people were attempting to make the most of [their] situation . . . knowing they have so few of the advantages we take for granted.”

She listened to Zahanara Begum tell her how the local Muslim religious leader in her Bangladeshi community refused to pray for the dead children of women who defied his wishes and joined the Grameen Bank, which provides loans to some of the world’s poorest people.

She watched as a Pakistani woman, her arms coated in brown goo, smashed cow dung into smelly patties to fuel her cooking fires.

She watched elementary school girls acting out a scene repeated often in their homes: A mother telling a daughter she can’t go to school because she is a girl and is valued less than her brothers.

As she prepared to end her journey, Clinton said she was impressed by having “seen women who are beginning to find their own voice.” She was particularly taken by a poem composed in her honor by New Delhi teenager Anasuya Sengupta, and she rewrote her last scheduled speech here to incorporate part of it:

“Too many women in too many countries speak the

same language—of silence.”

But it was also clear that Clinton was using this trip to readjust her own voice, which has been criticized as much too loud in her husband’s administration. The trip was a very public pronouncement that she will spend the second half of his term focusing on matters more traditionally associated with first ladies—women’s and children’s issues.

Responding to suggestions that she ignored an opportunity to discuss human rights abuses with leaders of nations notorious for them, she said, “I think by talking about girls and women, you’re talking about human rights.”

“I don’t think girls and women get as much attention on a regular basis as some of the well-publicized other instances of human rights concerns,” she continued. “I believe we have to emphasize as much as possible that the denial of education, the denial of basic health care and the denial of choices to girls is a human rights issue.”

Still, in nations sensitive to outside criticism—particularly by Americans—Clinton found herself cloaked in some of the same silence the teenager addressed in her poem. She also witnessed the paradox of nations run by some of the world’s most powerful women that still offer girls less education, food and health care than boys.

In Pakistan, an ancient fort was transformed into a magical fairyland to entertain her, but only 28 percent of the nation’s girls are allowed to reach the fifth grade.

She rode elephants in the misty shadows of the Himalayas in Nepal, which has some of the world’s most breathtaking scenery but where one of every five girls will die before the age of 5 and one woman in 18 will die during pregnancy or childbirth.

In India, she toured the Taj Mahal, a sublime work of architecture in a nation in which 40 percent of its 900 million people live in destitution, according to U.N. criteria.

The first lady also grappled with paradoxes in her own life. As she preached education and self-sufficiency to women in villages, towns and college lecture halls, she seemed uncomfortable with a question posed by a woman member of Bangladesh’s Grameen bank, who asked: “Do you earn your own income?”

“I am not earning my own income now that my husband is president,” she replied, noting that in pre-White House days she sometimes earned more than her husband. And, she was quick to add, “I will later again earn my own income.”

THE WASHINGTON POST
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1995



Associated Press

Hillary Rodham Clinton, with her daughter, Chelsea, outside the Kelaniya Temple in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Hillary Clinton a Traditional First Lady Now

By TODD S. PURDUM

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 5 — A year ago, Hillary Rodham Clinton was visiting the biggest, most advanced hospitals in the Western world, proposing to change radically the way they did business. Last Friday, she sat in a tiny clinic in the shadows of the Himalayas and learned about its latest innovation: the "Safe Home Delivery Kit."

Inside a small cardboard box were the tools intended to reduce infant mortality in a country where more

than 10 percent of the 700,000 babies born each year die within 12 months: A plastic sheet to provide a sanitary surface, a bar of soap, a plastic disk to rest the umbilical cord on, a shiny razor blade to cut it and a clean cord to tie it.

The kit was a small step that might make a big difference, the kind Mrs. Clinton has witnessed over and over again on her 12-day goodwill tour of southern Asia, which ends today. It was also something of

a metaphor for the First Lady's newest role, for if Mrs. Clinton is still thinking globally, she is acting more locally than ever.

In stop after stop, she has played the traditional role of First Lady as wife and mother, emphasizing the importance of educating girls and women, with her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, almost constantly by her side.

She has dressed in long sleeves and ankle-length skirts to avoid offending Islam's sensibilities. At teas,

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Continued on Page A7, Column 1

Hillary Clinton's New Role: First Lady

Continued From Page A1

in speeches and visits to schools and hospitals, she has taken such pains to avoid old controversies that she actually created some new ones, leading *The Calcutta Telegraph* to dismiss her as "singularly insensate and solely decorative."

Mrs. Clinton elliptically acknowledged her shifting tone in an interview with reporters traveling with her here, as she reflected on her meetings with women ranging from untouchables and ragpickers to prime ministers and presidents like Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka.

"I think that you have to keep true to your own beliefs about what is important, and you have to say it over and over again," Mrs. Clinton said. "But you always have to be open to new ways of saying it that perhaps are understood better. And I think that is truly what's at stake in lots of these settings around the world."

But the First Lady rejected any suggestion that by emphasizing what she calls the "human issues" of women and children she had somehow forsaken the concerns about human rights and economic development that plague this part of the world.

"I think by talking about girls and women, you're talking about human rights," she said. "I think there's an absolute correlation there."

"I don't think girls and women get as much attention on a regular basis as some of the well-publicized other instances of human rights concerns, and I believe we have to emphasize as much as possible that the denial of education, the denial of basic health care, the denial of choices to girls is a human rights issue," she said. "Because it is the human potential that we are attempting to develop, and the denying of it, I think, does violence to the spirit of the person and to the larger community."

If Mrs. Clinton has sought to make any broader political point here, it is that a region often thought of as backward and hopeless has not only benefited greatly from American aid, which helped create programs like the Nepalese birthing kit, but that people here also have much to teach America and the world.

Before leaving Bangladesh on Monday, Mrs. Clinton toured the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, a pioneering hospital that developed an oral rehydration solution of salts, sugars and grains that saves an estimated one million lives a year worldwide among victims of cholera and diarrhea and that is much less costly than standard intravenous solutions used in the United States.

"Too many people at home don't know the positive results that come from investments like this, and don't know that something developed in Bangladesh can save lives in Louisiana," Mrs. Clinton said in an implicit rebuke of demands by some leading Congressional Republicans to scale back foreign aid.

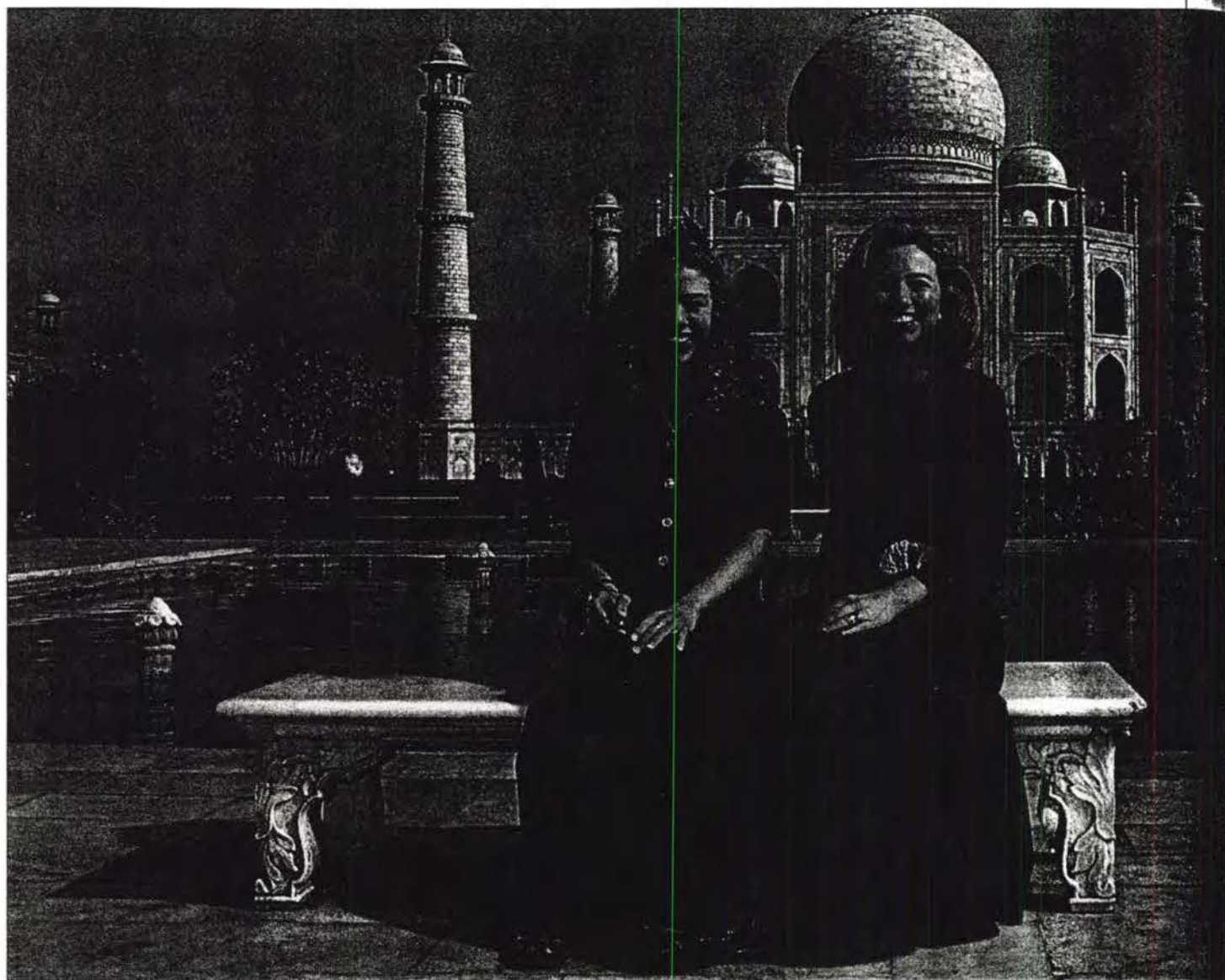
Mrs. Clinton also said she hoped to find new ways to replicate models from here in the United States. Those include the microcredit lending of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, which makes loans to poor people with no collateral in exchange for proposals to generate income, to the Self-Employed Women's Association in India, which has organized poor women into unions of cigarette rollers and vegetable vendors and created its own bank.

Mrs. Clinton is honorary chairman of the American delegation to the fourth annual United Nations conference on women, to be held in Beijing in September, and she hopes to be able to go if United States-China relations remain stable.

"I think you could help create a consensus around some certain basic principles, staying off a lot of the political disputes that are going to be between nations and between groups of people," she said. "You know, even if there are disputes of a political nature, there ought to be some effort to work toward providing these basic opportunities."

But experience has shown that many voters tend to look askance when Mrs. Clinton plays too great a policy role in the day-to-day affairs of the Administration, and she doubtless will have to continue to walk a fine line between pretending she wields no influence and being seen as too powerful. It is a dilemma she is used to, and one that she suggested her exposure to women who have suffered great hardships in this part of the world has helped to place in perspective.

"If you venture forth in the world, whether you are a man or a woman, you are going to encounter difficulty," Mrs. Clinton said. "I mean, there is no easy way to live a life of action and commitment. And certainly when I think about the women who've been imprisoned, tortured, discouraged, barred from involvement in educational or professional opportunity — what any of us in America go through is minor in comparison."



'Activist' ideas in a nonthreatening garb: Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, on a visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra

Dances With Camels

Hillary Clinton: In South Asia, a search for statements—fashion and otherwise

BY JOE KLEIN

THERE WAS CONFUSION, AS WELL AS mystery, in the air: a breeze, a buzz, a hint of movement. There were shouts and flashbulbs now, and walkie-talkies crackling: "Lattimore! Lattimore! Where are you?"

"Over by the dancing camels," said Neel Lattimore, deputy press secretary to Hillary Rodham Clinton. The dancing camels

were next to the dancing horses, and just after the six troupes of Punjabi dancers, and just before the Pakistani orchestra playing third-rate, 20-year-old disco music . . . and also just before the rose-petal altar, which stood in the center of a courtyard where an open-air dinner for 500 was to be laid on by the governor of Punjab—and the camels were dancing in the midst of thousands upon thousands of small, pungent oil lamps,

lining the walks and walls of the ancient Muslim fort at Lahore, casting fairy-tale shadows from golden baubles of light. Exotic did not begin to describe it. The First Lady approached now, moving along a red carpet passing the Punjabi dancers, flanked by her daughter, Chelsea, and Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan. All three wore the *shalwar kameez*, a combination of long tunic and pants, which—in



IRA WYMAN FOR NEWSWEEK

plainer form—has become the required uniform for Islamic women in South Asia. These, however, were brilliantly colored, bejeweled and embroidered—the First Lady's was red, a gift from Bhutto. She looked dazzling. And she seemed to suppress an astonished giggle as two dancing camels bowed before her, then rose and high-kicked together in the soft night air.

Let us talk about fashion and politics. Thirty-three years ago, Jacqueline Kennedy came to this part of the world and made a splash by wearing an Indian sari. The sari is a soft and sensual garment, a wrap of cotton or silk that often leaves the arms and midriff exposed. Hillary Clinton's staff had studied film and photos of that trip and been surprised, not just by the sari, but by some of the other clothes Mrs. Kennedy had worn. "Sleeveless sheaths!" said an aide. "She rode an elephant in a skirt that came up above her knee!"

The State Department was warning against exposed female limbs of any sort on this First Lady's trip to South Asia. Times had changed. The local cultures, especially Islamic ones, had grown conservative. "The elite women of Pakistan cannot wear jeans anymore," an Indian feminist told me later in the week. "Now they must dress like the common people, the believers." Hillary Clinton had lowered the hemlines on several skirts in preparation for the trip. But her fashion statement became the shalwar kameez, which is a curious, contradictory apparatus—and a rather neat metaphor for the enduring, torturous complications of her public life.

Practicality: The shalwar kameez was invented by the Sikhs, who wanted to liberate their women from the sari in the early 18th century—so they could join the army and go to war against the Muslims. It was easier to ride a horse in tunic and pants. The combination was adopted by the Punjabis, the largest ethnic group in Pakistan, and institutionalized by the Muslims—when worn with a *dupatta* (scarf), it could seem as prim and furtive as the *burka* (the veiled dress of the truly devout). After the shah was toppled by the Iranian ayatollahs in 1979, a nervous Pakistani leadership leaned on the elites, quietly encouraging the shalwar kameez as required dress for women. At about the same moment—in a lovely irony of the modern world—a new generation of Indian businesswomen were adopting the costume because it was more practical, and comfortable, than the sari.

Modest and practical, a uniform for tradition-bound wives and women warriors . . . hmmm. As she wandered from Pakistan to India to Nepal last week, the First Lady seemed to be searching for the rhetorical equivalent of the shalwar kameez, a way to dress "activist" ideas in nonthreatening garb—for both domestic and overseas consumption. "It's one of the most important questions I've been asking myself," she said, curled on a couch in her New Delhi hotel suite several days after the dancing camels. "I think a new language of politics is being born. None of us have it quite right yet, but I'm beginning to see glimmers."

There were glimmers in a remarkable scene at the Islamabad College for Girls, where a group of young women—children of the elite—wondered aloud, and quite el-

oquently, how they could balance their ambitions with the increasingly conservative customs of the country, which most seemed to consider a source of cohesion rather than repression. "We need to establish trust with the [common] people," said a girl who hoped to go into advertising, "so they understand we're not their enemies. They think that with education, girls will get out of hand . . ."

"That's difficult to do sometimes—establish trust," the First Lady replied. Then a girl asked about the "secularization, the loss of identity" that came with the new global economy. Hillary Clinton began tentatively: "I worry about it a lot. I tried to speak about it a few years ago . . ." The Politics of Meaning! And then, gathering herself up, she launched into an extended rumination about mullahs, American and Asian; about "the great struggle" to build a tolerant, but



A delightful and serene presence: On a refueling stop in Cairo, Chelsea camel-hopped to the Great Sphinx

BARBARA KINNEY—THE WHITE HOUSE

still "spiritual" response to the "rampant materialism and consumerism . . . because many of those who are concerned about the lack of meaning and undermining of family life would like to adopt a rigid response to it . . ." It slowly became clear, as she went on, that she had drifted into a recollection of the 1994 election, her health-care humili-

INTERNATIONAL

tion, all the awfulness. She was talking about *America*, but the Pakistani girls were rapt; they clearly understood her meaning. Indeed, she was reaching them in a way that she had rarely connected with Americans. But then, these were socially conscious children of the elite, caught in the same cultural whipsaw that she was, worried about how to pursue their ambitions without seeming "enemies" of the common folk, without seeming bossy.

Tarted-up exhibits: In April of 1962 *NEWSWEEK* chided Jacqueline Kennedy for forging a somewhat less substantive (upper) class alliance with the South Asians and seeing "only the pageantry of the Indian subcontinent, not its poverty." No chance of that with *this* First Lady. There were daily visits to villages and clinics and schools. But it isn't easy to experience actual poverty on an Official Visit, and these were tarted-up exhibits—roads newly paved, open sewers newly retrenched, garbage dumps (and their human residents) camouflaged by flimsy walls of outrageously cheery print fabrics—all part of the great South Asian Poverty Theme Park that has engaged, and foiled, well-intentioned Westerners since Mrs. Clinton's Victorian Methodist precursors were on the case. In such circumstances it isn't hard to slip into egregious uplift mode. Indeed, Mother Teresa's remarkable New Delhi orphanage—with its rows of well-dressed, ineffably gorgeous and incredibly serene infants in cribs—almost demanded self-righteous excess, but the First Lady didn't gush. She cuddled and rocked several babies, then approached the cameras, and retreated into the stiff public perfection that seems almost a reflexive defense against untoward emotions: "Oh, they're so beautiful," she said, "and I'm so pleased because the minister says adoption is becoming more and more available."

A constant struggle for her: seeming human in public, rather than perfect. She is too wary ever to be entirely open, although there were glimmerings here as well: after a few days on the road, the Stockholm Syndrome set in, entwining Her Ladyship (as some of the locals had it) and Her Traveling Hacks—she was our captive and we were hers—and the atmosphere became downright convivial. The mood changed quickly one afternoon when television reporters were led to believe they might ask Chelsea about her reaction to the Taj Mahal, which the wire services had already gotten. "No!

No," the First Lady flashed and her daughter was hustled off by aides. One wondered about the vehemence. Chelsea was a delightful and serene presence on the trip, a sure source of pride for her mother. But the First Lady's insistence that her daughter never be used as media fodder, admirable in principle, suddenly seemed inflexible, fiercely dogmatic, a reminder of all that had gone wrong for the Clintons these past few years.

But that was only a moment. And there were many others that were much better,

loaned them money and gave them the courage, as one said, "to walk into the village council and talk to . . . the police [who had, before SEWA, harassed them off the street], and speak our minds." The meeting went on for an hour; the First Lady was moved—but, she later said, tired. She had just finished her final remarks when an older woman leaped to the microphone and said, "You've come into our courtyard and filled our hearts with joy and we will never forget you." Suddenly, the entire throng began to sing. The song was familiar, but elu-



PHOTOS BY IRA WYMAN FOR *NEWSWEEK*

Cuddling babies, covering heads: The First Lady and Chelsea at Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Delhi, at the Faisal Mosque in Islamabad

moments that could have veered into self-righteous territory, but didn't. Her message was feminism and activism, to be sure—but clothed in the shalwar kameez of voluntarism. She proselytized programs that Newt Gingrich might adore, nongovernmental programs, safe havens run by altruists rather than bureaucrats, programs that loaned poor women money to start businesses and take care of themselves.

And perhaps the most powerful memory of Hillary Clinton's first week in South Asia came at such a place: the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in Ahmadabad. She sat in a hot, dusty, but mercifully covered courtyard, with hundreds of women—a third Untouchables, another third Muslims; rag-pickers, street vendors, the most desperate of the poor—and they told her about their organization of more than 100,000 members, how it unified them,

sive. Slowly, it became clear: they were singing "We Shall Overcome" in the Gujarati dialect. Hillary Clinton later said she found herself thinking about the great circle—from Henry David Thoreau, who was read by Gandhi, who in turn inspired Martin Luther King, whose anthem these women were now singing. A precisely perfect thought, of course. But the human reaction that accompanied it was far more memorable: as they sang, tears welled in Hillary Rodham Clinton's eyes.

OUTLOOK

Soothing the world — and people back home

The pictures were precisely what the White House hoped for. There was Hillary Rodham Clinton, international mother figure, stroking the hands of sweet-faced infants, tending the sick, wearing the traditional *shalwar kameez* tunic and pantaloons of Pakistani women and comforting impoverished villagers throughout South Asia. But the first lady's trip was more than a public-relations gambit. Friends viewed her incarnation as goodwill ambassador for her husband, her country and her gender as part of a longtime quest for self-fulfillment and, more broadly, a "politics of meaning."

The first lady has come to understand that self-deprecation is an essential virtue of public life.

The 20,000-mile, 12-day mission showed more clearly than ever that Mrs. Clinton has fundamentally changed the way she defines her job. Since the Republicans' November landslide, she seems to have discovered a healthy sense of her own limits. At least in public, she is no longer the know-it-all policy maker who pushed for an unpopular overhaul of the nation's medical system. Nor is she the moral imperialist who angrily condemned health-insurance companies and Republicans. The overbearing side of her nature may re-emerge, but for now she is all gentle self-deprecation. She recently told *U.S. News* that her role is, above all, to "be there" for her husband.

On her visits to Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, she carefully avoided such

contentious issues as human-rights abuses and nuclear proliferation. In New Delhi, she called for improved education and health care for women and girls. She wore native costumes, expressed appreciation for local artists and insisted that her main purpose was to listen and learn. At a New Delhi orphanage supervised by Mother Teresa, Mrs. Clinton and daughter Chelsea cradled infants in their arms and praised the nuns for their commitment. Asked in Lahore, Pakistan, if she had a nickname, the first lady replied with a smile: "Some people, I would imagine, have quite rude nicknames for me."

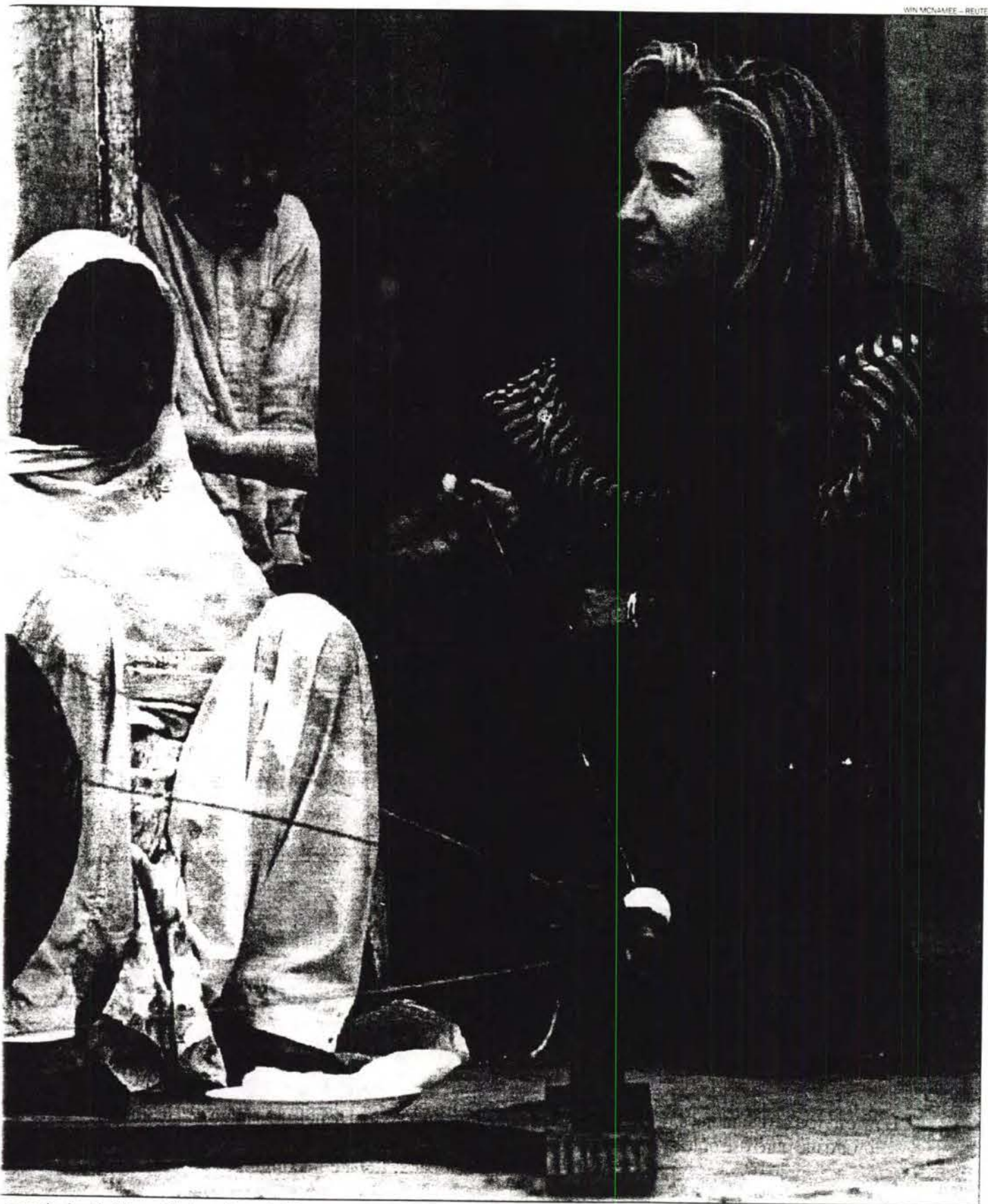
She had started the week with a dose of self-deprecating humor back home. In a video that her supporters produced for Washington's glitzy Gridiron dinner, she portrayed a female Forrest Gump, complete with syrupy Southern accent and simplistic aphorisms. "My mama always told me the White House is like a box of chocolates," she drawled, borrowing the movie's most famous line. "It's pretty on the outside, but inside there's a lot of nuts." Her in absentia spoof was a smash. "Hillary," said California Gov. Pete Wilson, "was dynamite."

Like her husband, she has come to understand that self-deprecation is an essential virtue of public life. Says a friend of the Clintons: "It brings them down to scale when they can laugh at their weaknesses and show they don't think they have all the answers." Some see the first lady's new humility as an attempt to soften her image just as another presidential election cycle begins. And that it may be. But there's no mistaking the fact that her sense of limits is in line with America's conservative mood. The wonder is that it took her so long. □ BY KENNETH T. WALSH

ONE WEEK



Goodwill tour. In Pakistan, Mrs. Clinton



WIN MCNAMEE - REUTER

consulted with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, wore a traditional Islamic scarf to a mosque and watched a villager work a loom.

Firebombs Across Germany

In central Germany, police arrested four Kurdish militants in connection with a string of fire bombings targeted at Turkish property across the country. Over the past month, more than 100 Turkish travel agencies, stores, banks, newspaper offices, mosques, cultural centers and meeting halls in 15 German cities have been hit by Molotov cocktails. Officials suspect the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party, which has waged an 11-year war for an independent Kurdish homeland.

Carter Mediates Sudan Truce

Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist government and southern rebels negotiated a truce with the help of former President Jimmy Carter. The two sides, which have been fighting a 12-year war in which more than 1 million people have died, agreed to a two-month cease-fire so that health workers could try to wipe out the parasitic Guinea worm, which causes debilitating disease.

First Lady in South Asia

Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea embarked on a 12-day official goodwill tour of Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The emphasis: promoting the welfare of women and children. Clinton *mère et fille* toured orphanages, schools and a women's cooperative, as well as the fabled Taj Mahal, which Mrs. Clinton termed "just haunting."

Serious Security

Since the attack that killed two U.S. employees of the American consulate in Karachi, Pakistan, the State Department has provided the diplomatic post with armored vehicles as well as a security team to train its employees. A State Department memo obtained by TIME revealed that, in the months before the attack, a previous security-training team had been virtually ignored by the

THE GOOD NEWS

- ✓ The pain reliever ibuprofen can significantly slow lung deterioration in some children with cystic fibrosis, according to a new study. The results were most dramatic in children ages 5 to 13.
- ✓ A test for Parkinson's disease may detect the illness in its early stages, before it affects speech and movement. With earlier diagnosis, researchers say, treatment will be more effective.
- ✓ Testing of gene therapy for prostate-cancer patients will begin soon. The procedure will, in theory, spark the body's immune system to hunt down tumors that spread from the initial growth in men who have already had surgery.

Sources: GOOD—New England Journal of Medicine; University of Arizona; AP; American Cancer Society; Johns Hopkins University; AP
BAD—New England Journal of Medicine; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Emory University

HEALTH



REPORT

THE BAD NEWS

- ✓ Women who spend four hours or less on their feet each day incur double the average number of hip fractures; so do those whose mothers suffered a hip fracture, a study of almost 10,000 women shows. Taking sedatives for many years, consuming caffeine and losing weight also increase the risk.
- ✓ A federal report has found that children born to uneducated mothers are more likely to be mildly retarded than those born to better-educated women. But researchers also discovered evidence that mild retardation may be both prevented and treated. A program has been announced to help mildly retarded children improve their skills.



Eleven talented moviemakers won Oscars for their contributions to *Forrest Gump*. The number of times each of them thanked certain people—or neglected to—may have unintentionally illuminated Hollywood's pecking order:

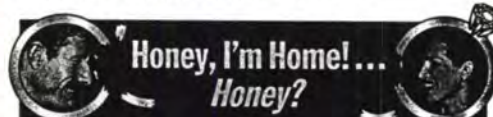
THOSE MENTIONED NUMBER OF THANKS

- **Winners' spouses**... 9
- **Executive Sherry Lansing and "everyone at Paramount"**... 7
- **Director Bob Zemeckis**... 6
- **"The talented cast and crew"**... 5
- **Winners' parents**... 5
- **The film's producers**... 5
- **The Academy**... 4
- **Actor Tom Hanks**... 4
- **Winners' kids**... 4
- **Agents and/or lawyers**... 3
- **Screenwriter Eric Roth**... 2
- **Winston Groom, the novelist whose book inspired the entire project to begin with**... 1

A HAPPY ENDING

“Hoop Dreams has done a lot for me. It got me into Michael Jordan's birthday party.”

—WILLIAM GATES, COLLEGE BASKETBALL PLAYER AND SUBJECT OF THE NOT-ACADEMY-AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY



To the surprise of dozens of Americans, the marriage of Julia Roberts and Lyle Lovett broke up last week. How does their marital tenure compare with other celebrity couples?

Madonna and Sean Penn	10 years
Cindy Crawford and Richard Gere	31*
Mia Farrow and Frank Sinatra	25
Julia Roberts and Lyle Lovett	21*
Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio	9
Liz Taylor and Conrad Hilton	8
Shannen Doherty and Ashley Hamilton	7
Catherine Howard and Henry VIII	13 days
Lisa Marie Presley and Michael Jackson	10 (and counting)
*Separated	

TIME Graphic by Steve Hart. Picture: R. Davis—Shooting Star

Hillary, you're welcome

Cordial warmth and hospitality, for which Bangladeshis have proverbial fame, will mark the unofficial but august visit of U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter Chelsea to this country. We sincerely wish her three-day sojourn all happiness, and hope that this will go a long way in further cementing the bond of friendship that bind the North American people and their government headed by President William Jefferson Clinton to that of ours. The first visit to Dhaka by a U.S. First Lady, this is the fourth leg of Hillary's 12-day five-country tour of South Asia. It is the remarkable Grameen Bank (GB), an ideal development model for poverty alleviation, founded by Prof Muhammad Yunus that has brought Hillary here. An eminent lawyer, she champions the cause of women and children all over the world. And this is why we pin much hope on her future contributions to banish poverty from this planet.

The story of Hillary, says Donnie Radcliffe, is the story of so many millions of Americans whose immigrant ancestors, desperate for change and chance, left the Old Country for a land across the Atlantic promising opportunity and hope. Dignified and socially conscious, Hillary the pragmatist has never taken no for an answer but relished challenge. She knew what she stood for, what her goals were and how to attain them. "I am particularly adamant that whatever we do, we focus on maternal and child health care," said she.

It affords us a good measure of honour and pride that the Clinton family set up a decade ago in Arkansas the Good Hope Fund on the model of the GB, which had its beginning further back in 1976 at Jobra village in Chittagong and was replicated all over Bangladesh as well as in some countries in the East and the West. People of Rishipara or cobblers' colony at the remote Mashihati village under Kaliganj thana in Jhenidah zila, which is not normally visited by any caste Hindu nor by any respectable local person, is agog with enthusiasm to welcome Hillary today who will see for herself economically self-reliant women demonstrating 18 types of income-generating work that has given the GB the rare distinction across the continents. She will also see some schools run by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee.

Prof. Yunus, who says that poverty is the denial of all fundamental human rights, believes that the scourge of poverty can be eliminated from the world once for all. "It does not need additional resources. All it needs is a firm political decision to achieve it. If we are willing, we can ever set a date to make this planet free from poverty," says Prof. Yunus. May his dream come true and let there be smiles of happiness on the lips of every citizen of the world of tomorrow where poverty will be an unknown phenomenon. Let that day come soon.

Friendship is a divine gift. A faithful friend is an image of God, so goes an old adage. According to a scripture, iron sharpeneth iron as a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. Since the independence of this country the United States government has been generously extending its cooperation to our economic development besides humanitarian assistance at times. That a friend in need is a friend indeed was amply proved in 1991 when Gen. Stackpole of the U.S. Army and the military personnel under his command came of immense help to the cyclone-hit millions many of whom would have suffered if timely arrival of relief and succour could not have been ensured.

While we look forward to American assistance in various fields, we believe that as in the past, in future too the United States will at all times stand by the people of this least developed country (LDC) which is beset with many domestic and other problems including the outstanding Ganges water issue which directly affects 40 million people of north-western Bangladesh. Mrs Hillary Clinton will be happy to learn that Bangladesh has been able to overcome the past Kissingerian image of an 'international basket-case' and all other attendants of underdevelopment. After years of one-party rule, martial law, short-lived democracy, martial law again and then the nine-year-long autocracy, the people here have been enjoying parliamentary democracy since 1991. In January last the Euromoney described this country as an Emerging Tiger. At such a stage of our socio-economic development American cooperation will be doubly helpful.

**NEWS CLIPINGS FROM THE FIRST LADY'S TRIP TO
SOUTH ASIA MARCH 24 - APRIL 6, 1995**

FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS

The Frontier Post

Date: March 19, 1995-

Peshawar

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Hillary to discuss regional issues in Asian trip

WASHINGTON (APP) — Mrs Clinton, on her trip to South Asia, would be ready to discuss the entire range of issues affecting relations between the United States and her hosts, depending on their interest, White House spokesman Michael McCurry said at the March 17, White House news briefing.

That would include security issues, including renewal of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, he said, says a press release on USIS issued on Saturday.

Mrs Clinton is scheduled to visit Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka later this month.

"There has been for some time intense interest in having the First Lady visit that part of the world," McCurry told a questioner, including suggestions that her trip "would really advance both bilateral relations ... and then also issues related to regional security and regional peace efforts. I suspect she will have a wide-ranging agenda."

Asked to specify the first lady's role in discussing security matters, he replied, "she will be conversant, as first ladies are when they travel, with the range of issues that exist bilaterally with the countries that she's vis-

iting, and if appropriate will address those depending on what her interlocutors wish to raise."

McCurry said, that in the preparations for the trip, the White House has had "indications that government are interested in exploring a range of issues that exist bilaterally, as they would with any distinguished visitor from the United States." Mrs Clinton will be accompanied by a delegation, possibly including security officials.

Pressed on whether the NPT will come up, he answered, "in that part of the world that is an issue we're very keenly interested in, and I wouldn't be surprised if that subject arises."

In each country Mrs Clinton will meet with women representatives of government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), religious institutions, education, business and the arts. The First Lady will also visit communities to see first hand how men and women are creating a seamless web of services as well as training, educational and economic opportunities which support, empower and nurture children and their families.

"Providing support, rebuilding community and protecting the

future for children and families is vital to the national interests of developing and developed countries alike. Increasingly, the leadership of women plays an important role in shaping practical and effective responses to the global concerns of poverty, lack of educational and employment opportunities, inadequate housing and poor health care," said Mrs Clinton.

In December, Mrs Clinton hosted the symposium on children of the Americas in Miami. The summit participants discussed successful models for addressing the health and education needs of children in the hemisphere. Most recently, Mrs Clinton addressed NGO representative attending the United Nations' World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen and urged governments "to recognise that increasing opportunities for women around the world are essential investments for the future."

The First Lady's tour of South Asia affirms the administration's commitment to sustainable development in the region and underscores America's interest in the social challenges which face families and children all over the world.

Hillary discusses her visit with Maleeha Lodhi



WASHINGTON: US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton who is due to embark on a South Asian trip next week, held a meeting with the ambassadors of the region Monday.

Talking to Dr Maleeha Lodhi, Pakistan ambassador to US, Mrs Clinton said she was eagerly looking forward to her first-ever 2-day visit of Pakistan beginning March 26. She showed keen interest in social sector development activities in Pakistan, particularly women's uplift programmes, health care, literacy, population planning, rural development and provision of clean drinking water.

Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel who will accompany Mrs Clinton was also present in the meeting along with other colleagues from State Department and White House staff.

Meanwhile, Washington Times in a long piece Monday said the American First Lady is visiting a region where the most prominent political leaders are women despite the dominant role of men in those Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist societies.

When Hillary Clinton travels to South Asia from March 26 through April 6, she will meet a number of these women. The paper gave brief profiles of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Bangladesh's Prime Minister Begum Khalida Zia, Sri Lankan President, Mrs Chandrika Kwnaratunga and her mother and Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Sonia Gandhi, widow of former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi and leading politician nobel peace prize winner of nearby Burma who is currently under arrest.

It said the prominence of Ms Benazir Bhutto, Mrs Kwnaratunga and others is not entirely coincidental. They belong to prestigious families, are well educated, often in the west, and they succeeded fathers or husbands who met brutal deaths. "But these women are not merely surrogates for departed fathers and husbands, but strong willed leaders with ambition and a sense of duty".—APP

The Nation

Date: March 27, 1995 -

Islamabad

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In Hillary's visit, history to repeat itself

By Ishtiaq Ahmad

ISLAMABAD - It was March 26, 1964, when Jacqueline Kennedy, the then first lady of the United States, had visited Pakistan. She was presented a black horse by Field Marshal Ayub Khan, and the Governor of West Pakistan had hosted a dinner in her honour. She was accompanied by her sister.

Coincidentally, Hillary Rodham Clinton, the first lady of the US today, will visit Pakistan on the same date 31 years after Jacqueline's visit. The Punjab Governor will host a dinner in her honour. Whether or not Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto plans to gift Hillary any horse, maybe from amongst her husband Zardari's grand collection of world's most expensive horses, is not yet clear. Hillary will be accompanied by her only daughter Chelsea.

Ever since Bill Clinton's take over of the White House, Hillary has remained quite a controversial figure in America. She has been criticised for acting frequently as the de facto President of the United States.

Some argue that President Clinton has taken many of his drastic domestic reforms decisions, such as those pertaining to health-care, restoration of family values, under the influence of his wife. Others say that she has every right to do so for being the first lady, the fact that the majority of the American people had voted for the person of Clinton not his wife in elections that brought Clinton to power notwithstanding.

Family, work and public service, Hillary says, are three elements of the balance of life she seeks. It's a goal she apparently continues to achieve in her role as President Clinton's closest advisor, strong advocate of women's and children's rights, defender of the arts, and activist for social and educational reforms.

Twice named to the National Law Journal's list of America's 100 best

lawyers, Hillary, 47, is the only first lady in the US history to have had a prestigious professional career as well-established as her husband's at the time of his election to the presidency. (Before becoming president, Mr Clinton was Governor of the Arkansas state).

She was included on the list of America's most powerful lawyers in recognition of her membership on corporate boards and her record as senior partner at an Arkansas law firm where she was an "innovative litigator," says one leading American journalist Garry Wills.

Hillary has spoken out on a range of priority issues for Americans and has been described as "the most important White House advisor on domestic issues." Upon taking office, Mr Clinton made health-care one of his highest priorities and appointed her to head his task force on national health-care reforms.

Hillary Clinton has also been active in the interna-

tional arena and has travelled with the US president on most of his trips abroad, including Russia, France, Japan, Germany and the Philippines.

In South Asia, she will visit Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. Her daughter Chelsea, 16, in the words of Hillary herself, is "someone who is very much part of what we do and in the concerns we share. She had a very good adjustment to living in the White House. Born on October 26, 1947, Hillary entered Wellesley College, near Boston, Massachusetts, where she majored in Political Science. She then enrolled in Yale Law School, in New Haven, Connecticut. While at Yale, she met Bill Clinton.

Margaret Williams, chief of staff for the first lady, says, "Hillary encourages everyone to give their opinion. She does not like people tip-toeing around her. She is clear that it's important that people tell her what is working. It's even more important that people tell her what is not working."



THE MUSLIM

Date: March 22, 1995

Islamabad

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Hillary interested in Pakistan social issues

WASHINGTON, March 21 (APP): US First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton has said she is interested in discussing what is being done positively in Pakistan to promote education for women and girls and to deal with violence against women.

"I know that the Prime Minister in Pakistan has made that one of her concerns," Mrs Clinton remarked during an interview with CNN. She was responding to a call on phone from Harlet Chaudhry from The Hague who wanted to know if she would inquire about human rights situation in Pakistan during her upcoming visit next week. The First Lady is reaching Islamabad on March 26 on a two-day visit to begin a trip to five nations of the South Asian region.

Mrs Clinton said the US State Department deals with human rights issues around the world all the time. She said the United States has been a very active participant in putting forth concerns about human rights in many countries and at the United Nations conference in Vienna.

Pressed further if she was bringing up human rights as an issue in Islamabad, Mr Clinton said "I do not intend to bring that up. That is not something that is on my list of issues to address. There are many other people who worked on those issues a very long time all over the world who have the portfolio and the responsibility."

Asked why not, Mrs Clinton replied: "Well, because there are many issues that I am interested in. I am interested in particularly what is being done positively in Pakistan to promote education for women and girls, to deal with violence against women, which I view as a human rights issue. And I know that the Prime Minister of Pakistan has made that one of her concerns. So I would like to see before I go telling anyone about anything, I would like to learn a bit more. I have never been to South Asia before. And the people who deal with human rights and other issues in the administration are experts and they should do so."

Pakistan Observer

Date: March 22, 1995-

Islamabad

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Hillary to take up women issues during visit

WASHINGTON (APP)—US first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has said she is interested in discussing what is being done positively in Pakistan to promote education for women and girls and to deal with violence against women.

"I know that the Prime Minister in Pakistan has made that one of her concerns", Mrs Clinton remarked during an interview with CNN.

She was responding to a call on phone from Harlet Chaudhry from Hague who wanted to know if she would inquire about human rights situation in Pakistan during her upcoming visit next week. The first lady is reaching Islamabad on March 26 on a two-day visit to begin his trip to five nations of South Asia region.

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The Nation

Date: March 22, 1995

Islamabad

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More than just a First Lady

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD—America's 47-year-old first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in many ways is a departure from her predecessors at the White House.

Hillary Clinton is an accomplished woman in her own right: a noted

lawyer, a strong advocate of women's and children's rights, an activist for social and educational reform and a devoted mother.

Recognised as one of her country's most powerful and 100 best lawyers, she is America's only first lady to

See page 4

More than just a First Lady

From page 1

have had a successful professional career at the time of her husband's election to the presidency.

The first lady's chief of staff said in a *Washington Post* interview that she "is a person of faith" and "that makes her solid."

"So, sometimes you may not agree with her, but you know that she's acting from that place, and it allows you to follow her leadership."

Hillary Clinton's powerful personality has made her role as America's first lady a subject continuing debate in the American print and electronic media.

The first lady is particularly interested in health-care and women-related issues.

In 1993 President Bill Clinton appointed her to head his task force on national health care reform.

Her commitment to women's empowerment is clearly reflected in her addresses on various occasions. Most recently it was at UN World Summit

on Social Development in Copenhagen that she called on governments "to recognise that increasing opportunities for women around the world are essential investments for the future."

At the World Summit, she also announced a fresh US initiative to combat female illiteracy in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

As the first lady of Arkansas, Hillary Clinton remained involved in public service activities. In recognition of her professional and personal accomplishments, she was named Arkansas Woman of the Year in 1983 and Arkansas Mother of the Year the next year.

Time and again she has underscored the need "to find the right balance in our lives."

Being a career woman, the first lady, a mother and an activist, she continues to seek this balance herself. However, she defines her "first responsibility" as doing "whatever my husband would want me to do that he thinks would be helpful to him."

Born in Chicago, Illinois, the first lady got her law degree from the prestigious Yale Law School. At Yale she met Bill Clinton, a fellow student. She married him in 1975.

The Nation

Date: March 22, 1995

Islamabad

Page: 1

Hillary's visit to be packed with activity

By Qudssia Akhlaque

ISLAMABAD — Hillary Clinton's two-day visit to Pakistan, her first ever, will be packed with activity.

America's First Lady who starts her South Asian visit with Pakistan will be visiting Islamabad and Lahore. Her long itinerary includes receptions, meetings, visits and sightseeing tours.

She will land in the capital city early morning on March 26 (Friday). She will be received at the airport by the Prime Minister's Special Assistant Shehnaz Wazir Ali and a host of senior government officials and American diplomats.

Foreign Secretary's wife, Rana Sheikh, will be the lady-in-waiting.

The first lady's 35-member entourage includes her 15-year-old daughter Chelsea, her only child, and the Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel. Security experts, journalists and a few low-level functionaries of the US State Department will be accompanying her. Hillary Clinton and her entourage will stay at Islamabad's only five-star hotel where special security arrangements are being made.

During the day she will call on the President and Prime

Minister. The first lady also plans to visit a Basic Health Unit in Chak Shehzad or Attock.

Sightseeing plans for the first lady include visits to Shakarparian, where she will plant a tree, Daman-e-Koh,

and Faisal Mosque. There is also a possibility of her being entertained to Pakistan International Airline's unique Air Safari to the Karakorams. The Turkish President was treated to the Air Safari aboard PM's special aircraft during his recent visit here.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will host lunch for her. The 'chosen ones' will flock the PM House to meet the first lady.

In the evening the first lady will be hosting a reception at the Ameri-

can Ambassador's residence. Invitations have already been dispatched. Invitees are prominent citizens including a sizable number of women.

The next morning (Saturday) Hillary Clinton will leave for Lahore where she will spend an equally busy day. After calling on the Governor of Punjab and the Chief Minister she will take a tour of the historic city. Earlier in the day she will visit the Burki Village on the outskirts of Lahore.

Later in the evening she will spend two hours at the Lahore University Management of Sciences (LUMS). The first lady will take a tour of the prestigious university that receives US \$11 million from USAID about

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Hillary's visit to be packed with activity

From page 1

couple of years back. Later she will address a select gathering at a reception hosted by LUMS at its campus.

American security corps have been spending long hours with the university's administration staff, working out the logistics of the first lady's visit.

The grand finale will be at the Lahore Fort where the Governor will be hosting a *Shahi*-style dinner cum cultural show that will end with spectacular fireworks.

The first lady and her entourage will stay at the State Guest House in Lahore. On Sunday morning they will leave for New Delhi.

Bad news for the hacks. She will not be holding a Press conference. And the extremely tight security measures being taken will not allow an easy access to her either.

"There is zero chance that she will be talking to the Press," American Embassy sources told *The Nation*.

An advance American team is already here working on details of the first lady's programme and more, importantly, her security.

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Biography of Hillary Clinton

WASHINGTON (USIS)—Hillary Rodham Clinton served as First Lady of Arkansas for 12 years. During that time, she worked as a full-time partner of a law firm, chaired an education committee that set public school standards in Arkansas, managed a home, and cared for her husband and child. On many occasions, Hillary Clinton has spoken about the need "to find the right balance in our lives". For her, the elements of that balance are family, work and public service.

Hillary Diane Rodham was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 26, 1947, daughter of Dorothy Rodham and the late Hugh Rodham. She and her two younger brothers grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois, as a close-knit family. An excellent student, she was also a Girl Scout and a member of the local Methodist youth group. Hillary enjoyed sports and was always interested in politics.

She entered Wellesley College in 1965. Graduating with high honours, she then enrolled in Yale Law School, where she served on the Board of Editors of the Yale Review of Law and Social Action. There she met Bill Clinton, a fellow student. While at Yale, she developed her strong concern for protecting the interests of children and their families.

In 1973, Hillary became a staff attorney for the Children's Defence Fund. A year later, she joined the Impeachment Inquiry staff

of the Judiciary Committee of the US House of Representatives to work on the Watergate impeachment proceedings.

Hillary left Washington and "followed her heart to Arkansas." She married Bill Clinton in 1975. The couple both taught on the law faculty of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Their daughter, Chelsea, was born in 1980.

As First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary continued to work tirelessly on behalf of children and families. In addition to chairing the Arkansas Education Standards Committee, she founded the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families.

She introduced a pioneering programme called Arkansas Home Instruction Programme for Preschool Youth, which trains parents to work with their children in preschool preparedness and literacy. Hillary also served on the board of the Arkansas Children's Hospital. In recognition of her professional and personal accomplishments, Hillary was named Arkansas Woman of the Year in 1983 and Arkansas Mother of the Year in 1984. Upon taking office, President Bill Clinton made health care one of his highest priorities. He appointed the First Lady to head his Task Force on National Health Care Reform. Like her predecessors, Hillary Rodham Clinton brings to the role of First Lady of the United States her own special talents, experience, style, and interests.



Programme for Hillary's visit finalised

By Tariq Butt

ISLAMABAD: The First Lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton, arriving here on Saturday night for her first-ever visit to Pakistan will have an elaborate programme of visiting different places and meeting dignitaries.

According to the final programme chalked out for her, she will reach here on March 25. The next day she will have coffee with the wife of President Farooq Leghari at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Later, she will meet the Prime Minister and have lunch with her at the PM's House. The lunch will be followed by a colourful cultural programme.

On the same day Hillary Clinton will visit the grand Faisal Mosque where she will be received by the Chairman of the Capital Development Authority, Shafi Sehwani. She

will be conducted around the mosque by Iqbal Ahmad Khan, Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology. The day will end with a reception hosted by the US Ambassador John C. Monjo at his residence.

On March 27, the US First Lady will visit the Islamabad College for Girls, F-6/3 where she will be received by Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister. The principal of the college will conduct her around the institution. There, she will also witness a cultural show.

At mid-day, she will leave for Lahore and will have her lunch on board her special aircraft. Punjab Governor Chaudhry Altaf Hussain will receive her. She will visit a basic health unit, a school and a home in village Burki.

In the afternoon, Hillary Clinton

will visit the Lahore University of Management Sciences and meet members of faculty and students. She will deliver a speech there and plant a tree.

Later, she will visit the Lahore Fort to attend dinner hosted by the Punjab Governor. In the night, she will leave for New Delhi.

This is her first-ever visit to South Asia. Pakistan will be her first stop. She will also visit Sri Lanka. This is the second visit of any US first lady to Pakistan. In 1962, Jackoline Kennedy came here.

Authorities here are taking extraordinary measures for the security of the First Lady and her entourage. Ms Rabin Raphel is also accompanying her. They will stay at a local five-star hotel. A considerable publicity campaign has been built up in the media on the eve of her visit.

Hillary arrives tonight

By Shakil Shaikh

ISLAMABAD: Following 1962 visit of the then US First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton reaches here Saturday night for a 60-hour visit in which the most influential lady will drop ideas of development activities for the welfare of women and health care reforms.

While Foreign Minister Sardar Aseff Ahmed Ali finds no "political significance" of Mrs Clinton's visit to Pakistan, official sources told The News that "the focus of her visit will be on two issues: development activities for the welfare of women; and health care reforms." She is head of the US Task Force on Health Care Reforms.

On the first working day of her visit, Hillary Clinton will have informal talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto over a luncheon hosted by the latter. "Their talks will mainly focus around the welfare of women in Pakistan and health care, but since she enjoys prestigious reputation in the US as a learned lady the Hillary-Benazir meeting may touch some political issues and bringing back on track the Pak-US relations strained by many issues," said official sources, adding that "Pakistani women who have done exceptionally well in the welfare of Pakistani women will also be present to exchange views with the visiting US Lady."

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Hillary arrives tonight

Continued from page 1

In Islamabad, the US First Lady will also visit a model village, a basic health unit, and Islamabad College for Girls and in her address she will give her personal account regarding welfare of women in the US and their participation in all walks of life.

Accompanied by a 15-member delegation which include her daughter Chelsea, Hillary, 47, will also meet President Farooq Leghari, besides going for sight-seeing and sapling a plant at Shakarparian.

On the second and last day of her visit, she will be in Lahore to visit historic Shahi Fort and the Governor Punjab will host a dinner in her honour. She will have meetings with Punjab Governor and Chief Minister. Hillary Clinton will also address a selected gathering at the Lahore University of Management Sciences and her address is expected to be a guideline both for the government and the NGO people how to carry out their activities pertaining to welfare of women. She is also likely to visit Khyber Pass before leaving Pakistan for her visit to other South Asian countries.

On her arrival, the US First Lady will be accorded red-carpet welcome and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Shahnaz Wazir Ali and several other Pakistani dignitaries and US diplomats will receive her. Wife of the Foreign Secretary Rana Shaikh will be the lady-in-waiting.

The government has made elaborate arrangements to host the US Lady, with tight security to be enforced wherever she will go in Pakistan.

The Frontier Post

Date: March 25, 1995

Peshawar

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Hillary arrives today

F.P. Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD — On her first ever visit to South Asia, the first lady of the United States Hillary Rodham Clinton, is arriving here tonight (Saturday) amid tight security.

Islamabad administration has made extraordinary arrangements for safety of the visiting dignitary and her 43-member entourage, which among others include Ms Rabin Raphel and Chelesa Clinton, daughter of President Clinton.

The administration has been ordered to make tight security arrangements at the PAF Base Chacklala as well at all other

places to be visited by the American first lady during her stay in Pakistan.

The traffic police have been ordered to ensure that the motorcade of the dignitary "is not hampered by the public and the route is kept clear" during its journey from Chacklala to the federal capital.

Special Branch of the Islamabad Police has been instructed to coordinate with the Base Commander's office for free access of all persons deputed for reception and the VVIP cars close to the aircraft on the tarmac for transportation of the dignitary and her entourage.

The Nation

Date: March 25, 1995

Islamabad

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Hillary Clinton arrives today

ISLAMABAD (APP)—First lady of USA, Hillary Rodham Clinton, is reaching Islamabad tonight on a two-day first ever visit to Pakistan.

Hillary is visiting Pakistan as a part of her tour to South Asia to gain first hand knowledge of development activities for the welfare of women in the region, which populates one fifth of the humanity. On the tour she will also visit India, Sri Lanka besides Pakistan.

She will be received at the airport by Prime Minister's Special Assistant, Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Senators, officials and US diplomats. Foreign Secretary's wife Rana Sheikh will be the lady in waiting.

This will be the second occasion that US first lady is visiting Pakistan. It was Jacqueline Kennedy who toured

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Hillary Clinton

From page 1

Pakistan for the first time in March 1962. But it took thirty three years for Pakistan, to again play host to the spouse of the most powerful man in the world.

The first Lady's fifteen-member entourage will include her teen daughter Chelsea, Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphael, Journalists and low level officials of US State Department.

The visiting guest will meet President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan. She is expected to visit a Basic Health Unit in the vicinity of Islamabad. She will go on sight seeing around Federal Capital and plant a sapling at Shakarparian.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, will host a lunch for the distinguished guest.

The Nation

Date: March 26, 1995

Islamabad

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Mrs. Clinton's visit

MRS. Hillary Rodham Clinton, the First Lady of the US, is on a two-day visit to Pakistan as part of a tour of some South Asian countries that will also take her to India and Sri Lanka. The visit has made many people wonder whether it is worth all the excitement that seems to have overtaken Islamabad. After all she holds no public office in her own right, and hence it is unrealistic to expect that she would be able to help resolve, that is if she so desires, the issues of contention which presently bedevil Pak-US relations. She would act according to her brief which, according to reports, is to stay clear of the problem areas and play just the role of a goodwill ambassador. Many Pakistanis who do not know much about Mrs. Clinton may like to compare her with Jacqueline Kennedy who came here some 33 years ago presenting a great image of glitter and glamour but little substance. The fact is that though Mrs. Clinton's interest in matters of appearance is relatively new and does not occupy as much of her time and attention as in the case of the famous Kennedy lady, in terms of intellectual ability, however, she is believed to be a heavyweight at par with her husband. By his own admission, President Bill Clinton relies heavily on the First Lady's opinion on all important issues and concerns facing his administration.

Hence, while in Pakistan, even though Mrs. Clinton may not evince much interest in policy issues, she is the ears and eyes of her husband. Whatever she hears and the impressions she gathers from her meetings with people here may eventually lead to influencing the President's opinion and US policy towards this country. In that context it is good to note that the people she is to meet in Islamabad and Lahore are not only government officials but a wide range of opinion leaders that include women, academics and journalists. These people might discuss issues of interest to her in a perspective that government leaders and officials might want to avoid. Since Mrs. Clinton's areas of interest include children and women's development as also the welfare of less affluent sections of society in her own country, on a personal level, the time she spends here may prove to be a particularly enlightening experience for her.

The Nation

Date: March 28, 1995-

Islamabad

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Hillary Clinton given big welcome on arrival

ISLAMABAD (APP) - A warm and enthusiastic welcome was accorded to the US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton when she arrived here late Saturday evening on a two-day visit to Pakistan.

Hillary is visiting Pakistan as a part of her tour to South Asia to gain first hand knowledge of development activities for the welfare of women in the region, which populates one fifth of the humanity.

At the airport, she was received by Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, MNA, Prime Minister's special Assistant, Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Senators, officials and US diplomats. Foreign Secretary's wife Rana Sheikh will be the lady-in-waiting.

It was raining when Mrs. Clinton's special plane arrived. She was presented a bouquet.

This is the second occasion that a US first lady is visiting Pakistan. It was Jacqueline Kennedy who toured Pakistan for the first time in March 1962.

The first Lady's fifteen-member entourage includes her daughter Chelsea, Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphael, journalists and officials of US State Department.

The distinguished guest is scheduled to meet President Farooq Ahmed Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. She is likely to visit a Basic Health Unit in the vicinity of Islamabad. She will go on sight-seeing around the Federal Capital and plant a sapling at Shakarparian.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will host a lunch for the distinguished guest.

She is also scheduled to visit Lahore. She will spend two hours at the Lahore University of Management Sciences and address a select gathering at the University campus.

The Frontier Post

Date: March 26, 1998

Peshawar

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Letter

Welcome, Hillary!

Sir—On the eve of the arrival of first lady of the United States to Pakistan, the whole tour programme must already have been chalked out. One of the places where the honourable guest is likely to be taken is the historic Khyber Pass. I am certain that H. Clinton would be surprised to know that FATA is perhaps the only region of the world where people have no right to vote unlike the rest of their countrymen. This area is in dire need of social sector development. In the not-so-distant past all the VVIPs were also taken around to some of the Afghan refugee camps where all the dignitaries invariably expressed their solidarity with the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Now that the Cold War is over, thanks to the struggle of these hapless refugees, the West particularly the United States has forgotten them despite the fact that the problem of Afghanistan still persists.

Regarding the nuclear issue, it is the Americans who first invented, produced and used the atomic bomb against Japanese in the Second World War. Who is a bigger criminal, the United States or Pakistan who is developing nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and out of its security needs?

GULZAR WAZIR,
Peshawar.

The Frontier Post

Date: March 26, 1995

Peshawar

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Hillary given rousing reception

ISLAMABAD (APP) — A warm and enthusiastic welcome was accorded to the US. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, when she arrived here late Saturday evening on a 2-day first-ever visit to Pakistan.

Hillary is visiting Pakistan as a part of her tour to South Asia to gain firsthand knowledge of development activities for the welfare of women in the region, which populates one fifth of the humanity.

At the airport, she was received by Mr. Asif Ali Zardari MNA, prime minister's special assistant, Shahnaz Wazir Ali, host of senators, officials and US diplomats. Foreign secretary's wife Rana Sheikh will be the lady-in-waiting.

It started raining heavily as Mrs Clinton appeared the special plane. She was presented a bouquet.

The Pakistan Times

Date: March 26, 1995

Islamabad

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Hillary's visit

American First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, currently on a two-day visit to Pakistan, has a multi-faceted personality which epitomises an admirable balance between her domestic responsibilities as a mother and a housewife and her public role as spouse of the US President. Born in 1947 in Chicago, Hillary Rodham Clinton was educated at such prestigious institutions as the Yale Law School and the Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar. From early youth, she has been associated with healthcare, housing and primary education projects, earning deep respect and admiration in her hometown Arkansas. She pioneered welfare projects like the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families and the Home Instruction Programme for Pre-School Youth. She also served on the board of Arkansas Children's Hospital. In recognition of her professional and personal accomplishments, Hillary Rodham Clinton was named Arkansas Woman of the Year and Arkansas Mother of the Year in early 1980s. On the strength of her long experience in welfare and community work, President Clinton, upon assuming the august office, appointed the first lady as head of his task force on national healthcare reform.

Unlike her many predecessors, Hillary Rodham Clinton wields considerable influence on the US policy-making process through being a close confident and trusted advisor of the president. That is why the Clinton White House has already had a distinct imprint of Hillary. Her choice of South Asia as the area of her itinerary reflects the deep interest she has in the region. Accompanied on her current tour by Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel, the American First Lady is scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on a variety of issues for forging closer Pakistan-US ties. The opportunity for the face-to-face dialogue between the American First Lady and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is being billed in diplomatic circles as a ground-preparing exercise for the latter's forthcoming visit to the United States. Viewed in context of the important position she enjoys in the US decision-making process, her current visit to Pakistan symbolises the recent improvement in Pak-US ties following growing realisation among the Administration high-ups of the inherent injustice of discriminatory laws like the Pressler Amendment, the blanket application of which has proved to be patently counter-productive. It is to be hoped that the American First Lady's visit to Pakistan will serve as a harbinger of closer and fruitful relations between Washington and Islamabad.

The Pakistan Times

Date: March 26, 1995

Islamabad

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Hillary Clinton given rousing welcome

ISLAMABAD, March 25: A warm and enthusiastic welcome was accorded to the US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, when she arrived here late Saturday evening on a 2-day first-ever visit to Pakistan.

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It started raining heavily as Mrs. Clinton appeared the special plane. She was presented a bouquet.

This is the second occasion that a US first lady is visiting Pakistan. It was Jacqueline Kennedy who toured Pakistan for the first time in March 1962.

The First Lady's fifteen-member entourage includes her daughter Chelsea; Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel, journalists and officials of US State Department.

The distinguished guest is scheduled to meet President Farooq Ahmed Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. She is likely to visit a Basic Health Unit in the vicinity of Islamabad. She will go on sight seeing around Federal Capital and plant a sapling at Shakarparian.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, will host a lunch for the distinguished guest.

She is also scheduled to visit historic city of Lahore and witness sprawling lawns and 'dewans' of the Shahi Fort.

The First Lady will meet Governor and the Chief Minister of Punjab. She will spend two hours at the Lahore University of Management Sciences and address a selected gathering the University campus. —APP

Pakistan Observer

Date: March 26, 1995

Islamabad

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PWA welcomes Hillary

ISLAMABAD (PPI)—Progressive Women Association (PWA) welcomes US first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. PWA is an organisation working on women issues, the basic target of 1995 is to create awareness and eradication struggle of domestic and social violence on women.

The US first lady's visit is focusing on development activities for the welfare of women and health care reforms, "as she is the head of US task force on health care reforms. The Pakistani women expect that as the most influential lady would certainly be very interested to know the problems and issues of her gender where she is visiting.

The chief co-ordinator of PWA Shahnaz Bukhari said, "more than 50 per cent female population of Pakistan, besides all the issues of political and other discriminations, gender segregation and oppression, are the victims of acts of violence. 79 stove burnt women victims, is the data collected in 8 months from only 2 hospitals of the twin cities; this is an alarming number.

Pakistan Observer

Date: March 26, 1995

Islamabad

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Hillary arrives to a warm welcome

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She is also scheduled to visit historic city of Lahore and witness sprawling lawns and 'dewans' of the Shahi Fort.

THE MUSLIM

Date: March 26, 1995

Islamabad

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Rains dampen Hillary's welcome

MOBARIK VIRK

ISLAMABAD, March 25: A heavy cloud burst minutes after the landing of the plane carrying the first lady of the United States of America, Hillary Clinton, dampened the 'warm welcome' arranged by the Pakistani authorities to receive the distinguished guest.

As soon as the stairs were put into place and all the arrangements were set with spouse of the Prime Minister, Asif Ali Zardari, waiting at the foot, a heavy downpour lashed down, which disturbed all the arrangements.

The security, including the one arranged by the Americans themselves, was highly alert and they even didn't allowed the press photographers to change their positions despite heavy rain.

Mrs Clinton came out of the plane under the cover of an umbrella and was ushered into the waiting limousine which whisked

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Hillary arrives

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her away without any formal ceremonies planned for the occasion.

Meanwhile, to ensure a smooth and unobstructed passage for the motorcade of the VVIP guests, Mrs Hillary Clinton, the Islamabad police blocked all traffic on the Islamabad Highway no less than 30 minutes before the convoy was scheduled to pass

through.

The traffic at the busy Faizabad intersection was blocked from all sides by the traffic cops who were much more in a miserable condition as compared with those waiting in their vehicles to get clearance to pass.

The 'prestigious' motorcade finally appeared on the Highway at around 12.30 a.m. and the sight of flashing red and blue lights brought immense relief to the

commoners waiting to go in all directions.

The police guard on duty along the whole length of the Islamabad Highway was particularly in a pathetic state as they had to keep a strict vigil all around under a heavy downpour to ensure 'maximum security' for the distinguished First Lady of the United States of America, Madame Hillary Clinton.

Hillary vows to make new friends

By Anwar Iqbal and Shakil Shaikh

Hillary, Chelsea and umbrella

ISLAMABAD: US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said on her arrival in Islamabad midnight Saturday that she was pleased to begin her South Asian tour from here because Pakistan and the United States enjoyed a long history of friendship.

"Our nations have enjoyed a long history of friendship and shared interests, and for that reason I am especially pleased to begin my visit to South Asia from here," said Mrs Clinton.

She said two weeks were "far too brief a time to absorb the full richness and vitality of this region of the world" but hoped the visit would "help Americans and South Asians gain a greater appreciation of the opportunities and challenges that join us as a global family."

She said in Pakistan she was looking forward to "seeing new places and making new friends." This, she said, would allow her to learn more about the "rich dynamic history and traditions that you have lent to the world".

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari and her special assistant Shahnaz Wazir Ali received Mrs Clinton at the Islamabad airport.

Most of the senior diplomats and parliamentarians, representing all major political parties, were also present.

A heavy rain welcomed the First Lady as she came out of a special US plane. Ignoring the rain, she came forward to receive bouquet from two children waiting for her at tarmac at Islamabad's military airport but some welcome ceremonies had to be shortened because of the heavy downpour. She was driven straight to her hotel from the airport. Her for-



Hillary Clinton with her daughter Chelsea coming down from the special plane on arrival at the Chaklala Airbase. Lightning and heavy downpour accorded her a warm welcome. Asif Ali Zardari, Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali received the distinguished guests.—Photo by Tanveer Shahzad

mal engagements start from today.

Usually visiting dignitaries use Islamabad civilian airport but her plane landed at the nearby military airport because of some security concerns.

The First Lady's 15-member delegation includes her daughter, Chelsea and US Assistant Secretary

of State for South Asia Robin Raphel, besides an entourage of staffers, security agents and members of the press corps.

Mrs Clinton began the first leg of her ten-day five-nation tour of South Asia. Earlier, she had a four-hour

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Hillary vows to make new friends

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stop in Cairo, Egypt before leaving for Pakistan and for other South Asian countries. The visit is the first major solo trip overseas for Mrs Clinton who will highlight US interests in social issues of the developing world during stops in Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Prime Minister Bhutto has arranged a sight-seeing programme and visits to welfare projects for Mrs Clinton. Daughter Chelsea would also accompany Mrs Clinton on some of her visits to schools, mosques and villages.

Seventy-two days younger to Pakistan, Hillary Clinton arrived on a 2-day official visit to Pakistan. Rana Sheikh, wife of the Foreign Secretary, Najmuddin Sheikh will be the lady in-waiting. Mrs Clinton was clad in yellow-rain coat.

Today, Hillary Clinton will have coffee with the wife of President Farooq Leghari at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. She will have lunch with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the PM's House and will witness a cultural show there.

On the same day, she will visit historic Faisal Mosque and plant a sapling at Shakarparian. In the evening, she will host a reception at the US ambassador's residence.

She is visiting Pakistan as part of her tour to South Asia to gain first-hand knowledge of development activities for the welfare of women in the region, which populates one fifth of the humanity.

International
The News
March 26, 1995

Mother, daughter at Faisal mosque

By Tariq Butt

ISLAMABAD: The US first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, visited the grand Faisal Mosque with her daughter Chelsea Sunday and described the magnificent masterwork as a beauty.

"Thank you for sharing the beauty of Faisal Mosque with Chelsea and me and for explaining the answers to our questions," she noted in the visitors' book after having a round of the characteristic architectural embodiment, named after the late King late Shah Faisal and financed by Saudi Arabia.

Both the mother and the daughter put many questions on Islam. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology and Shafi Sehwani, Chairman of the Capital Development Authority, who conducted the tour, answered them. Begum Shehnaz Wazir Ali, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, accompanied the distinguished visitors.

Sehwani presented a pearl-studded necklace to the American first lady, a golden chain to her daughter and a carpet for President Bill Clinton.

As a mark of respect to the holy place, Hillary and Chelsea covered their heads with scarfs. Both made it point to keep the scarfs at their place whenever they slipped down.

They first had a round of the sprawling prayer hall, then moved out in the spacious compound and saw the ablution stands. At the time, the descending sun cast its beams on the mosque and the picturesque lining green Margalla hills.

The security was so strict that even the Chief Commissioner of the Islamabad Capital Territory, Afzal Kahut was not allowed to go inside the mosque when the guests were sitting. He became very angry with the security staff for the refusal. In fact, Kahut had not been security-eared.

The mother and daughter asked more questions about the religious use of the mosque and Islam rather than the architectural masterpiece. They inquired about how many times the prayers were said in a day.

They asked how the ablution was done when water was not available. They were explained about the "ayyamum" (a form of ablution under certain circumstances when water is not available).

They inquired how Pakistani people understand the Quran because it is in Arabic language. They were told that people understand the holy book through its translation.

Iqbal Khan and Sehwani told them that Muslims respect all prophets including the Jesus Christ and their belief is that Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) was the last



US First Lady Hillary Clinton with daughter Chelsea visiting Faisal Mosque on Sunday. Also seen in the picture are chairman CDA Shafi Sehwani, chairman Islamic Ideology Council Iqbal Ahmed Khan and Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali.

messenger of God.

They explained to the mother and the daughter the timing of the five prayers. They highlighted the importance of the calligraphy done in the main prayer hall and said that the calligraphy mirrors the viewer.

The guests asked what time was left for work after saying the five prayers. Sehwani explained that according to Islam, God has sent human beings to this world for "ibadit" and not to make property and assets. "God will reward for their deeds done in this transitional world in the world hereafter."

To another question, they said the main hall of the Faisal Mosque was closed after every prayer. The women can enter the mosque through a separate door. They were told that nobody prays in the high minarets.

About an hour before the arrival of Mrs Clinton, the prayer hall and the adjoining elevated compound was cleared of the people for security reasons. The entire venue was in the control of American security officials and the local police and plain-clothesmen.

During the US first lady's visit to Pakistan, the Americans have been extremely security conscious. Before presenting the gifts to the guests, the CDA Chairman asked the US security personnel to check them. But he was told by them that they even know from where and when these presents have been purchased.

Sehwani said for the last three days, his residence was under strict surveillance by Americans. In fact, much before the tour started, the American officials began collecting information about the officials involved in the visit in any way, he said.

The local policemen shouted at a few dozens of people who were standing on the stairs to have a glimpse of the guests who were strolling in the compound at that time. They were asked to go down to avoid any unpleasant incident.

The News
March 27, 1995

Benazir apprises Hillary of abuses in Kashmir

First Lady praises govt's steps to curb terrorism;
many multinationals to invest in Pakistan

By Shakil Shaikh

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto proved herself a tough pleader of a national cause whenever an opportunity falls and she again did it Sunday when she told US First Lady Hillary Clinton that the core issue of Kashmir should be resolved under UN resolutions.

Availing the opportunity, the prime minister went an extra mile to apprise the US First Lady of two important issues: resolution of core issue of Kashmir between India and Pakistan; and the main irritants in the Pak-US relations — neither supplying the paid-for defence equipment, including crucial F-16s, nor returning the money.

Ms Bhutto raised these questions before Mrs Clinton in formal talks between the two held before the luncheon hosted by the former in honour of the visiting dignitary from Washington. Pakistan side was represented by Secretary Foreign Affairs Najmuddin Shaikh and Additional Secretary Agha Zafar Hilali while the US side comprised Ambassador John C Monjo and Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Robin Raphel. There were also some other low-level officials present there.

According to official sources, Ms Bhutto informed Mrs Clinton about the brutalities being unleashed on women in Indian held Kashmir and gross violations of human rights going on at the hands of Indian security forces. "There is a dire need to resolve this core issue of Kashmir between the two South Asian nations," stressed the premier.

Ms Bhutto indirectly sought Mrs Clinton's help to settle Pak-US issue pertaining to defence purchases. "Pressler has not served the purpose; its a blunt law and even Americans are now realizing that this law is a discriminatory piece of legislation which should go. The Clinton administration should either deliver the equipment or return the money paid for this equipment, which included purchases for three forces," Bhutto told the US First Lady.

While Ms Bhutto touched upon measures her government has taken or being taken for welfare of women, children, eradication of drug menace, population planning, social welfare and campaign against polio, the First

Lady conveyed her and Clinton's admiration to the leadership of the prime minister.

"Specially, the president and I appreciate the measures your government had taken against terrorism and those who believe in violence," Mrs Clinton told Bhutto, according to official sources.

The US First Lady also informed the premier about the enthusiasm in US pertaining to economic policy of her government. "A number of US private investors are showing interest to take up projects in Pakistan and there is tremendous interest to come to Pakistan for investment," she said. The talks between the two lasted for 20 minutes. Following these talks, the two ladies also delivered speeches at the luncheon.

While highly praising Mrs Clinton and her efforts for noble causes, Ms Bhutto termed her a great leader for the cause of health care and cause of children.

"I and the rest of the people of Pakistan have been utterly fascinated by the First Lady's heroic efforts to re-define the role of women in America, to substantively re-structure the responsibilities of the office of First Lady, and to provide caring and sensitive leadership on the key social issues of the modern era."

She described Mrs Clinton as both tough and a great leader. "We too made a frontal assault on institutional discrimination against women in our society," the premier added.

Highlighting the steps her government had taken in different sectors of social welfare, the prime minister said, "We have guaranteed that at least ten percent of all federal bureaucratic jobs will be reserved for the women of Pakistan. And we have established a women's development bank for small female entrepreneurs, a bank run by women for women, where men can keep their money but cannot borrow".

She said we have established special women police stations which were staffed by women. And for the first time in the history of our nation, women jurists are being appointed to the highest courts in our land.

About the future plans of her government, Ms Bhutto

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said her government plans to train a hundred thousand lady health workers to teach family planning and maternal health so that women can make the most fundamental choices of their lives for themselves, and this is just the beginning for a new Pakistan.

In her address, Mrs Clinton said, "Her visit will reaffirm the partnership and friendship between the two countries and also between the people of these countries."

Showing her delight for this opportunity to have the chance to meet some of the women who according to her are breaking new ground, she lauded the role of the prime minister and her leadership. "It has demonstrated clearly that this country, which has got such a great and rich history, has also a great and rich future."

The US First Lady said, "What Ms Bhutto has done to recognize the great potential of this country as being tied with the great potential of its women is something that makes common sense and is giving all of us hope that as we invest in women and girls, we invest in men, we invest in the future, we invest in our society."

She added, "I also want to say a particular word of thanks for your

emphasis on children. It is an emphasis that is the most important in my personal opinion because by investing in the education and health of children, we are saying that the future is worthwhile, that every child will be given the opportunity to live up to his or her God-given potential." She stressed that both the countries should ensure that women assume their rightful place and are given the opportunities to exercise their rights."

The luncheon was attended by about 46 leading women, including seven Americans, while others representing different walks of life. They include Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Noorjehan Panezai, Aisha Jalal, Justice Talat Yaqoob, Kaneez Fatima Yousaf, Akram Khatoon, Shari Rehman, Tahira Mazhar Ali, Madam Noorjehan, Abida Parveen, Asma Jehangir, Hina Gillani, Jugno Mohsin, Amna Paracha, Qulsoom Saifullah, Begum Abbas Khattack, Salima Hashmi, Naveed Azfar, Bilqees Edhi, Noorul Huda, Rana Shaikh, Fiza Junejo, Samina Pirzada, Nasira Iqbal, Parveen Atif, Navid A Rahat, Rehana Seigol, Nirmeen, Shahid Najma Hussain and many others.

The luncheon was followed by a cultural show, where famous Kathak dancer Naheed Siddiqui performed for 20 minutes.



Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto hosted a luncheon in honour of US first lady Hillary Clinton.—Photo by Shahzad

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US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is escorted by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for a lunch hosted by the latter, at the Prime Minister's house in Islamabad on Sunday. — AP/PTI



PWA welcomes Hillary's visit

ISLAMABAD: Progressive Womens Association (PWA) has welcomed US first lady, Hillary Clinton, says a press release. The PWA is an organisation working on women issues and its basic target of 1995 is to create awareness and eradication of domestic and social violence against women, the press release adds.

It says that the US first lady's visit will focus on development activities for the welfare of women and health care reforms, as she is the head of US task force on health care reforms.

The Pakistani women expect that as the most influential lady, Hillary would certainly take interest in the problems and issues of womenfolk of Pakistan.

The chief coordinator of the PWA, Shahnaz Bukhari, said "more than 50% female population of Pakistan, besides political and other discriminations, segregation and oppression, are the victims of acts of violence. About 79 stove-burnt women victims is the data collected in 8 months from only 2 hospitals of the twin cities which is an alarming number."

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A chance for America

The extent of Pakistani elite's self-imposed dependence on the US power structure is being illustrated in gross detail as the date for our elected prime minister's tour of the land of Uncle Sam approaches nearer. In all fairness to the present set of our rulers, however, it must be recognised that the hullabaloo in this case being raised more by the non-governing sections of the elite, particularly the print media, than by the government itself. The result has been that all of Ms Bhutto's seemingly conscious efforts at projecting her forthcoming visit in a more respectable framework of bilateral relations between two sovereign states, have been of no avail.

No, we cannot possibly underrate the epochal significance of the prime minister of Pakistan actually having lunch—in person—with President Bill Clinton—in the White House—on April whatever. Hurray! The do is still on; nothing to worry about. Even the killing of two Americans in Karachi has not changed that. Thank God for it, and let's also pray that none of His acts (or otherwise) befalls in the interim to cast even the hint of a shadow on the grand event. Let's also hope that, unlike the trivial mix-up at the time of General Zia's trip to Washington, President Clinton gets the name of Prime Minister Bhutto's country right.

After all, with so much of democracy going around, who would blame the ever-cheerful Mr Clinton if he were to turn around and ask Ms Bhutto how things were back home in Hong Kong? We have not intended to draw a connection here between Karachi and Hong Kong, nor would that possibly be the case with President Hillary, oops, Bill Clinton. Nevertheless, talking of Karachi, we still need to keep our fingers crossed. "The World's News Leader", yes, who else but the CNN, continues to refer to the city where they shot dead two Americans, as the capital of Pakistan. The only consolation is that news would at times refuse to be led by the nose, even by this leader.

At any rate, the present writer hereby invokes the democratic licence to outrageousness in suggesting that the United States should be more excited than Pakistan at the prospect of Ms Bhutto's visit there. One's audacity in stating this would hopefully make some sense as we proceed below to clarify it. The upshot of the case is that the United States needs Pakistan more than we need them today. We would even go

so far as to state, with full sense of responsibility, that a strong and stable Pakistan can offer the only viable guarantee for the continued politico-economic relevance of the United States—together with Britain, Russian and to a lesser extent France—to the entire Muslim stretch between South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

The tragedy of the moment lies not as much in any Western inability to appreciate this key importance of Pakistan as in this country's own failure to claim the unique position. Having said that, however, it must also be noted that although the West does seem to have a broad realisation of Pakistan's potential in this regard, the former is anything but either helping or encouraging the latter to play its due role. Consequently, the historic opportunity is slipping away. Nor is it an opportunity without an attendant challenge of stability for much of the Muslim world, including Pakistan.

Thus, even as any number of formal policy statements by Washington in recent days have gratefully acknowledged Islamabad's "moderating influence" on other Muslim countries, the United States continues to jeopardise this very role of Pakistan. That is being done through overt as also covert means, both adding up not only to a debilitating effect on Pakistan's current ability to play its desirable role in the Muslim world but also, in effect, to hastening the process of instability in this entire region.

Although the present US agenda for Pakistan is much too multifarious for it to be treated exhaustively in these columns, it is at once striking how Washington has somehow managed to delude itself into believing that the moderate character of this

country (and not just of the present government which it values so much) can withstand all demands and pressures of immoderation.

Unlike the totalitarian 'Islam' of Saudi Arabia at one end and the secularism of Turkey at the other, both of which have been enforced from above, the Islamic moorings of Pakistan have been put in place by the people of this land as a matter of free choice at the time of independence from the British colonial empire. And, as democratic mandates usually go, it was a deliberate decision in favour of moderation as represented in the person of the undisputed leader, the Quaid-e-Azam. The same ethos has time and again been reaffirmed by the Muslim masses of Pakistan at election time.

This essential identity of the Pakistani nation is a sine qua non not only of stability within the country but also, proceeding from the same basis, of Pakistan's exercising a healthy, moderating influence on the Muslim world. There really is no basic contradiction between the demands on this count and the (presumable) Western desire of averting anarchy in the volatile Muslim region between South Asia and North Africa. It is just that the framework of a common agenda for the purpose has to be clearly defined, understood and fully respected by both sides. That is necessary not only to set out the extent but also the ground rules, so to speak, of a partnership which Pakistan has to offer and which is, quite clearly, the only feasible option available to the West.

We can for the present dispense with an account of the potential. As already stated, Washington does appear mindful of it. However, it is the converse side of the darts which needs to be emphasised. That takes us back to the inherently moderate character of this nation which must not be abused one way or the other.

In other words, it is an equally grave mistake to promote religious extremism through the sectarian strife as it is to employ Pakistan as an instrument of the Western militaristic agenda in the Muslim world. Both can backfire and, apart from destabilising this country, can exercise a disruptive influence on the Muslim lands much beyond Pakistan's frontiers. As in this case, a pivotal position can be made to work either way.

That is the threshold on which the foundations of a new relationship between Pakistan and the West ought to be raised if a meaningful beginning toward underwriting stability in the Muslim world is genuinely intended. The inclusion of this caveat of supposition is necessitated by Washington's continued adherence to the self-inflicting blueprint of antagonising Muslim peoples as being exemplified even now through the so-called "double-containment" policy on Iran, not to mention the embargoes on Iraq and Libya.

Nevertheless, one can only hope that the new political wave within the United States to reclaim that great nation's interests from whosoever has been holding them hostage, would come to prevail before the world is pushed into an avoidable religious conflagration of unprecedented magnitude.

As for Pakistan, the dilemma of the US in transition has already been brought to the fore through the simultaneous working of two conflicting tracks. On the one hand, Washington has of late shown a remarkable understanding of Islamabad's security concerns as also of this country's "moderate" character. On the other, Pakistan continues to be subjected to any number of destabilising influences.

However, given the larger stakes involved in Pakistan's strength and stability, there is no room for such ambivalence. Nor does the fast radicalising situation in large parts of the Muslim world, not excluding Pakistan itself, allow much time. It is thus that the forthcoming visit of the Pakistani prime minister to the United States offers a landmark chance—not in terms of a photo opportunity for Ms Bhutto, but for America to translate the pivotal importance of Pakistan into a mutually respectable partnership for peace and stability in the world.

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... All smiles ...



Hillary Clinton accompanied by her daughter Chelsea with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her two children, Bilawal and Bakhtawar.—Photo by Tanveer Shahzad

Hillary no longer a stranger to locals

By Mariana Baabar

ISLAMABAD: Hillary Rodham Clinton, the First Lady of the United States, visiting Pakistan on a 2-day official visit stresses need to further strengthen friendship between the two countries.

Expressing her appreciation for the warm hospitality she and her daughter Chelsea received, Mrs Clinton said this was very important specially for her daughter.

When a journalist pointed out that her's was a more interesting visit to cover than writing about the nuclear issue she was quick to respond saying, "There are many more substantial issues rather than politics. This is what I will focus in Lahore. Issues like women, children, health and other issues".

Mrs Clinton was speaking at a reception she hosted Sunday at the residence of US Ambassador John C Monjo. Amongst those the US First Lady had invited and were introduced to her by Monjo, were the COAS General Abdul Waheed, CJCS Farooq Feroze Khan, and the chiefs of Air Force and Navy who appeared quite eager to meet their hostess.

Only the prime minister and president whom Mrs Clinton had met earlier in the day were absent. Everyone else, including Asif Ali Zardari, Begum Nusrat Bhutto and several cabinet ministers were also invited.

Amongst the guests who had specially flown into the federal capital was Asma Jehangir.

The opposition was represented by deputy leader of opposition, Gohar Ayub Khan, who was accompanied by his ever charming wife Zeb Ayub. Leader of the opposition Nawaz Sharif had declined to attend.

Clad in a black shalwar kameez with gold embroidery and doppatta, Mrs Clinton took out time to meet each and every one of the 200 guests present on Sunday night. There was a special hug and kiss for her college friend, Spentha Kandewalla who was present with her husband and brother. Spentha said she was recently in Washington on a special invitation from Hillary where she had organised a weekend meeting where professional women got an opportunity to meet each other. "The topic was women in the year 2000".

Mrs Clinton for whom public relations appears to come easy had something interesting to say to each one of them and thankfully she was wearing flat black shoes as she spent hours standing on her feet meeting her guests. As someone remarked, "She has done wonders for relations between the two countries and Bill Clinton should be thankful to have a special ambassador like her".

Mrs Clinton had a 20-minute one-to-one meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and amongst other

topics that came up was the setting up of a special bank for underprivileged people. One of her aides said, "There was instant connection between Ms Bhutto and Mrs Clinton. Both are strong women who have faced adversaries. There was instant rapport between them".

When asked about her meeting with Ms Bhutto, Mrs Clinton who was listed as one of the top 100 lawyers of the US replied, "She was wonderful and the meeting was absolutely wonderful".

But like all mothers Hillary didn't exactly know where her daughter was at the moment when someone asked for her, "Well I don't know where she is exactly but she is having a tremendous time".

Also present were Robin Raphel and two senior members of her entourage — a senior executive at the World Bank and another at US aid.

Even the Americans in town were surprised in the subtle manner in which the secret services around the First Lady operated. "They must simply be the best in the White House. Not once did they make us feel as if we were potential terrorists".

It is to be recalled that when Hillary Clinton's schedule was finalised, the US First Lady soon started receiving presents from American Pakistanis, including shalwar kameez.

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In her address, Mrs Clinton said, "Her visit will reaffirm the partnership and friendship between the two countries and also between the people of these countries."

Showing her delight for this opportunity to have the chance to meet some of the women who according to her are breaking new ground, she lauded the role of the prime minister and her leadership. "It has demonstrated clearly that this country, which has got such a great and rich history, has also a great and rich future."

The US First Lady said, "What Ms Bhutto has done to recognize the great potential of this country as being tied with the great potential of its women is something that makes common sense and is giving all of us hope that as we invest in women and girls, we invest in men, we invest in the future, we invest in our society."

She added, "I also want to say a particular word of thanks for your

emphasis on children. It is an emphasis that is the most important in my personal opinion because by investing in the education and health of children, we are saying that the future is worthwhile, that every child will be given the opportunity to live up to his or her God-given potential." She stressed that both the countries should ensure that women assume their rightful place and are given the opportunities to exercise their rights.

The luncheon was attended by about 46 leading women, including seven Americans, while others representing different walks of life. They include Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Noorjehan Panzai, Aisha Jalal, Justice Talat Yaqoob, Kaneez Fatima Yousaf, Akram Khatoon, Shari Rehman, Tahira Mazhar Ali, Madam Noorjehan, Abida Parveen, Asma Jehangir, Hina Gillani, Jugno Mohsin, Amna Paracha, Qulsoom Saifullah, Begum Abbas Khattack, Salima Hashmi, Naveed Azfar, Bilqees Edhi, Noorul Huda, Rana Shaikh, Fiza Junejo, Samina Pirzada, Nasira Iqbal, Parveen Atif, Navid A Rahat, Rehana Seigol, Nirmeen, Shahid Najma Hussain and many others.

The luncheon was followed by a cultural show, where famous Kathak dancer Naheed Siddiqui performed for 20 minutes.

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Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto hosted a luncheon in honour of US first lady Hillary Clinton.—Photo by Tanveer Shahzad

THE MUSLIM

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Hurdles in US investment in Pakistan being removed

Benazir briefs Hillary on F-16s, Kashmir issues

AROOSA ALAM

ISLAMABAD, March 26: In a prelude to her forthcoming visit to the US, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto received from the American First Lady Hillary Clinton, assurance of stepped-up economic cooperation. The Clinton administration was framing policies to remove hurdles in the way of the US investment in Pakistan, said Mrs Clinton.

The visiting US First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton had 20-minute talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at PM House here Sunday. Foreign Secretary Najamuddin Sheikh and Additional Secretary Zafar Hilaly were present in the informal talks from Pakistanside while the visiting First Lady was accompanied by Ms Robin Raphel and the US Ambassador to Pakistan, John C Monjo.

Official sources told The Muslim that the Prime Minister briefed Mrs Clinton on various issues of bilateral interest and explained Pakistan's position on Pressler Amendment. Their discussions covered the whole range of issues concerning the discriminatory amendment. The Prime Minister told the American First Lady that Pakistan wants



US First Lady Hillary Clinton and her daughter Chelsea with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her children in Islamabad on Sunday—Staff Photo by ISHAQUE CHAUDHARY

delivery of F-16s or refund of the amount paid by it to the United States.

Mrs Clinton reportedly told the Prime Minister that the United States administration is framing such policies which could help remove hurdle for US companies' investment in Pakistan despite existence of the Pressler Amendment. She said the US companies were enthusiastic to invest in Pakistan because of attractive package of incentives being offered by Islamabad.

She told the Prime Minister that Clinton has very good views about Pakistan's economic policies. She lauded the steps taken by Pakistan to open up its economy and said President Clinton was anxiously waiting for BB's visit to the United States in April.

According to the sources the Prime Minister also explained Pakistan's position on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation. The US First Lady seemed to be greatly impressed but offered no comments on any of the controversial issues.

The Prime Minister is learnt to have also conveyed Pakistan's serious concern over deteriorating situation in Occupied Kash-

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Benazir

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mir where Indian occupation forces were engaged in massive human rights violations against Kashmiris including women many of whom have been made victim of gang-rape.

She also briefed the US First Lady of Pakistan's principled stand on the Kashmir issue.

The Prime Minister also expressed concern over violence and terrorism prevalent in the country and resolved to take every possible step to eliminate this threat. She again sought United States assistance to deal with this problem. Mrs Clinton lauded the stand taken by the Pakistan Government to deal with violence and terrorism.

Benazir Bhutto told Mrs Clinton that Pakistan was proceeding determinedly to root out the menace of narcotics, an issue of great concern to the United States. In this connection, she referred to the unprecedented haul of heroin, hashish and charas and elimination of heroin factories in Tribal areas.

Later, speaking at a banquet hosted by the Prime Minister in honour of the visiting dignitary, she said her government has launched a frontal attack on institutional discrimination against women in the society.

The Prime Minister recounted the measures taken by her government to improve the lot of womenfolk. She said 10 per cent federal bureaucratic jobs have been reserved for women. A women development bank has been established for small entrepreneurs which is being run by women. Men can deposit money there but cannot take loans.

She said women police stations have also been set up to check domestic violence directed against women.

She said for the first time in Pakistan's history women jurists have been appointed to the highest courts.

The Prime Minister referred to her speech made at the Cairo Population Moot and said she wants a Pakistan where every 'pregnancy is planned and every child is conceived as a nourished life.' She said these were not just hollow words but her government has planned to train 100,000 women health workers in family planning. She said this is just a beginning for a new Pakistan.

She said Pakistan and the United States can work together to lead the world into a new era where people are guided by self-imposed limits to their own dreams.

The Prime Minister paid rich tributes to Mrs Clinton for making heroic efforts to re-define the role of women in America by restructuring the responsibilities of the office of the First Lady. She praised her for providing caring

and sensitive leadership on the key social issues of modern era. She said Mrs Clinton is a role model for girls and women all over the globe.

Mrs Clinton in her address emphasised that she is visiting Pakistan to reaffirm the partnership and friendship between the two countries.

Mrs Clinton said Pakistani nation is a beacon for all of them and it has been demonstrated that Pakistan which has got great and rich history had a bright and rich future.

She said the Pakistan government was doing a lot of work from the extension of primary education to girls to the eradication of polio which is being looked at with admiration around the world. She said as we invest in women and girls, it is an investment in men, in future and in our society.

Mrs Clinton said that much remains to be done in every society to ensure that women assume their rightful place and given opportunities to exercise their rights.

She referred to the Prime Minister's speech in Cairo and described it as an event of great importance. She praised the Prime Minister for doing much to recognise the great potential of Pakistan. She also praised her for playing a leading role in expanding opportunities for women in Pakistan.

AP's adds: The US First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton has said the United States and Pakistan "have enjoyed a long history of friendship and shared interests".

In her arrival statement, she said, while in Pakistan, she was looking forward to seeing new places and making new friends, "and, also to learning more about the rich, dynamic history and traditions that you have lent the world".

Mrs Hillary Clinton said, "Good evening, and thank you for coming out to greet us. Our nations have enjoyed a long history of friendship and shared interests, and for that reason I am especially pleased to begin my visit to South Asia here in Pakistan."

"Two weeks is far too brief a time to absorb the full richness and vitality of this region of the world. But I hope my visit will help Americans and South Asians gain a greater appreciation of the opportunities and challenges that join us as a global family", she said.

"In Pakistan, I look forward to seeing new places and making new friends, and also to learning more about the rich, dynamic history and traditions that you have lent the world. Thank you for affording me this wonderful opportunity to visit your beautiful country", she added.

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Hillary meets outstanding ladies of Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD, March 26: In the colourful surroundings and splendour of the Prime Minister House, some of Pakistan's most distinguished women had the rare opportunity of meeting on Sunday the First Lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The assemblage of over 50 prominent women who have blazed a new trail in various fields of life in Pakistan included politicians, judges of the superior judiciary, writers and poets, pilots, film stars, scientists, lawyers, musicians, painters, educationists, architects, editors and human rights campaigners.

Prominent among them were Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Dr Nurejehan Panezai, Kishwar Naheed, Asma Jehangir, Madam Nur Jehan and her daughter Zil-e-Huma, Ayesha Jalal, Tahira Mazhar Ali Khan, Khalida Rashid, Nasira Iqbal, Talat Yaqoob Sherry Rehman, Jugnu Mohsin, Akram Khatoon, Samina Pirzada, Abida Parveen, Naheed Siddiqui, Bilqees Edhi, Nurul Hudda Shah, Shirin Pasha, Salima Hashmi and Ayesha Rabia.

Some of the prominent women including novelist Bapsi Sidhwa, the former Ambassador Shaista Ikramullah, poet Zohra Nigah, Khawar Mumtaz, lawyer Shaheen Sardar Ali and labour leader Kaneez Fatima had declined the invitation but without giving any reason.

At the banquet table, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto sat to the left of Hillary Clinton while Begum Nusrat Bhutto was on her right.

Prime Minister Bhutto was dressed in white 'Dupatta' and 'Shalwar' and red 'Kameez.' The

Hillary meets

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First Lady was dressed in black long skirt and turquoise jacket. Her daughter Chelsea was dressed in fawn-coloured long skirt and jacket.

On arrival, Mrs Clinton was introduced to the distinguished guests.

Madam Nur Jehan and her singer daughter Zill-e-Huma were introduced to the visiting dignitary by Prime Minister Bhutto. Madam Nur Jehan's introduction was perhaps the longest one. While introducing her the Prime Minister described her as the Nightingale of Pakistan who was a source of pride to the country.

Ms Hillary Clinton apparently well-briefed about the renowned

singer said she had heard about Madam Nur Jehan and Lata Mangeshkar being the top most play back singers of the sub-continent.

The Madam was in an upbeat mood and much elated. While introducing Zil-e-Huma, the Prime Minister said that she was following in the footsteps of her mother.

Prime Minister Bhutto's three children were present in the luncheon.

Giving her impressions about her meeting with Prime Minister Bhutto and the US First Lady, Madam Nure Jehan told The Muslim that she was immensely pleased over the honour bestowed on her by the Prime Minister. She said this was the first time that she was invited to a high-profile state reception.

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Hillary, Chelsea visit Faisal Mosque

ISLAMABAD, March 26 (APP): The US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and her 14-year old daughter, Chelsea, Sunday visited the Shah Faisal Mosque — a landmark of Islamic architecture. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Chairman, Islamic Ideology Council (IIC), Iqbal Ahmed Khan and Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Shafi Muhammad Sehwani accompanied the guests.

The Clinton family is stated to be highly religious, having a particular regard for Muslim rituals and teachings.

The questions they inquisitively asked pertained to the basics of the Islamic teachings and rituals, mainly "the importance of prayer, sanctity of the institution of mosque, prayer timings, Namazis frequenting the Faisal Masjid and if women offered their prayers separately." Later, Ms Lisa Caputo, Press Secretary to the US First Lady, briefed newsmen. Hillary Clinton explained that Clintons believed in the Bible and in the Christ first, "then Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), the (Last) Prophet." She told the newsmen that Chelsea had studied Islam in school. "She, therefore, had knowledgeable questions to ask."

It was 'Zuhr' time. The guests

remained at the mosque for about forty minutes.

Earlier on her arrival at the mosque the US First Lady received a warm welcome. Among others, US Ambassador and Mrs John C Monjo as well as the other members of Mrs Hillary Clinton's entourage were also present.

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ISLAMABAD: Hillary Clinton (R) and her daughter Chelsea pose for photographs at the Faisal mosque here Sunday. — AFP photo

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PM, Hillary discuss Pressler, Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP) — The US first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton called on Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto at the prime minister house Sunday.

The prime minister remained with Mrs. Clinton for 20 minutes, before she hosted a luncheon in her honour at the PM's house.

The distinguished guest said that she and President, Clinton were great admirers of Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto. She said, her husband greatly welcomed the principled stance the prime minister had taken on terrorism and violence.

She also said that there was a great enthusiasm in the United States for the economic policies of Bhutto's government. A number of investors had expressed willingness for investing in Pakistan, she added.

On the occasion, the prime minister informed Mrs Clinton of the measures taken by her government for the uplift of the womenfolk in the society.

She said, Pakistan has also taken ceaseless and effective measures against the drug menace.

The prime minister also informed Mrs Clinton of the various steps taken in the social welfare sector including the massive and successful campaign against polio.

Population planning, she stated, was another priority of the government. A number of steps had been taken to provide higher education to the women.

On Kashmir, the prime minister alluded to the brutalities being committed against the women there. She emphasised the need for a solution of the issue in accordance with the UN resolutions.

On the Pressler Amendment, the prime minister pointed out that US should either supply the F-16s for which Pakistan had paid or return the money.

Speaking at the luncheon, the prime minister said, "it is an honour for me, prime minister of a Muslim nation, to welcome the first lady on her vis-

it to Pakistan and South Asia". She referred to the heroic efforts of Hillary Clinton "to redefine the role of a women in America" — in restructuring the office of the first lady and by providing caring and sensitive leadership on the key social issues of the modern era.

"Women, who take on tough issues" and those touching out new territory, were often on the receiving end of ignorance, she said, quoting from the words of lady Margaret Thatcher.

She described Mrs Clinton as a great leader — "a great leader for the cause of healthcare, a great leader for the cause of children, a great leader, for investing in future, a great leader and a great role model to girls and to the women, all over this planet".

On coming into power 17 months ago, the prime minister said, "we too, made a frontal assault on institutional discrimination against women in our society. We have guaranteed that at least 10 per cent of the federal bureaucratic jobs would be reserved for the women of Pakistan".

In this context, she referred to the establishment of the first women's bank, the special women police stations and induction of women in judiciary.

The prime minister said, both Pakistan and the United States standing side by side "can lead all of the world into a new era — an era, where people are only constrained by the self-imposed limits of their own dreams".

"The name of lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has earned a special place of honour in the history. Mrs Clinton is a symbol to all women, everywhere — in the East and in the West". Women can run corporations and households. They can be great lawyers and still be great mothers, she said.

She compared Hillary Clinton with Eleanor Roosevelt. "It is my honour to welcome you into our homes and into our hearts", she added.

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■ Pressler Law, Kashmir figure in talks Benazir, Hillary dream women world order

ISLAMABAD (APP)—Visiting US First Lady Hillary Clinton Sunday said, "Women are breaking new ground, availing new opportunities" everywhere in the world.

Speaking at a luncheon hosted in her honour, she described Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as "beacon for all of us."

She said, Pakistan not only had a rich past but great future ahead.

"And we are especially pleased to reaffirm the partnership and friendship between our two countries, and also between the people of our two countries", she said.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in her speech said her government remained committed to uplift of the womenfolk and healthcare of the child, as of the other less privileged sections of the society.

She referred to the in hand programme to train 100,000 lady health visitors in Pakistan, who would prove instrumental in ex-

tending medical aid and facilities to the mother and the child. The population welfare is a sector which is being given importance, she stated.

She referred to the heroic efforts of Hillary Clinton "to redefine the role of women in America" — in restructuring the office the first lady and by providing caring and sensitive leadership on the key social issues of the modern era.

"Women, who take on tough issues" and those touching out new territory, were often on the receiving end of ignorance, she said, quoting from the words of lady Margaret Thatcher.

She described Mrs Clinton as a great role model to girls and to the women, all over this planet.

On coming into power 17 months ago, the Prime Minister said, "we, too, made a frontal assault on institutional discrimination against women in our society.

We have guaranteed that at least ten per cent of the federal bureaucratic jobs would be reserved for the women of Pakistan."

In this context, she referred to the establishment of the First Women's Bank, the special Women Police Stations and induction of women in judiciary.

The Prime Minister referred to her address to the UN Conference on Women and Development in Cairo, last year where she had said "I dream of a Pakistan and of Asia, of a world where every pregnancy is planned and every child conceived, is nurtured, loved, educated and supported. "These were not ideal words", she said, stating my government has planned to train a hundred thousand lady health workers in family planning and maternal health so that women can make their most fundamental choices of their lives for them-

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Women order

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selves. And, this is just a beginning the beginning for a new Pakistan," she said.

The PM said, both Pakistan and the US standing side by side "can lead all of the world into a new era an era, where people are only constrained by the self-imposed limits of their own dreams."

Ms Clinton describing the commonalities between the two countries said, "I find that so much keeps us in common as we move together to define our lives. That, it is much more keeping in common than keeping us separate that we need to emphasise together", she stated.

"And, it is a great privilege to be here with all of you. I also want to thank the Prime Minister, publicly, for her efforts on behalf of women and girls. Not only here in Pakistan but around the world. Your speech in Cairo was an historic event of great importance. It was looked to by women all over the world. And, I have heard that as I have travelled and visited with women. What you have done to recognise the great potential of your country being tied with the great potential of its women is something that makes common sense and is giving all of us hope that as we invest in women and girls, we invest in men, we invest in future, we invest in our society", she said.

Referring to the Prime Minister's emphasis on children, Ms Clinton said, "it is most important in my personal opinion. Because, by investing in the education and the health of children, we are saying that the future is worthwhile. That, every child will be given the opportunity to tie up to his or her God-given potential. I know, much

remains to be done in every society, both in our countries to ensure that women assume their rightful place and are given the opportunities to exercise their rights." She said, she was very optimistic by what I see happening in the world.

Earlier the Pressler Law, Kashmir dispute, government's crusade against marco-barons, measures to eliminate terrorism and strategy for uplift of women in Pakistan came under discussion when Hillary Clinton called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the Prime Minister House Sunday. During the meeting which lasted twenty minutes, Ms Clinton greatly admired the Prime Minister and appreciated the policies of her government.

Ms Clinton told Bhutto that her husband welcomed the principled stand taken by her on terrorism and violence. Referring to the economic policies of the government of Pakistan, the US First Lady said the willingness expressed by the American investors to invest in Pakistan was reflective of the keen interest being evinced in the United States about the economic policies of the Pakistan government.

Bhutto reiterated Pakistan's desire to have cordial and warm relations with the US.

On Kashmir, Bhutto briefed Ms Clinton about the atrocities being committed by the Indian security forces against the innocent Kashmiris in held Kashmir and called for the solution of the problem in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Exchanging views with the distinguished guest on the implications of the Pressler Law on Pakistan, the Prime Minister reiterated that the United States should either deliver the F-16s for which payment had already been made or return the money.

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United States First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton shares a joke with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto during a luncheon hosted in her honour by the latter at the PM House Sunday.—Pakistan Observer photo by Tariq Aziz (More photos on City Pages)

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Hillary evokes new spirit at Faisal Mosque

MUJTABA AKHTER

ISLAMABAD—US First Lady Hillary Clinton along with her daughter Chelsea Sunday visited the artistically designed, Faisal Mosque to enjoy the panoramic view by having a close look at the resplendent white holy place.

Security measures in and around the mosque were tightened against any possible trouble. All roads and lanes leading towards the Faisal mosque were cordoned off by the police in plain clothes. The special security officials who took the entire control of the area did not even allow entry to the Imam of the Mosque Dr Anis Ahmad during the First Lady's visit. A swelling crowd of faithfuls were made to step out of the mosque against their wish to offer prayers there. The police in plain clothes didn't permit Islamabad Chief Commissioner Kahut to reach the scene either. He stood as solemnly as a stone and then staggered wearily looking everywhere except the Mosque.

An excited hush fell over the three top Pakistani figures as Ms Clinton and her daughter reached the scene. Chairman CDA Shafi Sewhani, Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister and Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology Iqbal Ahmad Khan looked excited as they watched the distinguished guests.

Dressed in ankle-length dark blouse and green shirt, the plumpish, pleasant-faced Hillary walked in the Mosque with her head cover with a *dopatta*. Clutching at a shawl, the elegantly dressed Chelsea also wrapped her honey coloured-haired as she entered the holy mosque. "Hey its fantastic"... shouted Chelsea as she looked up at the minarets. Both the mother and daughter were impressed. A clutch of camera lenses snapped Chelsea's high voltage smile and her pretty face that flushed with excitement.

Blinking in amazement both the mother and daughter praised the beauty of the Mosque. Young Chelsea who treated life as a merry-go-round has rich knowledge of Islam. She chose Islam as

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Hillary

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her favourite subject during her study at school.

During her visit she bent down to touch the holy place of Mosque as mark of respect. Ms Clinton and her daughter spent 35 minutes in the mosque. CDA chief Sewhani presented them a gold-necklace, a precious carpet and some costly gifts. The two respected females left the mosque after which Namazis were allowed to enter for prayers.

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US first lady Hillary Clinton escorted by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for a walk after lunch hosted in honour of the former by the latter at Prime Minister House on Sunday.—Pakistan Observer photo by Tariq Aziz

The Pakistan Times

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Stance on Kashmir

(Continued from page 1, col. 7)
UN resolutions.

On the Pressler Amendment, the Prime Minister pointed out that US should either supply the F-16s for which Pakistan had paid or return the money.

Speaking at the luncheon, the Prime Minister said, a number of schemes had been taken up in hand to ameliorate the lot of the women, which had remained neglected over the past.

She referred to the in hand programme to train 100,000 lady health visitors in Pakistan, who would prove instrumental in extending medical aid and facilities to the mother and the child.

She referred to the heroic efforts of Hillary Clinton "to redefine the role of women in America"—in restructuring the office of the First Lady and by providing caring and sensitive leadership on the key social issues of the modern era.

"Women, who take on tough issues" and those touching out new territory, were often on the receiving end of ignorance, she said, quoting from the words of lady Margaret Thatcher.

She described Mrs. Clinton as a great leader—a great leader for the cause of healthcare, great leader for the cause of children, a great leader, for investing in future, a great leader and a great role model to girls and to the women, all over this planet.

"On coming into power 17 months ago, the Prime Minister said, "we too, made a frontal assault on institutional discrimination against women in our society." We have guaranteed that at least ten per cent of the federal bureaucratic jobs would be reserved for the women of Pakistan".

In this context, she referred to

the establishment of the First Women's Bank, the Special Women Police Stations and induction of women in judiciary.

The Prime Minister said, both Pakistan and the United States standing side by side "can lead all of the world into a new era—an era, where people are only constrained by the self-imposed limits of their own dreams."

"The name of lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has earned a special place of honour in the history. Mrs. Clinton is a symbol to all women, everywhere—in the East and in the West". Women can run corporations and households. They can be great lawyers and still be great mothers, she said.

Speaking at the luncheon hosted in her honour, she described Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as "a beacon for all of us". She said, Pakistan not only had a rich past but a great future ahead.

"And we are especially pleased to reaffirm the partnership and friendship between our two countries, and also between the people of our two countries", she said.

The US First Lady said, during her stay in Pakistan, he would have the opportunity to meet some of the women who have excelled in various fields.

"Thank you for warm welcome, and thank you for your leadership. Leadership on behalf of your nation which has been such a beacon to all of us, as it has demonstrated clearly that this country which has got such a great and rich history, has also a great and rich future. And, we are especially pleased to be here to reaffirm the partnership and friendship between our two countries and, also, and between the peoples of our countries", Hillary Clinton said.

"I find that so much keeps us in common as we move together to define our lives. That, it is much more keeping in common than keeping us separate that we need to emphasise together", she stated.

"And, it is a great privilege to be here with all of you. I also want to thank the Prime Minister, publicly, for her efforts on behalf of women and girls. Not only here in Pakistan but around the world. Your speech in Cairo was a historic event of great importance. It was looked to by women all over the world. And, I have heard that as I have travelled and visited with women. What you have done to recognise the great potential of your country being tied with the great potential of its women is something that makes common sense and is giving all of us hope that as we invest in women and girls, we invest in men, we invest in future, we invest in our society", she said.

Referring to the Prime Minister's emphasis on children, Mrs. Clinton said, "it is an emphasis that is most important in my personal opinion. Because, by investing in the education and the health of children, we are saying that the future is worthwhile. That, every child will be given the opportunity to live up to his or her God-given potential. And, the work that you are doing from the extension of the primary schooling to girls, the eradication of polio—all of it, is being looked out with great interest and admiration. I know, much remains to be done in every society, both in our countries to ensure that women assume their rightful place and are given the opportunities to exercise their rights".

She said, she was very optimistic by what "I see happening" in the world.—PPI/APP

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Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto along with First Lady Hillary Rodham and her daughter Chelsea coming out of Prime Minister House after the lunch which the Premier hosted in honour of US First Lady.—PT Photo by Iqbal Zaidi

US First Lady eulogises Pak policies PM reiterates stance on Kashmir, Pressler law

ISLAMABAD, March 26: The Pressler Law, Kashmir dispute, government's crusade against narco-barons, measures to eliminate terrorism and strategy for uplift of women folk in Pakistan came under discussion when the US First Lady Hillary Clinton called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the Prime Minister House on Sunday.

During the meeting which lasted twenty minutes, Mrs. Clinton greatly admired the Prime Minister and appreciated policies of her government.

Mrs. Clinton said her husband greatly welcomed the principled stance the Prime Minister had taken on terrorism and violence.

She also said that there was a great enthusiasm in the United States for the economic policies of Ms. Benazir Bhutto's government. A number of investors had expressed willingness for investing in Pakistan.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister informed Mrs. Clinton of the measures taken by her government for the uplift of the womenfolk in the society. She informed Mrs. Clinton of the various steps taken in this behalf.

She said, Pakistan has also taken ceaseless and effective measures against the drug menace. A law had been passed for seizure of the drugs and a number of major and bold drug confiscation raids had taken place.

The Prime Minister also informed Mrs. Clinton of the various steps taken in the social welfare sector including the massive and successful campaign against polio. Population planning, she stated, was another priority of the

government. A number of steps had been taken to provide higher education to the women. The female graduates were now able to secure various positions and jobs.

The Prime Minister further

elaborated that social amenities are being brought to the villages of Pakistan and in this regard within the next ten years, all Pakistani villages will be electrified.

On Kashmir, the Prime Minister alluded the brutalities being committed against the women in the occupied Kashmir. She emphasised the need for a solution of the issue, in accordance with the

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Hillary Clinton and Chelsea inside Faisal Mosque



Hillary Clinton's security staff and their luggage in the Mosque.—The Nation photos

Hillary, Chelsea visit Faisal Mosque

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD—US First Lady Hillary Clinton and her daughter Chelsea seemed fascinated by the grandeur of Faisal Mosque when they visited the Mosque on Sunday evening.

Obviously, they had been briefed well about the Islamic ethos. With scarfs on their heads, both visited one of the world's biggest mosques barefoot.

Their expressions showed they were mesmerized by its splendour. Wearing a green jacket, Hillary was seen answering inquisitive queries of Chelsea.

Local newsmen never got the chance to know what exactly did Chelsea say about the Mosque. Her staff was extra careful in not letting any news hack go closer than 20 feet. With a rope encircling them, they kept the whole crowd away from them.

Equipped with the high-tech walky talkies, they mistrusted the local security agencies even more. They were kept at a distance of about 40 feet. But then they had reasons to doubt the professionalism of our pot bellied security personnel displayed. So cautious were the US staff that they changed their visit plan on the last minute.

Shahnaz Wazir Ait? looked excessively awed by Mrs Clinton. She

seemed impatient to tell too much in too short a time. CDA Chairman Shafi Sewhami was acting as if he was the man who had built the mosque. The only relaxed person among the team of hosts was probably Iqbal Ahmad Khan, who probably did not have anything at stake to worry about. His only concern as the Chairman of the Islamic Ideology Council was to see that everybody entered the premises barefoot.

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ISLAMABAD: US First Lady Hillary Clinton with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at a luncheon in her honour at Prime Minister House on Sunday.—Staff photo by Mian Khurshid
(More pictures on Pages 2 & 4)

US can help Pakistan for population welfare

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she arrived one hour late. When one guest remarked: "One thought at least the American's would be punctual." Aitzaz Ehsan quipped, "But now they are in Pakistan!" adding "Americans in Pakistan tend not to go by the rules."

When Mrs Clinton made an appearance she surprised all guests with her quick transformation. She was clad in an exquisite shalwar Kameez suit with a matching dupatta that she had bought from a local boutique. She looked stunning and seemed quite at ease in the Pakistani outfit. A picture of charm and elegance, the First Lady captured many hearts.

Overwhelmed by the warm reception she received on the first day of her visit to Pakistan she said: "I want to express my appreciation for the hospitality extended to me and my daughter. This is a very special and important visit."

The First Lady individually greeted all the guests, a gesture that was much appreciated. Endless handshakes and smiles marked the evening. The American security corps were alert but unobtrusive and polite. There was no pushing or shoving.

Shehnaz Wazir Ali, the minister in waiting, also clad in a black outfit stood by Mrs Clinton as she was introduced to the long queue of invitees.

Women activists and NGO representatives were quite visible.

APP adds: The U.S. First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the Prime Minister House Sunday.

The Prime Minister remained with Mrs. Clinton for 20 minutes, before she hosted a luncheon in her honour.

Mrs. Clinton expressed great admiration for the Prime Minister, personally, and for Pakistan, as well as for the policies of the government, said an official spokesman.

The US First Lady said that she and President Clinton were great admirers of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

She said that her husband greatly welcomed the principled stance the Prime Minister had taken on terrorism and violence.

She also said that there was a great enthusiasm in the United States for the economic policies of Benazir's government. A number of investors had expressed willingness for investing in Pakistan, she added.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister informed Mrs. Clinton of the measures taken by her government for the uplift of the womenfolk in the society. She

informed Mrs. Clinton of the various steps taken in this behalf.

She said: "Pakistan has also taken ceaseless and effective measures against the drug menace." A law had been passed for seizure of the drugs and a number of major and bold drug confiscation raids had taken place.

The Prime Minister also informed Mrs. Clinton of the various steps taken in the social welfare sector including the massive and successful campaign against polio.

Population planning, she stated, was another priority of the government. A number of steps had been taken to provide higher education to the women. The female graduates were now able to secure various positions and jobs.

The Prime Minister elaborated that social amenities were being brought to the villages of Pakistan and in this regard, within the next 10 years, all Pakistani villages would be electrified.

On Kashmir, the Prime Minister alluded the brutalities being committed against the women in the Occupied Kashmir. She emphasised the need for a solution of the issue, in accordance with the UN resolutions.

On the Pressler Amendment, the Prime Minister pointed out that US should either supply the F-16s for which Pakistan had paid or return the money.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said here Sunday that her government is committed to uplift living standard of womenfolk and healthcare of the child, as of the other less privileged sections of the society.

Speaking at a luncheon she hosted in honour of the visiting US First Lady Hillary Clinton, at PM House, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said, a number of schemes had been taken up in hand to ameliorate the lot of the women, which had remained neglected in the past.

She referred to the inhand programme to train 100,000 Lady Health Visitors in Pakistan, who would prove instrumental in extending medical aid and facilities to the mother and the child. The population welfare is a sector which is being given importance, she added.

"It is an honour for me, Prime Minister of a Muslim nation, to welcome the First Lady to her visit to Pakistan and South Asia", she said.

She referred to the heroic efforts of Hillary Clinton "to redefine the role of women in America"—in restructuring the office the first lady and by providing caring and sensitive leadership on the key social issues of the modern era.

"Women, who take on tough issues" and those touching out new territory, were often on the receiving end of ignorance, she said, quoting from the words of lady Margaret Thatcher.

She described Mrs. Clinton as a great leader—"A great leader for the cause of healthcare. A great leader for the cause of children. A great leader, for investing in future. A great leader and a great role model to girls and to the women, all over this planet".

On coming into power 17 months ago, the Prime Minister said, "We too, made a frontal assault on institutional discrimination against women in our society. We have guaranteed that at least ten per cent of the federal bureaucratic jobs would be reserved for the women of Pakistan".

In this context, she referred to the establishment of the First Women's Bank, the special Women Police Stations and induction of women in judiciary.

The Prime Minister referred to her address to the UN Conference on Women and Development in Cairo, last year where she had said "I dream of a Pakistan and of Asia, of a world—where every pregnancy is planned and every child conceived, is nurtured, loved, educated and supported". "These were not idle words", she said, stating, my government has planned to train a hundred thousand lady health workers in family planning and maternal health so that women can make their most fundamental choices of their lives for themselves. And, this is just a beginning—the beginning for a new Pakistan", she said.

The Prime Minister said, both Pakistan and the United States standing side by side "can lead all of the world into a new era—an era, where people are only constrained by the self-imposed limits of their own dreams".

"The name of lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has earned a special place of honour in the history. Mrs. Clinton is a symbol to all women, everywhere—in the East and in the West."

Women can run corporations and households. They can be great lawyers and still be great mothers, she said.

She compared Hillary Clinton with Eleanor Roosevelt. "It is my honour to welcome you into our homes and into our hearts", she added.

The Prime Minister and the US First Lady were flanked on the dining table by Begum Nusrat Bhutto, MNA, Dr. Noor Jahan Panzeai, former deputy chairperson Senate; Dr. Kaniz Fatima Yousuf, former vice chancellor, Quaid-

i-Azam University, Begum Akram Khatun, Mrs. Aisha Jalal and Ms. Sherry Rehman.

The other noted ladies attending the luncheon included Ms. Melanne Verveer, deputy chief of staff; Ms. Lisa Caputo, press secretary; Ms. Jan Pierry of world bank and Ms. Rabin Raphael, Assistant Secretary of State from the visiting side; as well as Mrs. John C. Monjo.

From the Pakistan side, the other noted ladies included Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Dr. Mrs. Ashraf Abbasi, Senator Faiza Junejo, Begum Kulsoom Saifullah, Bilquees Edhi, Madam Noor Jahan, Abida Parveen, Asma Jehangir, Naheed Khan, Shahnaz Butt, Aisha Jalal, Madiha Gohar, Samina Pirzada, Noorul Huda Shah, Anita Ghulam Ali, Naheed Azfar, Tahira Mazhar Ali Khan, Jugnu Mohsin, Khalida Rashid Judge of the Peshawar High Court, Mariam Qaisar, Civil Judge Rawalpindi, Asghari Maqsood, Amina Peracha, Rehana Saigal, Victoria Schofield and Kishwar Naheed.

Earlier, the US First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, has said that the United States and Pakistan "have enjoyed a long history of friendship and shared interests."

In her arrival statement, she said, while in Pakistan, she was looking forward to seeing new places and making new friends, "and, also to learning more about the rich, dynamic history and traditions that you have lent the world".

The US First Lady arrived late Saturday evening on a two-day visit of Pakistan, as the head of a 15-member delegation.

Mrs Hillary Clinton said, "Good evening, and thank you for coming out to greet us. Our nations have enjoyed a long history of friendship and shared interests, and for that reason I am especially pleased to begin my visit to South Asia here in Pakistan."

"Two weeks is far too brief a time to absorb the full richness and vitality of this region of the world. But I hope my visit will help Americans and South Asians gain a greater appreciation of the opportunities and challenges that join us as a global family," she said.

"In Pakistan, I look forward to seeing new places and making new friends, and also to learning more about the rich, dynamic history and traditions that you have lent the world. Thank you for affording me this wonderful opportunity to visit your beautiful country," she added.

The Nation

Date: March 27, 1995

Islamabad

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■ Benazir informs Hillary of stance on Valley, F-16s issue

US can help Pakistan in population welfare

■ Pak economic policies, stand on terrorism lauded

By Qudssia Akhlaque

ISLAMABAD – The United States First Lady Hillary Clinton and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto agreed that the US could help Pakistan in the areas of population welfare and human resource development.

During their 20-minute meeting, Mrs Clinton and Prime Minister Bhutto discussed a wide range of issues. Ms Bhutto informed her about her government's initiatives to improve the state of women in Pakistan.

Mrs Clinton was particular interested in learning about the government's efforts to educate the country's female population, and the role of women in Pakistan's development.

She later told this correspondent at a reception that during her current visit she would emphasise the need for investing in human infrastructure, human capital and development of people. "I am going to talk tomorrow

(Monday) in Lahore about these issues," she said.

"The invisible issues are probably the most important issues but not the ones that make headlines," she observed.

Asked if the United States would ever have a woman President, the First Lady said: "I think we will. But probably sometime within the next 20 years." Asked if she would ever run in the Presidential elections, she said smilingly: "Never."

Mrs Clinton believed that the parliamentary system as opposed to the Presidential form of government had done a better job in permitting women to rise to the top. Asked if she for ever run for the Presidential race, she said smilingly: "Never."

America's First Lady Hillary Clinton spent a busy day in the capital city on Sunday.

She started her day by calling on Pakistan's First Lady, Begum Farooq

Ahmed Leghari, at the Awan-e-Sadar and had coffee with her and about 50 women. In the afternoon she attended a lunch hosted by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the Prime Minister House. After lunch she was entertained with a performance by Nahid Siddiqui, Pakistan's famed classical dancer. A host of other well-known artists, including Madam Nur Jehan, Tahira Sayed and Abida Parveen were also invited to the Prime Minister's lunch to meet the First Lady.

From the PM House Mrs Clinton went to the Faisal Mosque.

In the evening America's First Lady hosted a reception at the American Embassy Compound to meet prominent Pakistani citizens. The reception was attended by over 400 people including diplomats.

Mrs Clinton's punctuality was duly noted by guests who were eager to meet the First Lady. Although the host,

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US First Lady Hillary Clinton (L) and her daughter with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her children outside the PM House after the luncheon hosted in honour of Hillary Clinton.—Staff photo

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Mrs Hillary Clinton, The First Lady of United States, being welcomed by Mr Qasim Jafri, General Manager of Islamabad Marriott Hotel, during her stay at the hotel.



Mrs Hillary Clinton with President S. D. Sharma at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday. — HT
photo by Girish Srivastava

Pak raises Kashmir, Pressler with Hillary

ISLAMABAD, March 28 (IANS) Pakistan brought up Kashmir and the Pressler Amendment with First Lady Hillary Clinton, hoping that its view will reach President Clinton ahead of Primary Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit next month.

Mr Clinton travelled to India last night after her two-day visit, her first to the South Asia.

"We attach a great importance to her visit which has created warmth and goodwill in the Pak-US relation," Foreign Minister Sardar Aseff Ahmad Ali said. "It has cre-

ated a good environment on the eve of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States."

Most of the First Lady's engagements were cultural, social and non-political. She tried to get across to the maximum number people in a short time. She watched cultural shows, met politicians, academics and women leaders in different spheres and visited schools, a basic health unit and historical places in Islamabad and Lahore.

However, during her 20-minute meeting with Ms Bhutto, the Prime

Minister briefed her on human rights violations in the "Indian-administrated" Kashmir. "There is a dire need to resolve the core issue of Kashmir between the two South Asian neighbours," Ms Bhutto was quoted as telling the guest.

Another most important issue on which she spoke related to the non-delivery of military hardware and the 38 F-16 aircraft for which Pakistan has paid over \$1.2 billion caused by the application of the Pakistan-specific Pressler law. "It is a blunt

instrument and has not served the purpose. Therefore, it should go. Washington should either deliver the equipment to Pakistan or return the money paid for," the Prime Minister told Mrs Clinton.

Since she is considered as the ears and eyes of her husband, Pakistani officials are hoping she would convey to him what she heard and the impressions she gathered from her meetings, eventually leading to influencing the President's opinion and US policies towards Pakistan.

Hillary goes from cradle to cradle

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 28

The US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton today said the purpose of her visit to India was to learn more about its heritage and culture and that her country had a lot to learn from and share with this ancient civilisation.

India, she remarked, was a marvellous example of love and affection where diverse peoples live in harmony with one another.

Here on the second leg of her five-nation South Asia tour, Mrs Clinton kicked off her three-day sojourn by visiting an orphanage and a school for underprivileged children in the Capital besides getting a first-hand account of issues confronting women in this country.

This was in line with her primary concerns, championing as she has been the cause of women and children and helping them assume their rightful place in society.

Accompanied by her daughter Chelsea, Mrs Clinton warmly cuddled infants at an orphanage run by the Missionaries of Charity. She was escorted by Minister-in-waiting Margaret Alva, US Ambassador Frank Wisner and US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel.

"I'm touched by the sight of these innocents," she said while moving from cradle to cradle during her 20-minute stay in the nursery. Later, Mrs Clinton and Chelsea joined the nuns and inmates in singing a hymn in the courtyard outside the nursery. She then went around the packed children's home and shook hands with the kids attired in their colourful best.

Thereafter, the First Lady was ushered into the chapel by the Sisters for a private prayer session.

Mrs Clinton also met some American couples who have adopted children from the orphanage. She donated beds, heaters and blankets to the centre, saying "it is important to realise that with a lot of love and good organisation and planning, one can take care of orphaned children".

The Missionaries of Charity were also promised a house in Washington to run an adoption centre there.

At a luncheon meeting with some eminent women at Roosevelt House, the residence of the US Ambassador, in the afternoon, the First Lady focussed on social issues concerning women, children and families.

Among those present to hear her views were Mrs Shobhana Bharatiya, film-maker Mira Nair, dancer Mrinalini Sarabhai and Mrs Maya Ray, wife of Indian Ambassador to the US S. S. Ray. She was also acquainted with the issues concerning women in India.

Later in the afternoon, Mrs Clinton went around a school for underprivileged, Prayas Foundation for Integrated Learning. A cultural function was put up by the school, creating an authentic village atmosphere.

Addressing the gathering, she said what has to be kept uppermost in mind is that children are an important resource to the society as a whole. "I love India and will go back with fond memories," Mrs Clinton said amidst applause.

In her speech, she also touched upon the significance being attached to her visit as it was expected to further help develop Indo-US relations.

Groups immediately got up



Mrs Hillary Clinton with inmates of Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Delhi on Tuesday morning. Her daughter Chelsea, is on extreme right. — PTI photo

The Hindustan Times March 29, 1995

Hillary's plea for women's empowerment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

THE FIRST LADY OF the US, Hillary Clinton, was at her scintillating best at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation this morning. She spoke from her heart and sought to bring women to the centre-stage of the development debate. Delhi's glitterati turned up in full force to listen to her.

Mrs Clinton also had an hour-long meeting with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. She then joined him at lunch and continued the discussion. The conversation covered a large number of issues concerning social development. They dwelt on the status of women in the two countries, and spoke of the ways and means of empowering them. Mrs Clinton stressed the need to expand women's access to education, health care and other development sectors.

What would have been a memorable morning at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation was marred by ugly scenes as people fought to get admission into Jawahar Bhavan. The Foundation and the American Embassy had invited far more people than could be seated in the auditorium. People were asked to be in their seats by 10.40 a.m., but by 10.30 a.m. the hall was full.

The outer gates of Jawahar Bhavan were locked, and ministers, MPs and representatives of various embassies were turned away. Angry Welfare Minister Sitaram Kesari was walking away from the auditorium in a huff, protesting loudly, when one of the security guards recognised him and allowed him in. Fifty others, including diplomats, plunged in after him. Renuka Chowdhry, MP, was engaged in a verbal duel, and was seen being jostled. The Minister for Women,

Mrs Basavarajeshwari, was also being pummelled and denied entry, till a woman activist rescued her and pointed out that she was a minister.

There was also pandemonium inside Jawahar Bhavan. While many could not gain admission into the auditorium, others who did get in could not get a seat. Mr Chidambaram could be seen pacing up and down. Many people had to squat in the first-floor verandah of Jawahar Bhavan, and hear Mrs Clinton on a closed-circuit monitor.

But there was pin-drop silence when Mrs Sonia Gandhi stood up to welcome Mrs Clinton. The First Lady spoke about the fast-changing world and the challenges that still remain – of deep poverty and putting people first during the current period of economic and political transition. The vast majority of people, she pointed out, were not prepared with the skills needed in the new

global economy.

"And if consumerism is the primary message being transmitted, the explosion in material expectations will put additional demands on institutions, ranging from the family to the government, that are unlikely to be met quickly or fully."

Though women form 50 per cent of the population, in country after country they have been denied access to education, health services, jobs and political and civil rights. Pleading their case, Mrs Clinton pointed out that "where women prosper, countries prosper".

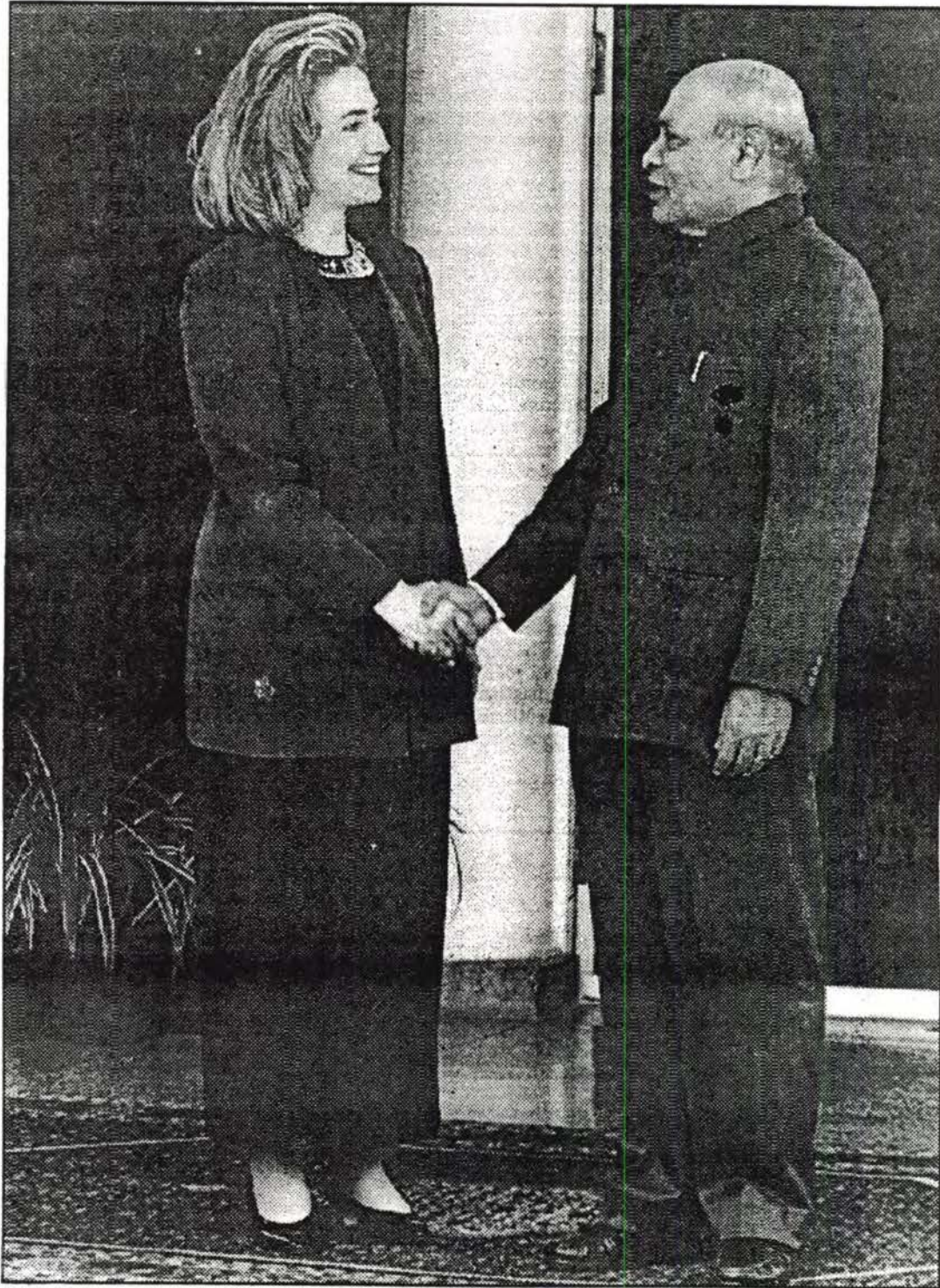
Extolling the many virtues of women's education, and pleading for better health-care facilities for women, Mrs Clinton announced that India would be the first country to benefit from the \$ 100 million USAID Girls' and Women's Education Initiative announced in Copenhagen. An

initial grant to expand girls' education would be provided to NGOs, both American and Indian.

While supporting economic reforms, the First Lady said that they are rarely sufficient to achieve sustainable development. In the US too, she said, there was a debate on the role of government in supplying social services because of the recognition that not all people are equipped to share the rewards of the newly emerging economy.

Mrs Clinton spelt out the five key commitments needed to achieve the goal of social development for women. She asked business leaders to be socially responsible, as depleting natural or human resources could destroy markets and undermine people's confidence in them. Along with government and business, NGOs – with their tenacity and deep sense of commitment – must play a central role in the development process.

Indian Express
March 30, 1995



Hillary Clinton with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao at his residence on Wednesday. Express photo
by R.K. Dayal

Indian Express
March 30, 1995

W DELHI

Metro



IN GOOD COMPANY: Priyanka Gandhi with Chelsea, daughter of US President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton, at the Rajiv Gandhi foundation on Wednesday. *Express photo by R.K. Dayal*

Indian Express

11/11/2010

Girl's poem moves Hillary

Making a point in silence, eloquently

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

TOO many women
in too many countries
speak the same language
of silence.
My grandmother was always silent-
always aggrieved-
only her husband had the cosmic
right
(or so it was said)
to speak and be heard.

These thoughts led a Delhi college girl to pen them in the form of a poem, very aptly named *Silence*. So moved was US First Lady Hillary Clinton that she chose to recite it at a meeting organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation here on Wednesday.

The poem, penned by 21-year-old Anasuya Sengupta, a third year student pursuing a degree in Economics at Lady Shri Ram College, is not about things abstract or mundane — it encapsulates, in very simple but haunting effective words, the plight of the Indian woman.

Anasuya was part of the select audience which had gathered at Jawahar Bhavan to listen to Ms Clinton. She could not believe her ears when the US First Lady started reciting her poem. "I had a feeling that she would use excerpts from my poem in her speech, but I never thought she would read out the entire poem," she gushed.

The words that swayed Ms Clinton were not a result of any painstaking effort by the young poetess. These were the spontaneous outpouring of a woman disturbed by the poor status of women in society. "We had decided to invite Ms Clinton to our college during her visit to the country. But the plan fell through and our principal, Ms Meenakshi Gopinath, hit upon the idea of presenting her a memento instead," Anasuya said, adding, "I was requested to write a poem for the US First Lady as a souvenir."

Daughter of an IAS officer, Anasuya has had an affinity with words since her childhood. "My works have been published in quite a few magazines, especially periodicals catering to children," she mentioned. Her talent in penning off her thoughts came to the fore at the annual poetry competition organised by the cul-



A beaming Anasuya Sengupta with Dr Meenakshi Gopinath, the principal of Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi. Express photo by Sanjay K Sharma

tural division of the British Council. She was the youngest contributor for two consecutive years — 1993 and 1994.

The young poetess attributes her way with words to her parents. "My mother is a noted writer, playwright and educationist.

In fact, she is one of the few people in India who have written plays in English," she claimed, adding that her father, even though a bureaucrat, was a director of plays.

"I would attribute her versatility to her genetics, circumsta-

nces and the college atmosphere," remarked a proud Dr Meenakshi Gopinath, principal of Lady Shri Ram College, about her student. Her words were not wide off the mark. Anasuya was adjudged the best all-round student of the college for the year 1994-95.

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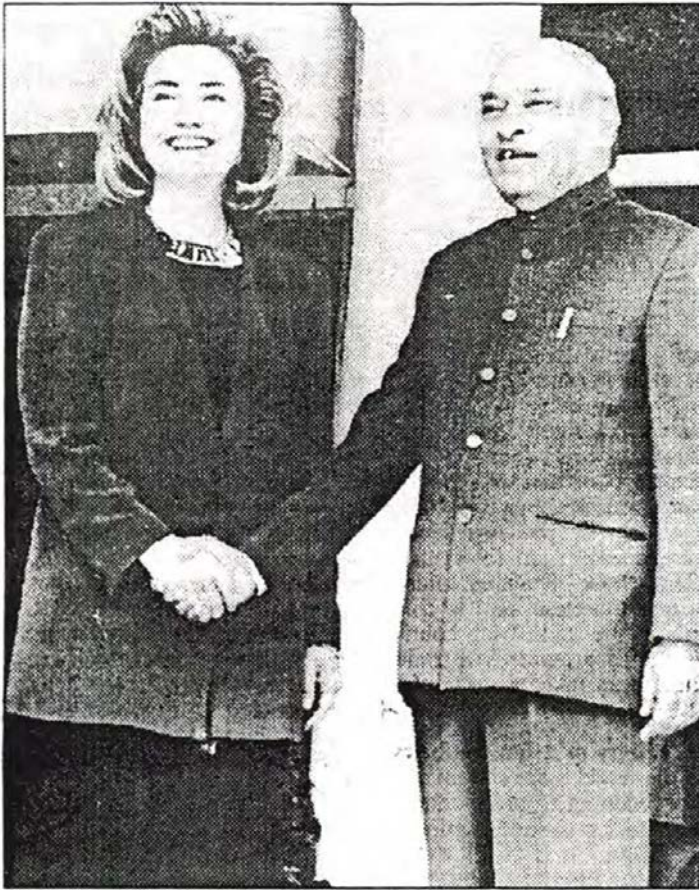
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Indian Express March 30, 1995



Prime Minister Narasimha Rao greeting Hillary Clinton at P M House in New Delhi. FE photo by Sunil Saxena

Hillary harps on social responsibilities

FE NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

The world now needs socially responsible business leadership more than ever, buttressed with the expansion of conditions required for democracy and market economies, United States first lady Hillary Clinton said on Wednesday, laying down a five-point agenda for Governments and businesses to achieve the goal of social development for women.

Clinton, who spoke to a cheering audience at Jawahar Bhawan, headquarters of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, said, every Government must invest more resources in the education and health care of children, especially girls. It should take precedence over competing budgetary demands.

Businesses should be made to increasingly recognise that the social costs of doing business have medium and long term economic consequences. "Depleting natural or

human resources destroys markets and undermines peoples' confidence in businesses. The world needs socially responsible business leadership now more than ever." Hillary told Indian intellectuals, Members of Parliament and diplomats.

The meeting was chaired by Sonia Gandhi, chairperson of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. Late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's daughter Priyanka, who makes rare public appearances, was also present.

The Jawahar Bhawan main hall was jam-packed and the organisers had to put up two close-circuit television sets for those dignitaries who could not be accommodated.

Member of Parliament Renuka Chaudhury was heckled and pushed around by securitymen. Despite her pleas that she was a Member of Parliament and possessed an invitation card issued by the organisers, Chaudhury was not allowed to enter the main gates of Jawahar Bhawan.

Financial Express
March 30, 1995

Taj moves the First Lady

From Vishai Thapar

AGRA, March 30

Emperor Shah Jahan's passionate outpouring of grief in marble at the death of his beloved Mumtaz Mahal, for centuries the icon of romance, so moved the First Lady of the United States of America that it was with obvious regret that she concluded her visit to the Taj Mahal today. "I don't feel like leaving the place," she repeatedly told her hosts.

Resplendent in a magenta dress, Ms Hillary Rodham Clinton went around this ode to endless love, which had prompted a rather impassive Polish President Lech Walesa to say that "Love is very creative, though very expensive" during his visit here last year. But Hillary was made of different timber. For her, it was 90 minutes of pure delight savouring the vision of beauty.

Those expecting quotable quotes from the articulate First Lady, just as the cathartic remark of the Princess of Wales, Lady Diana, in February 1992 at the portals of the mausoleum that the sight was a "healing experience", had to be disappointed, though. All of poise and panache, she went around with daughter Chelsea, escorted by the Minister-in-waiting Ms Margaret Alva, Ms Maya Ray wife of the Indian ambassador to the US, and Ms Achala Moulik, Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

But it wasn't as if the visit was

without its share of drama, spills and frills. Just as Mrs Clinton and Chelsea were posing for photographers and TV crew seated on the marble bench with the Taj in the backdrop, John Gups, an Associated Press photo journalist, fell off the plinth into the fountain pool with an almighty thud. The Lady gasped. There was a flurry of activity, the response typically American. Gups was visibly in pain, had a jackknife, was pulled out to slit his trousers to examine the injury, and was immediately sent away after putting ice packs on his bruises.

Agra District Magistrate Yogesh Kumar and Senior Superintendent of Police Rizwan Ahmed, gallantly escorting the First Lady, were politely asked by protocol officials to stay behind.

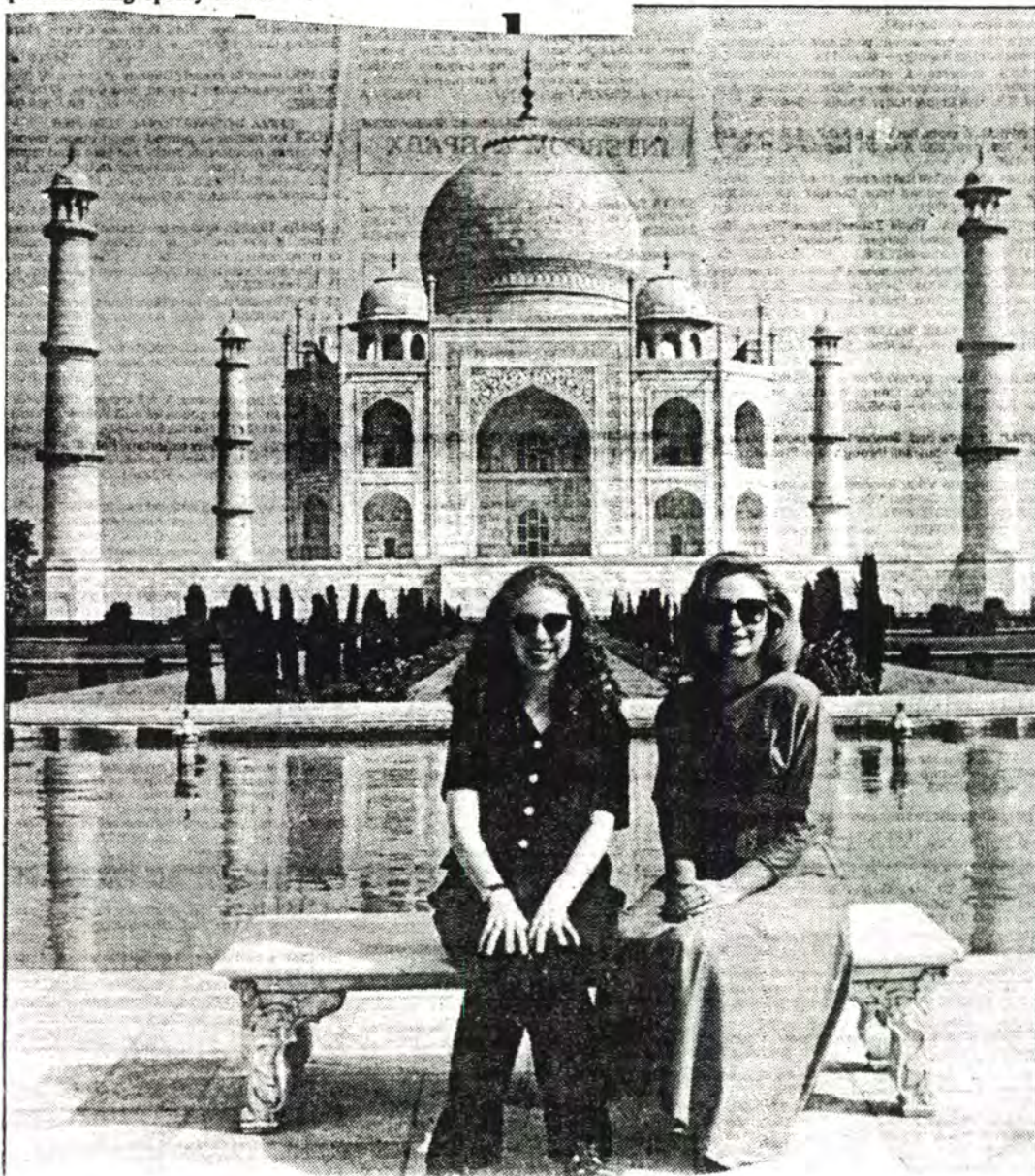
The visitors made no bones about the fact that the tour was an all-American affair. All others were accommodated only to the extent deemed fit. In the light of similar experiences in the New Delhi leg of the tour, the continued denial of access to the Indian Press, the American paparazzi being openly shown

preference for coverage and photo opportunities, left a bitter taste. It left a sneaking suspicion that the visit was aimed more at the American audience than anyone else.

This led to heartburn, and it took some persuasion by the US staff to keep the Indian Press at bay.

There was bonhomie in the American camp. Its journalists had a group photo session with the First Lady, who, in quite a relaxed mood, even shared aguffaw or two with them. However, she enjoyed some quiet moments with Chelsea even in the thick of all the bustle and excitement.

Meanwhile, an unofficial curfew was imposed by the authorities in areas around the Taj this morning. Security arrangements were elaborate. Lawyers seeking the establishment of a High Court bench in Agra also staged a sparse protest, but were detained by the police. Jawans of the 411 Parafield Company of the Army inspected the Taj for explosives before the arrival of the dignitary.



The
Hindustan Times
March 31, 1995

Abominably Yours,

Hillary is coming to town. You mean *our* Hillary? He of Hillary and Tenzing? The lanky one? The one who peers out of New Zealand's five pound note?

Nope. Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady of the United States of America. The lawyer from Little Rock, Arkansas. She of Hillary and Bill. She, you see, of Whitewater.

Well how dare she? To begin with, we have been confused since the day HRC began grabbing the headlines, for since then we have had to re-read all news items to check which 'Hillary' they're referring to. Hillary headlines in the past were always about He Hillary. He might be a New Zealand bee-keeper, and I for one was never invited to even one honey tasting session, but all Himalayans were proud whenever he made news.

Then, three years ago, the other Hillary, the feminine Hillary, arrived to cloud up matters. New Zealand and Himalayan media were no match against the American media jagannath (you mean *juggernaut*? yes I mean *jagannath*). She came up with a health plan to make Americans fighting fit; changed her hairstyle and went classic; posed, some would say suggestively, for *Vogue*; and sat in on policy meetings at the Oval Office. She was steel; a far cry from our mellow giant from Maori country.



Our Hillary

With the headlines she made, the First Lady changed our response to 'Hillary'. The term had always denoted

the gentlemanly ways of the taller one of the Sagarmatha duo. He was not given to steely ways, he brought education to the Sherpa of Khumbu and Solu. He kept his word with Tenzing and refused to divulge info on who topped Chomolongma first.

And then came this woman, Rodham Clinton, with chaos in her wake. It is quite a bitter pill. Our calm, well-ordered lives lay shattered. Hillary never meant Hillary any more. A lady from a little rock of a town in an underdeveloped Midwestern state had managed to dislodge the man who had conquered the biggest rock of them all.

And now, even the *Rising Nepal*, flagship paper of the land of Sagarmatha, gives precedence to Ms. Hillary over Mr. Hillary in its headlines. Hillary the He, though hardly a headline monger, is now reduced to reference by qualification, such as "Sir" Edmund, or Hillary "the Everesteer".

The problem, of course, is not so much Sir Ed's as of the rest of the five billion humanity, which is having to get used to the word all over, just because back in the Sixties at Yale Law School a rising-star Bill Clinton fell for a young woman, surname Rodham.

And why is Rodham Clinton now making a foray into the international arena, I ask you, flying all the way to the Social Summit in Copenhagen and then to South Asia? Hypothesis A: she wants to log the maximum distance between herself and the scandal-sniffing pandits inside the Beltway. Hypothesis B: (following on A) in order to regain her earlier can-do image, Bill's spouse needs all the props she can belay. So, she has come here to raid on the goodwill that exists here for Sir Ed.

HRC needs to show the American audience that she is not the manipulative player *The Washington Post* paints her to be, and that the world beyond the Eastern Seaboard is able to discern her kinder, gentler edges. As I see the scenario



Bill's Hillary

Hillary disproves a rule
WASHINGTON, Dec 31. —
And they say men always
important dates.

Hillary may come for Koraput fe
Hillary praises Bangla non-profit bank

unfolding, it will not be long before Edmund will be invited to endorse Bill's bid for re-election, and our Everesteer might even be invited to stump with the President in the New Hampshire primaries.

Don't do it, Sir Ed! You are made of sterner stuff! You do not need the media and the way the Arkansans do!

Meanwhile, what do we do with HRC as she relentlessly wings her way hither? Together with her visa form, the USA First Lady should be asked to fill the following.

WELCOME TO THE HIMALAYA. KINDLY TICK ONE BEFORE YOU PASS THROUGH CUSTOMS:

- A) CHANGE YOUR NAME
- B) USE 'MRS. CLINTON'
- C) GO UNDER 'MS. CLINTON'
- D) LEAVE THE HEADLINES TO SIR ED BY CONVINCING HUSBAND BILL NOT TO RUN AGAIN.

There is always the possibility that the First Lady will pull rank and diplomatic immunity and refuse to tick any or all of the above. She might cause a diplomatic incident and embarrass a

Communist government which wants so much to be cuddled by Uncle Sam.

If the First Lady will not play ball or jog along, we should fight fire with fire by immediately flying in Sir Ed. Our man can fight the good fight without the aid of spin doctors and photo

opportunities. We have to bring back Edmund the Everesteer, if only to show that we can do without the new, improved marketed version.

Meanwhile, we must head Hillary off at the Lamjura Pass, before she arrives in Khumjung to hug Sherpa children studying in the school built by—Hillary!



Hillary arriving today

By A Staff Reporter

Kathmandu, Mar. 30:

The first lady of the United States Hillary Rodham Clinton is arriving here tomorrow at the start of a three-day visit to Nepal.

Her Majesty Queen Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah is receiving the wife of the U.S. President Bill Clinton at the Tribhuvan International Airport.

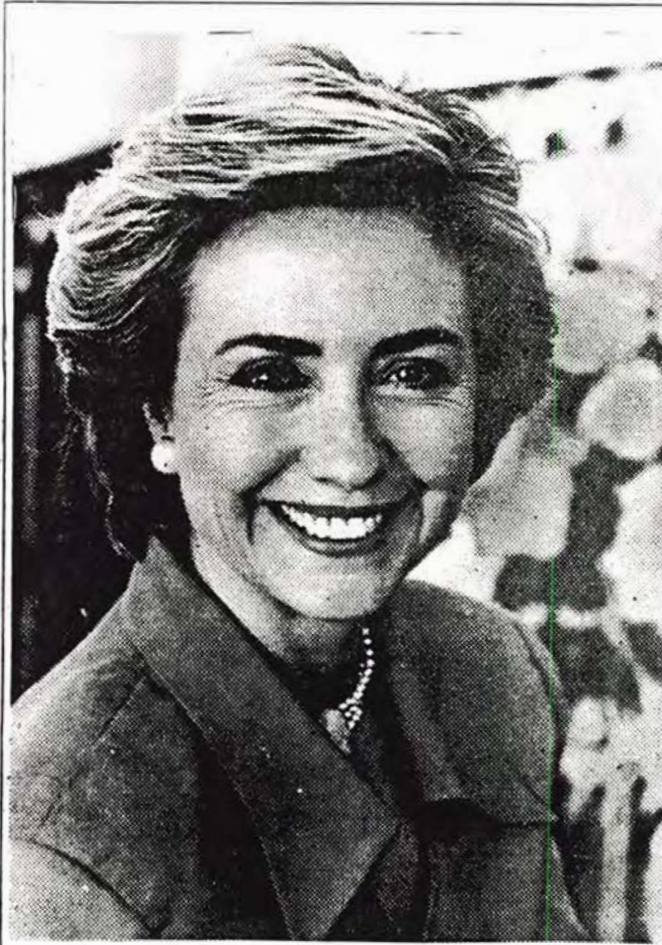
Mrs. Clinton, accompanied by her daughter Chelsea, is currently on a twelve-day tour of five South Asian countries.

Their Majesties the King and the Queen will receive in audience the visiting dignitary at the Narayanhiti Royal Palace later on Friday.

Mrs. Clinton will call on Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari at his office at Singha Durbar the same afternoon.

The first lady will end her first day's hectic schedule in Nepal by attending a tea reception with prominent Nepalese women from various fields. The function is being hosted by U.S. ambassador Sandra Louise Vogelgesang.

During her stay in Kathmandu, Mrs. Clinton is expected to visit several important social and cultural sites, including a health care
See US, Page 8



US First Lady Hillary Clinton

US: First Lady to visit Chitwan

clinic and a women's craft exhibition.

On Saturday, Mrs. Clinton will fly to Chitwan National Park for a private visit.

Mrs. Clinton who speaks about the need for finding the "right balance between family, work, and public service" was born in Chicago, Illinois on Oct. 26, 1947. After graduating with high honours from Wellesley College, she enrolled in the Yale Law School where she was to meet her future husband.

During her time Mrs. Clinton has worked as a full-time partner of a law firm and is one of the few first ladies to have had an independent professional career.

Mrs. Clinton has been very active in issues of children, families and education. After taking office, President Clinton appointed the first lady to head his task force on National Health Care Reform.

Mrs. Clinton will leave Kathmandu for Dhaka on April 2 to start the fourth leg of her South Asia tour. She has already visited Pakistan and India.

The Rising Nepal
March 31, 1995

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Hillary's goals: family, work ,

By Dian McDonald

public service

Washington-Hillary Rodham Clinton's contributions as America's first lady reflect her special talents and interests and also her desire "to find the right balance" in life. Family, work and public service, Clinton says, are the three elements of the balance she seeks. It's a goal she apparently continues to achieve in her roles as the president's closest adviser, strong advocate of women's and children's rights, defender of the arts, activist for social and educational reform, and devoted mother.

Twice named to the National Law Journal's list of America's 100 best lawyers, Clinton, 47, is the only first lady in US history to have had a prestigious professional career as well-established as her husband's at the time of his election to the presidency.

Assessing her role as first lady, Clinton says she is "trying to give people reasons for hope about our future" and "to help in any way I can to support the president" both in "solving the problems America is facing today and in reaching out to people to make them feel involved in the life of our country."

She defines her "first responsibility" as doing "what ever my husband would want me to do that he thinks would be helpful to him". "It may be something of great moment, but more likely it's just to kick back, have a conversation or even play a game of cards and just listen to him ruminate," she said in a US News and World Report interview. "I mean, whatever it takes to be there for him, I think is the most important things I have to do."

Clinton also underscored her desire "to continue working on health-related issues, particularly women's health and matters that affect the research that goes into women's diseases and problems." The first lady also has emphasized her desire to be "a voice for children," declaring that "how we treat our children should be front and center of our national agenda."

Hailing the arts and humanities as "an integral part of what we call America," she is urging the continuation of bipartisan US government support for the nation's culture. In an address to the president's Committee on the Arts and Humanities last December, she said federal cultural funding serves as a

catalyst for the growth of the arts.

The first lady has spoken out on a range of priority issues for Americans and has been described as "the most important White House adviser on domestic issues." Upon taking office, the president made health care one of his highest priorities and appointed the first lady to head his task force on national health care reform in 1993. In that role, she held unprecedented consultations with legislators and a wide range of experts and discussed the issue in congressional testimony for which she was widely praised.

The first lady also has been active in the international arena and has traveled with the president on most of his trips overseas, accompanying him to Japan, Russia, Belarus, Italy, France, England, Poland, Latvia, Germany, Indonesia, and the Philippines. She has addressed issues of global concern and has served as US emissary and spokesperson on missions abroad. Last year she headed the US delegation to the Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway, in February and later attended the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as president of South Africa.

In remarks to the US Embassy staff while in Pretoria, Clinton poignantly described what she had felt when Mandela "spoke of inviting three of his former jailers to come to his inaugural ceremony." He "told us more about himself and his vision of South Africa than probably most of the campaign speeches he made so eloquently during the last months.. That real change must start from the inside first. That we have to change our hearts and our minds before we can change the conditions we find around us," she said.

On another overseas trip, Clinton March 8 addressed the UN World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen where she announced a new US initiative to fight female illiteracy in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In a March 14 address to the UN Conference on Women and the United Nations, Clinton called on the United Nations to play a leadership role in helping women around the world assume their rightful places in society.

"There is no panacea, no magic bullet that will suddenly empower women or free people from the bondage of inhuman living

The Kathmandu Post
March 31, 1995

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conditions," Clinton said. "Progress depends on our working together in partnership to create conditions around the world that enable women, men and children to reach their God-given potentials and flourish within their own families and societies."

Last December, in an address in Miami to the First Ladies' Symposium on Children of the Americas, Clinton urged the nations of the Western Hemisphere to act to guarantee the future of the region's 130 million children.

Clinton, a former member of the law faculty of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, is "one of the more important scholar-activists of the last two decades," says journalist Garry Wills. She was included on the list of America's most powerful lawyers by The National Law Journal in recognition of her membership on corporate boards and her record as senior partner at an Arkansas law firm where she was an "innovative litigator," Wills recalls. "In her fields of estate law, child custody, and children's rights, she was, for instance, the first trial lawyer in Arkansas to conduct the examination by satellite of a witness in a hospital outside the state," Wills notes in an article in The New York Review.

In 1983, as head of the Arkansas Education Standards Committee, Clinton spearheaded an initiative to improve the quality of public education. Appointed to that post by her husband, then governor of the state, Clinton recommended the establishment of teacher competency testing and the state later passed a law, instituted in 1985, allowing teachers to be dismissed if they failed to demonstrate adequate reading, writing, and math skills. In recognition of her educational reforms, Clinton received the Arkansas Press Association's first headliner-of-the-year award in 1984.

While serving as first lady of Arkansas, she also introduced a pioneering programme called Arkansas' Home Instruction Programme for Preschool Youth, which trains parents to work with their children in preschool preparedness and literacy. She was on the board of the Arkansas Children's Hospital and organized the state's first neonatal care unit and a helicopter service, called Angel One, that brought emergency care to people living in outlying rural areas.

The Clintons' 15-year-old daughter,

Chelsea, is interested in dance, especially ballet, and attends Sidwell Friends School in Washington. The president and first lady are grateful that the media, for the most part, have respected their wish that Chelsea be allowed to lead a private life. Chelsea is "someone who is very much part of what we do and in the concerns we share," the first lady said in a Parade Magazine interview. "She's had a very good adjustment to life in the White House. We've actually had more family time together because, as I've told my friends, the president kind of lives above the store, and we manage to have dinner together practically every night."

Daughter of Dorothy Rodham and the late Hugh Rodham, owner of a drapery-making business, the first lady was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 26, 1947. She and her two brothers grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois, a middle-class suburb of Chicago. An excellent student, she enjoyed sports and was always interested in politics.

In 1965, she entered Wellesley College, near Boston, Massachusetts, where she majored in political science. She was president of the student body in her senior year and was the first student in the school's history to deliver a speech at commencement ceremonies. Graduating with high honors, she then enrolled in Yale Law School, in New Haven, Connecticut, where she served on the Board of Editors of the "Yale Review of Law and Social Action." While at Yale, she met Bill Clinton, a fellow student.

Margaret Williams, chief of staff for the first lady, says "Hillary encourages everyone to give their opinion. She doesn't like people tip-toeing around her. That is not her style. One of the things that I like about working with her is that she is clear that it's important that people tell her what is working. It's even more important that people tell their what's not working." She's a person of faith," Williams said in a Washington Post interview. "And it makes her solid and confident. So, sometimes you may not agree with her, but you know that she's acting from that place, and it allows you to follow her leadership."

(USIS feature)

The Kathmandu Post
March 31, 1995 2 of 2

Hillary arriving today

By a Post Reporter

KATHMANDU - The US First Lady Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton is arriving here later today from India for a three-day visit of Nepal as part of a wider tour of South Asia.

Her Majesty the Queen is to receive Mrs Clinton, who is being accompanied by her teen-age daughter Chelsea Clinton, at the airport.

This is the first ever trip to Nepal by a serving US First Lady.

Mrs Clinton has been an active and highly skilled lawyer during most of her public career, especially arguing for children's rights, education and health care.

Born in 1947 Oct in Chicago, she began her public service in Washington, DC, in 1973, but later "followed her heart to Arkansas" where she married Bill Clinton in 1975.

The two had met earlier during their years at Yale Law School. "While at Yale, she (Mrs Clinton) developed her strong concern for protecting the interests of children and their families," her official White House biography says.



US first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

During the 12 years Bill Clinton was governor of Arkansas, Mrs Clinton worked as a full-time partner in a law firm, chaired an education committee, managed a home and cared for her husband and child, the biography adds.

Since Bill Clinton assumed the US Presidency in January 1993, he has made health care reform one of his highest priorities and appointed his wife to head a task force to achieve that goal.

But Clinton's health care package collapsed in Congress last year.

**WE HEARTILY WELCOME & WISH
THE FIRST LADY OF THE
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*The
Kathmandu Post
March 31, 1995*



Gopal Chitrakar/GS

Their Majesties the King and Queen receiving in audience US first lady Mrs. Hillary Clinton at the Narayanhity Royal Palace, Friday.

Hillary arrives to busy schedule

Kathmandu, Mar. 31 (RSS):

United States Ambassador to Nepal Sandy Vogelgesang hosted a tea in honour of U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at Dwarika's Village Hotel this afternoon.

At the function Mrs. Clinton met with distinguished Nepalese women from various walks of life.

On the occasion Mrs. Clinton spoke of the need for improvements in the family life of women.

She has come to Nepal to listen to Nepalese women and learnt what they have to say, she said and lauded the spirit of enterprises shown by them.

Ambassador Vogelgesang said the first lady's visit to Nepal would see exchanges of views and experience she also said mortality rates for women were high worldwide.

Also present on the

occasion were Mrs Sahana Pradhan, Ambika Shrestha, Yanzi Sherpa, Meera Bhattarai, Dr Aruna Uprety, Dr Rita Thapa and other distinguished Nepalese women.

Earlier Mrs. Clinton viewed with interest an exhibition of handicrafts organised at the premises of Dwarika's Village Hotel by Nepalese women entrepreneurs.

At the exhibition the U.S. first lady was presented Dhaka shawl on behalf of WEAN, the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal by Mrs Shyam Badan Shrestha.

The exhibition features handicrafts produced by WEAN, Janakpur Women's Development Centre, Tansen Bead Cooperative, the Deaf Women's Cooperative and Humla Women's Bead Cooperative.

Meanwhile, American first

lady Mrs. Clinton launched distribution of a "safe birth kit" at a health clinic at Kalimati this afternoon.

On the occasion Mrs. Clinton said that the safe birth kit developed by the private sector and approved by His Majesty's Government is of great significance.

Mrs. Clinton acquired information about the health of women and children who come to the clinic for treatment, the use of family planning devices and immunisation.

The first lady was briefed on the activities of the clinic by its managing director Mrs. Pushpa Bhandari.

The Kalimati Clinic established in 1960 by spouses of American diplomats in Kathmandu provides affordable health care for the general public, focussing primarily on preventive health care for

mothers and small children, immunisations, oral rehydration, and family planning.

The clinic currently has over 12,000 registered patients, with 1,000 new patients registered in the first three months of 1995 alone.

Nepal suffers from high infant mortality largely due to unsafe birth practices and Nepalese women have a maternal mortality rate of about 850 per 100,000.

The safe birth kit consists of the basic materials needed in the home, where most Nepalese births occur and is expected to help family members and traditional birth attendants assure that mother and child live.

The kits are produced by a company owned and operated by Nepalese women. The kit, if successful in Nepal, could be produced for use throughout South Asia, according to the United States Information Service.



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The Rising Nepal April 1, 1995

Their Majesties receive Hillary in audience

Kathmandu, Mar. 31 (RSS):

Their Majesties the King and Queen received in audience first lady of the United States of America Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton at Narayanhity Royal Palace this evening.

United States Ambassador Sandra Vogelgesang was also present on the occasion.

Her Majesty welcomes Hillary

Kathmandu, Mar. 31 (RSS):

American first lady Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived here this afternoon by a special jet aircraft on a three-day visit to Nepal.

She was welcomed by Her Majesty the Queen at the VVIP bay of Tribhuvan International Airport. Also present on the occasion was Her Royal Highness Princess Shruti Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah.

Home Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, American Ambassador to Nepal Sandy Vogelgesang and senior officials of His Majesty's Government were likewise present. Accompanying the first lady are her daughter Chelsea and 16 journalists.

Courtesy call

Kathmandu, Mar. 31 (RSS):

US first lady Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Manmohan Adhikari at the latter's office in Singha Durbar today.

On the occasion they discussed matters of mutual interest. Home Minister K.P. Sharma Oli and high ranking government officials were also present on the occasion.

The US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Robin Raphel and US Ambassador Sandra L. Vogelgesang were also present.

Departure

Kathmandu, Mar. 31 (RSS):

Deputy Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal and his entourage left Tokyo for Hong Kong this morning local time, according to the Foreign Ministry here.

They were given a warm send off at the airport by the Japanese Ambassador to Nepal and Mrs. Yoshida, director Yoshihiko Kamo of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and several other officials.

Also present were Charge d'Affaires Purushottam Lal Shrestha and Mrs. Shrestha.

The Rising Nepal
April 1, 1995



**We would like to
extend our cordial
welcome to
U.S. 1st lady**

**Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
in Nepal.**

Garments Association - Nepal

The Kathmandu Post
April 1, 1995

NEWSLINE

Hillary granted audience

KATHMANDU (RSS) - Their Majesties the King and Queen received in audience First Lady of the United States of America Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton at Narayanhity Royal Palace this evening.

United States Ambassador Sandra Vogelgesang was also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile US First Lady Mrs Hillary Clinton paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Manmohan Adhikari at the latter's office in Singha Durbar Friday. On the occasion they discussed matters of mutual interest.

Kathmandu, Saturday, April 1, 1995 (Chaitra 18, 2051)



Her Majesty the Queen receiving Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton upon her arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport, Friday. Also seen in the picture are HRH Princess Shruti and Chelsea Clinton, daughter of US President Bill Clinton.

Post Photo/Bikash Rauniyar

The Kathmandu Post
4/1/95 ~ 22

Queen welcomes US First Lady

By a Post Reporter

KATHMANDU - The US First Lady Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived here at noon Friday from India for a three-day visit of Nepal.

Her Majesty the Queen and Her Royal Highness Princess Shruti received Mrs Clinton, who is being accompanied by her teen-aged daughter Chelsea Clinton, at the airport.

Hillary is the first serving US First Lady to visit Nepal. Her present trip is part of a wider tour of South Asia, having already visited first Pakistan, and then India.

She is scheduled to fly to Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Sunday and from there to Sri Lanka in the last leg of her South Asia tour.

Soon after her arrival here, Hillary dropped in at a Kalimati Clinic run by local women and supported by American Women of Nepal (AWON), a volunteer group, to launch the distribution of "safe birth kit".

An US Embassy press statement released on the occasion says, the affordable, easy-to-use kit is designed to help family members and traditional birth attendants to ensure that mother and child live after delivery.

"This top quality product made its market debut with the visit of the First Lady. The kit, if successful in

Nepal, could be produced for use throughout South Asia", the statement says.

The clinic currently has over 12,000 registered patients with 1,000 new patients registered in the first three months of 1995 alone.

The safe birth kit consists of the basic materials needed in the home, where most Nepalese births occur and is expected to help family members and traditional birth attendants assure that mother and child live.

Despite the tight security surrounding her arrival, Hillary unexpectedly was greeted by a group of United Peoples' Front (UPF) supporters waving black flags as her motorcade was passing Sinamangal, on the way to the city center.

Several of the protesters, including Hisila Yami, leader of UPF women's wing, were arrested by police. They were protesting "US' imperial policies in Peru and elsewhere", a press statement signed by Dr Baburam Bhattarai on behalf of Committee in Support of Peruvian Revolution, Nepal, said.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton also met over tea with prominent Nepalese women and saw local crafts produced by grass-roots organizations devoted to improving the status of women.

(See Queen page 8)

Queen: Clinton

(Contd from page 1)

Visiting The Dwarika Hotel, an historic Newari establishment owned and operated by one of Nepal's few women entrepreneurs, the First Lady met with women politicians, journalists, entrepreneurs, and leaders of prominent non-government organizations (NGO).

In the relaxed hour-long meeting, Mrs Clinton listened to the participants describe their personal experiences as they rose to the top of their professions and the challenges that women in Nepal continue to confront.

The event also featured an exhibit of Nepalese handicrafts produced by cooperatives of women. Mrs Clinton toured the display of six different organizations of women craft producers. The group included the well-known Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (WEAN), the Janakpur Women's Development Centre, the Association of Craft Producers, as well as women's groups from eastern and western Nepal. The local crafts featured included paintings, ceramics, weaving and embroidering.

The Kathmandu Post
4/1/95 1 of 2

Hillary learns how Nepali mothers deliver babies

KATHMANDU, Apr 1: US first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton brought her diplomatic push for better treatment for women on Friday to the mountain kingdom of Nepal, one of the world's poorest and most male centred countries, reports Reuter.

At an airport welcoming ceremony in the shadow of the Himalayas, she was greeted by Queen Aishwarya and her daughter Shruti.

She then plunged into an agenda that included a visit to a health clinic, a luncheon with leading women and an audience with King Birendra.

The wife of US President Bill Clinton, on a 12-day goodwill visit to South Asia with daughter Chelsea, also planned some recreation in Nepal - a private weekend safari at royal Chitwan national park, 110 km (66 miles) south of Kathmandu.

She said the purpose of her two-day visit to Nepal was "not only to experience the natural beauty of this majestic country, but also to gain a deeper understanding of its people and its culture".

Of the 10 highest mountains in the world, nine including the 8,848 metre (29,028 ft) Mount Everest, are entirely or partly within Nepal's borders. It is one of the world's 10 poorest countries.

"Because the status of women and children around the world is of special concern to me, I hope to learn more about the experience of those groups in Nepal and to exchange ideas with women leaders here", Clinton said in a statement.

Nepal, with a population of 20

million is one of only three countries in the world where women have a shorter life expectancy than men.

Their literacy rate is less than 20 percent, compared to about 55 percent for men, and in rural areas they work longer hours than men.

In a remote Himalayan nation where 10 out of every 100 babies die in infancy, Hillary Rodham Clinton visited a clinic Friday where women can get a life-saving little red box to help protect mothers and children.

The "safe home delivery kit" - little larger than a pack of cigarettes - contains a sheet of plastic, a piece of string, a razor blade and soap for use by Nepali women who traditionally give birth at home.

"Something like this, as we know around the world, can make enormous difference if it is available," the first lady said.

Mrs. Clinton, whose 12-day tour of South Asia is centred on the needs of women and children, listened attentively as health experts at the Kalimati Clinic described the sorry conditions under which Nepali mothers often deliver babies.

"All the deliveries are done in unclean situations, and when we say unclean situations, it is really dirty," said Rukmini Charran Shrestha, managing director of Maternal and Child Health Product.

The women-owned company was set up to assemble and distribute the delivery kits, which were developed with support from the Nepali government, aid from the United States and help from private relief groups.

The Independent
April 2, 1995

Warm reception awaits Hillary Clinton today



Hillary Clinton

A warm reception awaits United States First Lady Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton when she arrives in Dhaka today (Sunday) on a three-day unofficial visit, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman and his wife will greet the American First Lady at the airport.

This is the first time that the wife of a President of the United States is visiting Bangladesh.

Mrs. Clinton will arrive in Dhaka from Kathmandu where she flew from New Delhi. Earlier, she visited Pakistan on the first leg of her four-nation South Asian trip.

Mrs. Clinton an eminent lawyer in her country, is involved with different socio-economic welfare activities.

She attended the recent Social Summit in Copenhagen where she made particular mention about Bangladesh in the context of the role by "Grameen Bank" in the uplift of

rural women.

Hillary Clinton will flew to Jessore tomorrow to see some projects of the "Grameen Bank" and the "BRAC". She will visit the ICDDR, B and will have some other engagements.

During her visit to Dhaka, Mrs. Clinton will meet President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

She will also meet woman representatives of government, NGOs, religious and educational institutions, business and the arts.

The American Embassy in Dhaka will host a reception in her honour where she will meet leading political leaders of government and opposition parties, top civil and military officials and community leaders.

She is expected to leave Dhaka on April 4.

By the way

to the capital

of the country

and the party

will stop at Churamankati and

visit primary school at

Uttarpara where nonconventional

education was imparted by BRAC.

She will also visit a

Satellite clinic run by

Concerned Women for Family

Planning.

Then she will visit village

Dogachi to see a projects of

Banchte Sekha working for so-

cio, economic development of

distressed and divorced women.

Here she will enjoy a cultural

programme on legal aid for vio-

lation against women.

Then she will visit

Panchbaria Government

Primary School to see the

achievement of Food for

Education Programme of

Bangladesh Government.

Meanwhile, all necessary

arrangement's have been com-

pleted to accord rousing recep-

tion to Mrs Hillary who will be

accompanied by daughter

Chelsea and high US officials at

every places. Grameen Bank

Prof Yunus, BRAC Executive

Director Fazole Hossain Abed

and others concerned are al-

ready in Jessore to make the

visit of the distinguished Lady

memorable.

The Bangladesh

Times

April 2, 1995

April 2, 1995

April 2, 1995

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April 2, 1995

Jessore waits eagerly for US First Lady

From Jamir Ahmed

JESSORE, Apr 1: United States First Lady Mrs Hillary Chinton will spend busy day in Jessore Monday on the second day of her maiden unofficial visit to Bangladesh to see the socio-economic development of womenfolk in rural Bangladesh initiated by Grameen Bank, BRAC, Banchte Sekha, concerned Women for Family Planning-all NGOs.

On her arrival at Jessore airport in the morning she will be accorded a red carpet reception. From airport she will straight drive to Rishipara of Mashihati under Kalligan thana to see the performance of two units Grameen Bank of villages Mashihati and Phulbari.

She will attend the monthly meeting of Samabaya Samities under Grameen Bank projects and review their achievements.

Here Mrs Clinton will inaugurate an exhibition of handicrafts, knitting bamboo cane products, poultry birds and cattleheads funded by Grameen Bank for economic development of untouchables.

On her way back to Jessore sadar Mrs Clinton and party

will stop at Churamankati and visit primary school at Uttarpara where nonconventional education was imparted by BRAC.

She will also visit a Satellite clinic run by Concerned Women for Family Planning.

Then she will visit village Dogachi to see a projects of Banchte Sekha working for socio, economic development of distressed and divorced women. Here she will enjoy a cultural programme on legal aid for violation against women.

Then she will visit Panchbaria Government Primary School to see the achievement of Food for Education Programme of Bangladesh Government.

Meanwhile, all necessary arrangement's have been completed to accord rousing reception to Mrs Hillary who will be accompanied by daughter Chelsea and high US officials at every places. Grameen Bank Prof Yunus, BRAC Executive Director Fazole Hossain Abed and others concerned are already in Jessore to make the visit of the distinguished Lady memorable.

Diplomatic push in Nepal Hillary to exchange ideas with women

KATHMANDU, April 1: U. S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton brought her diplomatic push for better treatment for women on Friday to the Mountain Kingdom of Nepal, one of the world's poorest and most male entred countries, reports Reuter.

At an airport welcoming ceremony in the shadow of the Himalayas, she was greeted by Queen Aishwarya and her daughter Shruti.

She then plunged into an agenda that included a visit to a health clinic, a luncheon with leading women and an audience with King Birendra.

The wife of US President Bill Clinton, on a 12-day goodwill visit to South Asia with daughter Chelsea, also planned some recreation in Nepal—a private weekend safari at Royal Chitwan National Park, 110 km (66 miles) south

of Kathmandu.

She said the purpose of her two-day visit to Nepal was not only to experience the natural beauty of this majestic country, but also to gain a deeper understanding of its people and its culture.

"Because the status of women and children around the world is of special concern to me, I hope to learn more about the experience of those groups in Nepal and to exchange ideas with women leaders here," Clinton said in a statement.

Nepal, with a population of 20 million is one of only three countries in the world where women have a shorter life expectancy than men.

Their literacy rate is less than 20 percent, compared to about 55 per cent for men, and in rural areas they work longer hours than men.

The Bangladesh Times

April 2, 1995

Encounter with rural Bangladesh

A visit Hillary Clinton is unlikely to forget

by Mahfuz Anam

This writer had a chance to see the programme and events that the US First Lady will see next Monday, during her visit to the Grameen Bank project site.

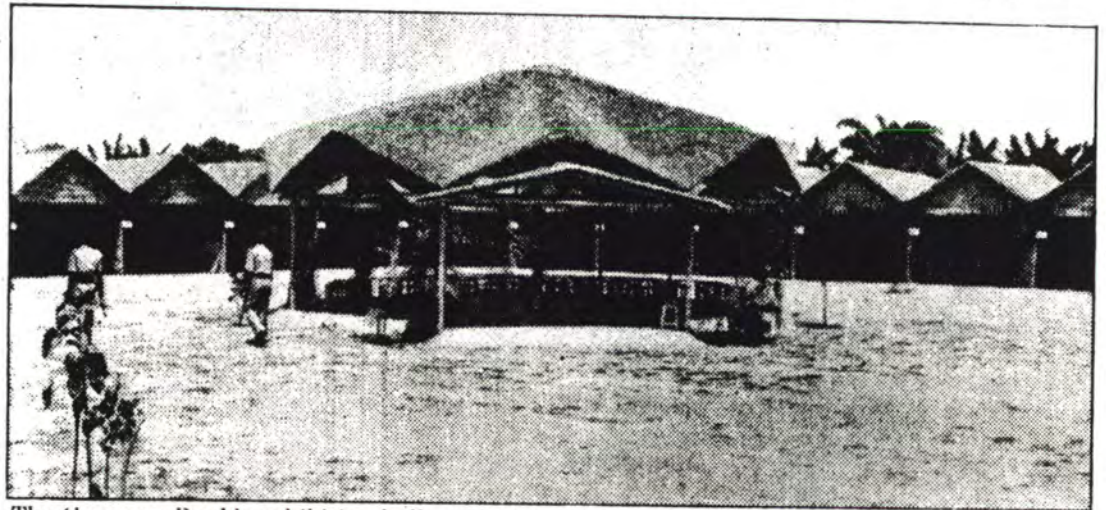
MASHIHATI (Baro Bazar, Kaliganj, near Jessore), April 1: It is a cobblers' colony that no caste Hindu or any respectable local person would normally visit. The water from its tubewell is not to be used by anybody other than people from this lowest of low castes. But all that seems like light-years away.

Thanks to the Grameen Bank's development work, and its accidental selection as Hillary Clinton's visit site,

Mashihati has become the destination of hundreds of villagers from all around, not to mention of the different batches of US Secret Services from Washington, and of our own security people, diplomats, protocol people, government officials, etc.

As the demonstration centrepiece of all the development work of Grameen Bank that Mrs Clinton has come all the way from the United States to see, Mashihati dazzles today with a stunningly well planned exhibition site that will show rural Bangladeshi women performing 18 types of different income-generating work that

See Page 12 Col 7



The Grameen Bank's exhibition hall at Mashihati, Jessore, which will be visited by US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton tomorrow.

— Star photo

The Daily Star
April 2, 1995

An unforgettable visit

From Page One
has made the Grameen Bank such a phenomenal success the world over.

As planned, it will be a Monday that Hillary Clinton will perhaps never forget. She will alight from her motorcade a hundred yards from this village, and walk through a typical Bangladeshi muddy rural road, to a welcoming party of singing and dancing children. She will then meet members (all women) of Grameen Centres No 15 and 22 of this area.

Here she will be face to face with the destitute rural women, most whom begged or worked in other people's houses for a living, and who have now become self-employers, generating enough surplus income to send their children to school, eat nutritious food, help out their husbands if need arises, and in some cases, buy homesteads with Grameen housing loans. There is a rare and refreshing forthrightness in all of them, and an exceptional exuberance which is what makes each one of them so remarkably inspiring.

Then Mrs Clinton goes to the actual exhibition site, to be welcomed by a superb performance of children's songs, dances, and play-acting. They will sing a special song written by them to welcome Hillary Clinton and her daughter

Chelsea. This is followed by visits to the 18 stalls which will show the Grameen women working in handloom, pottery, toy making, cane work, *Nakshi Kantha* work, weaving Grameen Check, fish nets, jamdani sarees, etc.

Then comes the grand finale. At the centre of the exhibition site is a superbly designed (by the chief engineer of the Grameen Bank, Ashraf) open air circular assembly hall (see picture) where Mrs Clinton will engage in a dialogue with the Grameen Bank's women borrowers, that she is likely to remember forever.

It is very unlikely that she will have, ever before, been in the company of so many women, who are so disadvantaged, have so much to struggle against, have so many impediments to contend with, work so hard, to get so very little; and yet are so full of energy, so devoid of complaints, so very generous, so open, so positive about a bright future, and confident that they will surely get there.

The US First Lady will see in these rural women the strength that makes this country endure all the vicissitudes of nature, and the inner resilience that gives us courage to come out from it all, fighting.

ICC operation

The Daily Star
April 21, 1995
2 of 2

Grameen Bank offers lessons we can learn, says Hillary

WASHINGTON, Apr 1: First Lady Hillary Clinton's upcoming visit to five South Asian countries is for the purpose of "learning as much as she possibly can about the kinds of issues she has always cared about, human issues," says USIS.

In an interview this week on CNN's "Late Edition", Mrs. Clinton said, "I want to see some of the programmes that they are doing there trying to help children and women and very poor people pull themselves up, take opportunity by giving it to them through credit and other approaches, and see what I can learn." She said she is particularly interested in the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh which extends credit primarily to women, and these women then are able to take better care of themselves by establishing small businesses.

Following are excerpts of an unofficial transcript of Mrs. Clinton's interview:

CNN: A year ago you were on the Hill championing the cause of health care reform here in the United States. Now you're five days away from leaving on this major trip to Asia, to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. What is the first lady up to?

Mrs. Clinton: Well, I think it's all pretty much the same kinds of issues that I've always cared about now for more than 25 years, and that I guess you could describe are the human issues. I mean, what do we do to make sure that

children have healthy futures and they get the education they need? And that certainly is what I tried to do promoting health care, because I was particularly concerned about children. And what I'm hoping is that not only here at home but abroad that all of us will recognise that as we move into this global economy, we have to

See also page 3

be very conscious and aware of what we are doing or not doing on behalf of our children and other vulnerable people.

CNN: Why Asia?

Mrs. Clinton: Well, the State Department and the administration are very hopeful that our relations with South Asia, the five countries that I'm going to be visiting, will continue to be strengthened. This is an important



part of the world strategically. There's a lot at stake for the entire world. There are a lot of American interests at stake. We've had a number of successful trips there already by Secretary Brown and Secretary O'Leary promoting business. And I think that the president feels that this is a part of the world that needs our attention, and I was delighted to be asked to go to talk about some of these human issues.

CNN: Now, you have said on many occasions, and you repeated it recently in Copenhagen and New York, in one way or another, that women in many societies around the world have been marginalised.

...So what exactly are you hoping to accomplish? Are you going to go over there and rattle their cages, if you will, to say, you know, "Change the way your societies work?"

Mrs. Clinton: No.

CNN: What are you trying to do?

Mrs. Clinton: No, not at all. I'm going to learn as much as I possibly can about what is being done there, what they are doing to help themselves. There are some wonderful programs in all five of these countries that are aimed at giving women the education they need, the skills that they require to take care of themselves and their families. I'm particularly interested in the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh which extends credit primarily to

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Grameen Bank offers

From Page 1 Col 6

women, and these women then are able to take better care of themselves by establishing small business. In fact, you know, we, when my husband was governor of Arkansas, followed the example of the Grameen Bank and set up such a fund in Arkansas dealing with poor people in our state.

So I think there are lessons we can learn. I'm not about to go and try to tell anybody what to do. I think that is not my role. I think it's presumptuous even if someone were to suggest it. I do believe that as the world becomes more competitive, we also become more connected. And we need to be respectful of each other. We need to learn from each other's cultures. And I think that will help us be sure that we have a global community.

CNN: You have pointed out specifically that women bear the brunt of poverty and illiteracy around the world.

...Talk a little bit about that and what is being done or what you would like to do to change that?

Mrs. Clinton: Well, you know, that's true in our country as well, that the poorest of the people in our country are single women with their children. And that is a pattern that unfortunately holds throughout the world. Now, luckily our people are nowhere near as impoverished as the billion people who live at a totally absolute poverty level, less than a dollar a day of income around the world. And there are very many people who are now convinced that if we help by investing in women, for women to take some responsibility and have some power over their own futures, that is not only good for the men; it helps their children, it helps

their husbands, it helps the larger society.

So I'm particularly interested in speaking with women and learning from women in these five countries about what they are doing, because I think there are direct links. And we saw that when we were in Denmark as to how, yes, the more developed countries need to be aware of what is happening, but we also need to understand that a lot of these countries, and particularly the women in these countries, are doing some rather remarkable things for themselves.

CNN: More ahead on the first lady's family and her faith. Hillary Rodham Clinton is our guest during this special Late Edition, which will continue after this.

Mrs. Clinton: (From videotape) I think that prayer and faith are the province of the family. And I believe that what we ought to be trying to figure out how to do is to get prayer back in the family.

CNN: Mrs. Clinton, we've talked a lot about family here and the big issue of family. But there's your family, too. And I think a lot of people are very interested in how the president of the United States and the first lady, with a teenage daughter, make the family work with all the pressures of the time, of the office, and the responsibilities of the ceremonial.

Mrs. Clinton: Well, we work very hard at it, and it is something that both my husband and I take extremely seriously and always have. I mean, we make time for our family. We try, as hard as it is, to have at least one meal together, usually dinner. Sometimes that doesn't work out, but we try very hard to make it happen. We spend time playing games to-

gether, listening to each other.

CNN: After all is said and done, so much has been written about you. What do you think - and you are such a lightning rod, have been. What does the public still not understand about Hillary Clinton, do you think?

Mrs. Clinton: Well, I don't know what the answer to that is. I think probably, though, people keep trying to assign a label or a stereotype to me to sort of fill in the blanks, and I think that does a disservice to many women who, like me, have worked both in the home and outside the home, have been active in their communities, have our own opinions and feelings about matters, are trying to do the best we can. So I think oftentimes what comes across is just, you know, one element of my life. And it would be like taking a snapshot of many women at a certain point in that woman's day and say, "Aha, she's a mom" because you see her with her children, or, "Aha, she's a career woman" because you see her at work. I mean, I think we -

CNN: Men don't have that problem, do they?

Mrs. Clinton: Not as much.

CNN: Even if they try to struggle in the same way and connect the same many dots on the page.

Mrs. Clinton: You know, I remember years ago reading in some advice column that, you know, women who worked in office should never have pictures of their families in their office because that might lead people to think they weren't serious about work. But men should always have pictures of their families because that would make everybody think they were well-rounded. I mean, that's absurd. I mean, men and women together are struggling to define their roles as husbands and wives, as mothers and fathers, as workers, as citizens. We ought to be helping each other. We ought not to be stereotyping one another. And we certainly ought not to be saying to women, "One choice is the right choice, and if you choose this, you're okay. But if you choose something else, you're not." That is not fair, and it does a great disservice to the richness of women's lives today.

The Independent

Apr. 2, 1995

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Israelis pound

Here and There Why Grameen Bank fascinated Clintons

When President Bill Clinton was Governor of Arkansas, he met Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen (rural) Bank, a revolutionary Bangladeshi organisation that extends credit primarily to women who wish to establish small business.

Yunus' scheme was so simple and compelling that Clinton decided that the Grameen system would benefit businesses in southern Arkansas, which had been hard hit by declining jobs in agriculture and industry.

And earlier this month in Copenhagen at the UN World Summit on Social Development, Hillary Rodham Clinton reported that the Grameen Bank "has not only improved the immediate circumstances of thousands of families, it has also fostered a greater sense of purpose and community among the people. The bank believes that if you give people access to credit and ask them to take responsibility, in return they will achieve greater economic and social independence," Mrs. Clinton said.

Muhammad Yunus believes that "credit is a human right and the poor are your best credit risk." The non-profit Grameen Bank provides small loans to the poorest women in rural areas in Bangladesh. The bank also lends to farmers and fishermen.

Grameen's first loan was made in December 1976 for approximately 250 US dollar to assist 15 people. There were no written contracts.

Now, 19 years later, Grameen Bank operates in more than half the villages of Bangladesh, serving 2 million borrowers with more than 1,000 branches. The average loan is 100 dollars, a considerable sum in Bangladesh. The payback rate is 98 per cent.

As a result of the Yunus-Clinton meeting, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation asked the Shorebank Corporation of Chicago to help create a new bank holding company in Arkansas modelled on the Grameen system. Shorebank had been the sponsor of the first US Grameen community development programme which was designed to help

residents in Chicago's minority neighborhoods.

The Arkansan programme, which is known as the good faith fund, now supports new and existing local business in small towns in southern Arkansas. In addition, Grameen-based projects and hundreds of other micro enterprise businesses are bettering American communities in 44 states and the District of Columbia.

According to Julia Vindasius, executive director of Arkansas's good faith fund, the US version of Grameen Bank finances primarily local retail and service-oriented businesses: truckers, beauticians, auto repair, furniture upholstery and building enterprises, small grocery stores, lawn care businesses and photographers.

Women who obtain loans can work in the home as seamstresses, crafters, caterers, laundresses, music teachers and child care givers.

The US-based Grameen projects are also tackling the technological challenges of the 20th century by sponsoring computer-oriented enterprises and providing training in technology and management. "Business training has probably been one of the key innovation (of) American programmes," Vindasius says. But despite difference of approach, Grameen programmes around the world all share the

peer-group borrowing principle. If any member of a group defaults, no member can ever again borrow from the bank. By getting borrowers to monitor each other, Grameen has consistently been able to recover about 98 per cent of its loans.

On March 24, Hillary Rodham Clinton began the most extensive good will trip to South Asia by a US first lady in nearly two decades. Her two-week journey will focus on humanitarian issues in Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

In each country, Mrs. Clinton will meet with women representatives of government and non-government organisations (NGOs), religious institutions, education, business and the arts.

-USIS feature



These rural women striving to change their lot through Grameen Bank loan.

-Independent

The Independent

Clintons' support helped launch Grameen loan system in U.S.

by Joanne L. Nix

When President Bill Clinton was governor of Arkansas, he met Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen (rural) Bank, a revolutionary Bangladeshi organization that extends credit primarily to women who wish to establish small businesses. Yunus' scheme was so simple and compelling that Clinton decided that the Grameen system would benefit businesses in southern Arkansas, which had been hard hit by declining jobs in agriculture and industry.

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The Bangladesh Times
April 3, 1995 page 182

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In each country Mrs. Clinton will meet with women representatives of government and non-government organizations (NGOs), religious institutions, education, business and the arts.

During a live televised interview March 19, Mrs. Clinton said that she is particularly interested in the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. "In fact, you know," she told a CNN TV reporter, "when my husband was governor of Arkansas, (we) followed the example of the Grameen Bank and set

up such a fund in Arkansas dealing with poor people in our state."

Mrs. Clinton explained that the work of the Grameen Bank is an example of the type of program she hopes to investigate during her South Asia visit. "I'm going to learn as much as I possibly can about what is being done there and what they are doing to help themselves," she said, particularly in terms of helping women get access to lending and investment capital.

"The Grameen Bank is absolutely changing lives and changing communities," says Patricia Young, the national coordinator for the U.S. National Committee for World Food Day. Young, who describes herself as a believer in Yunus and the Grameen Bank, volunteers as a contact for Muhammad Yunus when he visits the United States.

She explains that Yunus' worldwide campaign has resulted in the establishment of operating replications of the Grameen Bank in 40 countries. "Working on hunger means working on poverty and when you find an answer you want to share it," she said.

The Bangladesh Times
April 3, 1995

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Face to Face with Rural Bangladesh

Left to Grameen Bank (GB), Moishahati village of Kaliganj, 10 miles outside Jessore, may not have been chosen for Hillary Clinton's visit today. But if the preparation for the visit, the 18 exhibition stalls and the grand pavilion at the centre are any indication of what awaits the American First Lady, the accidental choice of Rishipara of Moishahati can be considered Godsend. It puts Bangladesh's best face forward, for it has rural women, and the most underprivileged class, as the two vital elements that the GB programme addresses here.

Mrs Clinton is scheduled to spend an hour and a half at this site. But it is quite possible that she will find her dialogue with our simple village women so interesting that she will want to spend more time here.

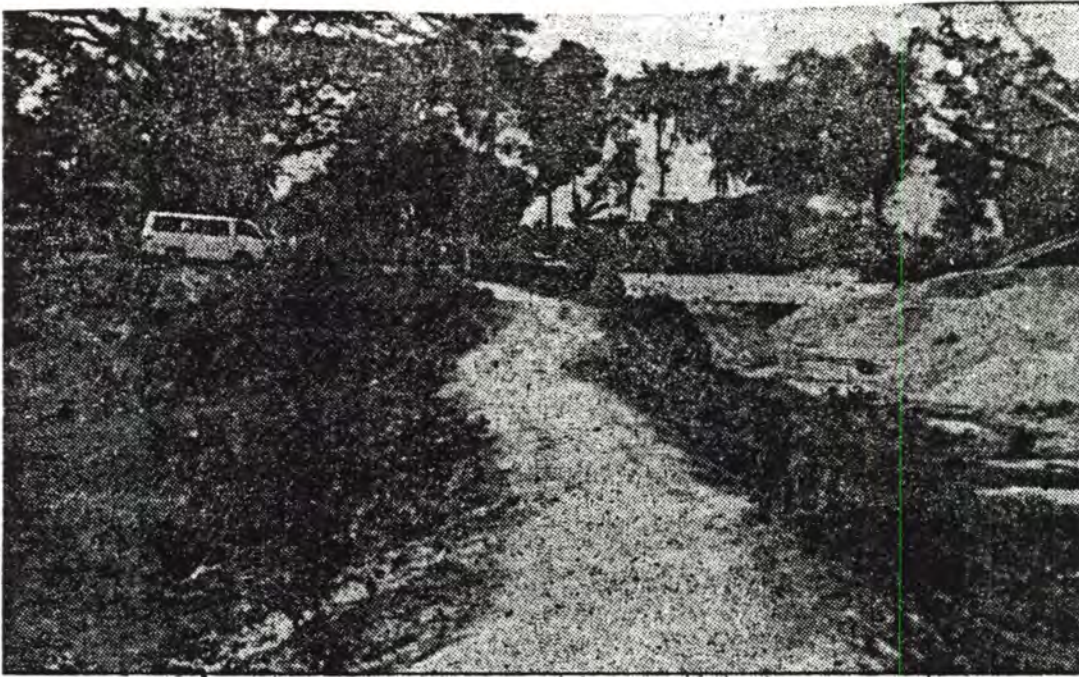
The Grameen Bank members that she will meet are eager to tell her all about what they are doing. But with equal eagerness they want to know what she does. "I want to ask her whether or not she raises poultry in her house," said one when Prof Yunus wanted to know, Saturday, what they were going to ask her. "Will she give dowry when she marries off her daughter?" asked another. "What does she do if her husband beats her up?" another woman wanted to know. "Doesn't her husband mind that she has come so far away without him?" "Does she live on her husband's money, or has she her own source of income?" In all her travels Hillary Clinton will never have faced such questions. We hope she really has a good time today.

This correspondent accompanied Grameen Bank founder Prof Mohammed Yunus and Deputy Managing Director Khaled Shams during their visit to the site on Saturday to make sure everything was ready to welcome the American First Lady, when she comes face to face with rural Bangladesh today.



An active member of the Grameen Bank. From working at other people's houses for a living, today she owns her own house. — Star photo

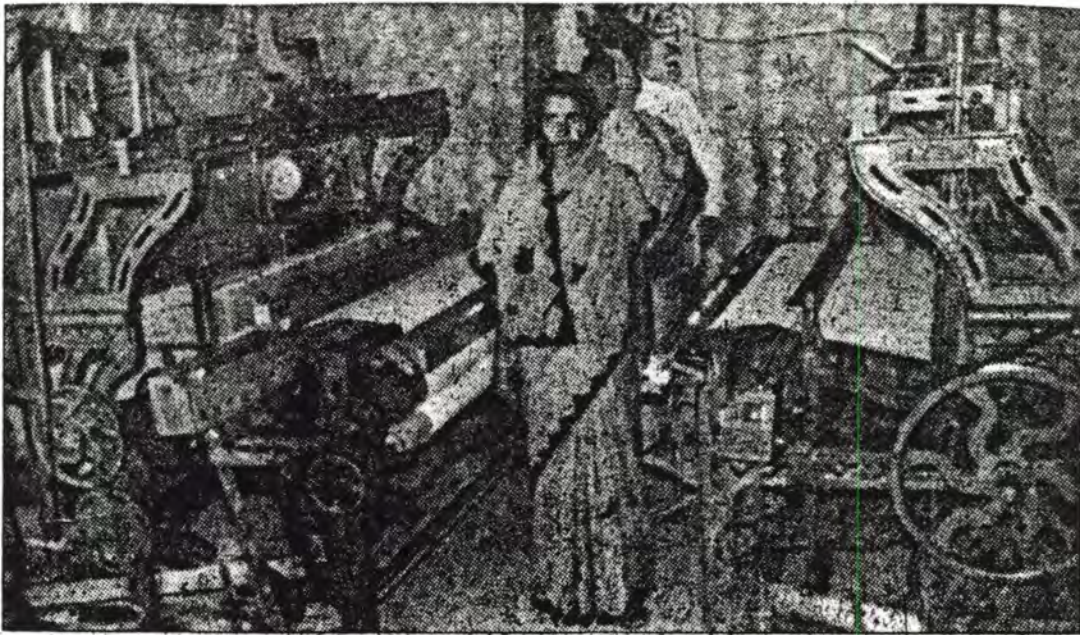
The Daily Star
April 3, 1995
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This is the path Hillary Clinton will walk down to visit Moishahat village where the Grameen exhibition site is located. — Star photo



Grameen Bank members making clay toys and figures. Using good quality paint, these products fetch substantial additional income. — Star photo



These power looms cost Tk 1.2 lakh each. Grameen Bank members can procure these machines on a lease-purchase scheme. — Star photo

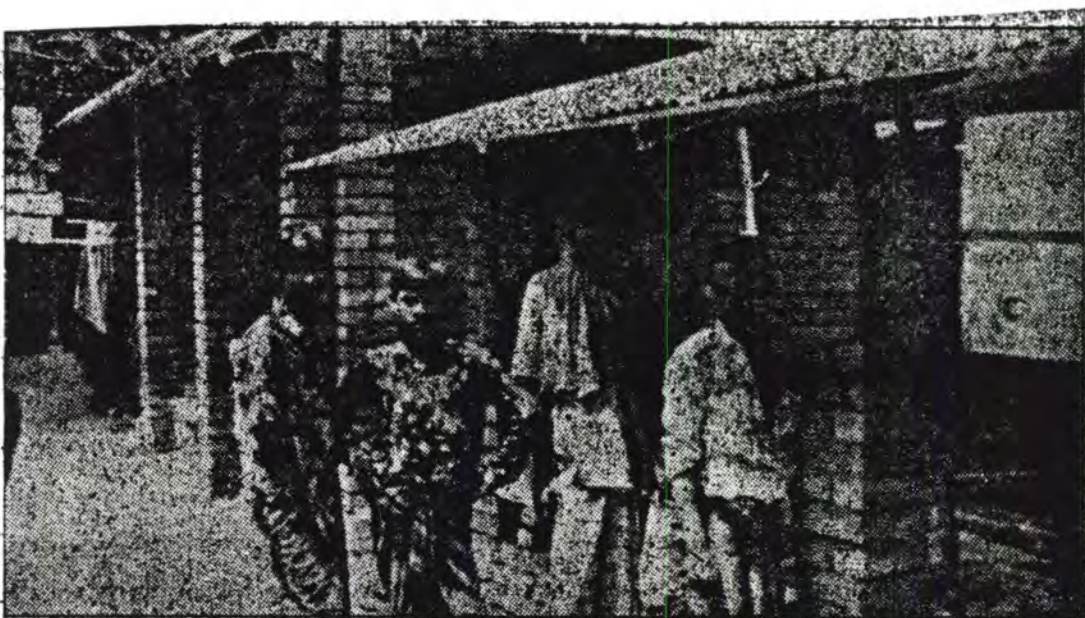


Earthen ware, still the most preferred utensils in rural Bangladesh. Photo shows potters at work. Grameen members have taken to pottery. Hitherto a totally male domain. — Star photo



Women weaving bamboo mats. The Grameen Bank provides loans as capital for such enterprises.

— Star photo

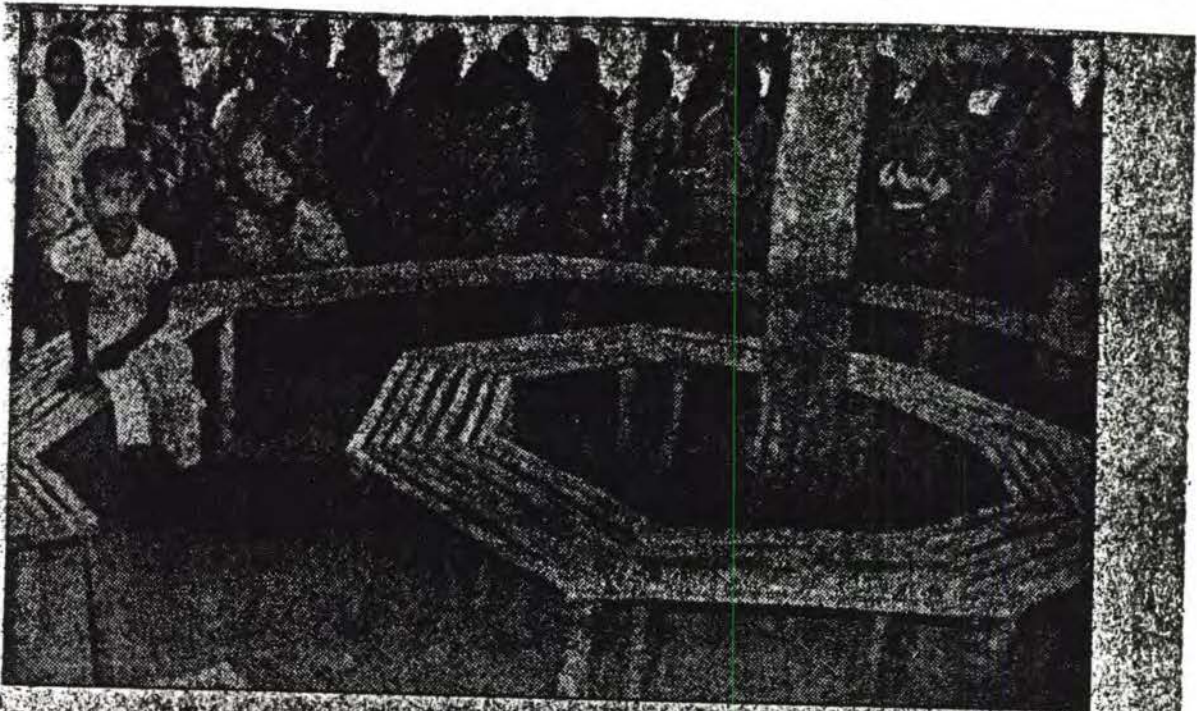


Thatched houses are being replaced with such houses at Moishahat called rural housing supported by Grameen housing loans.

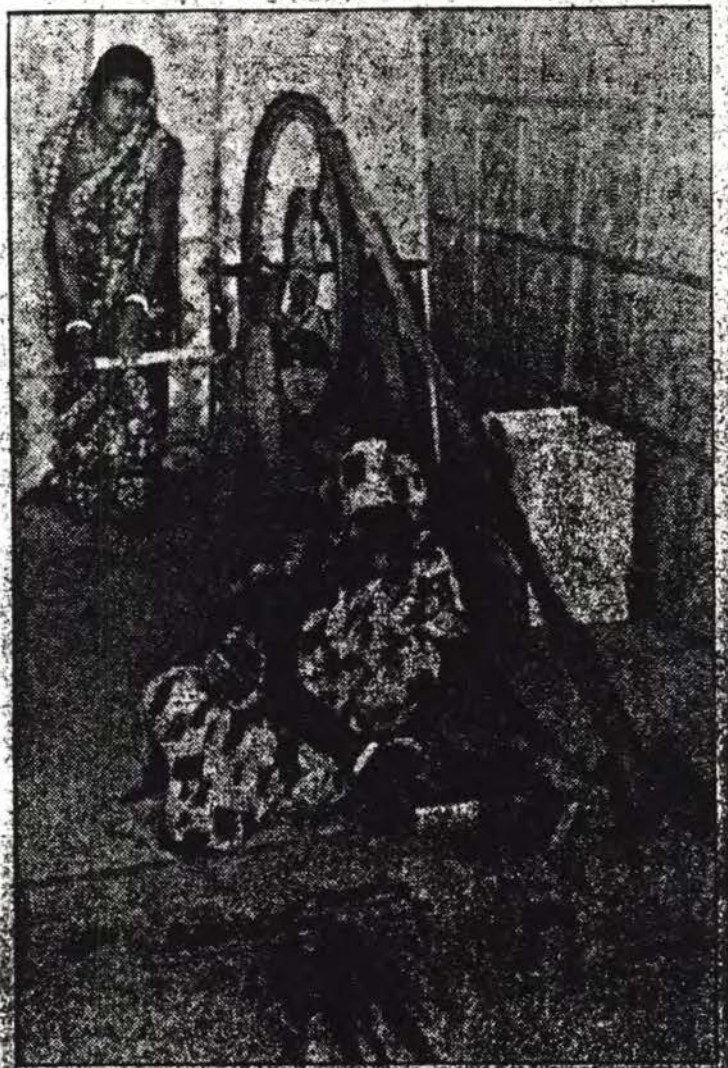
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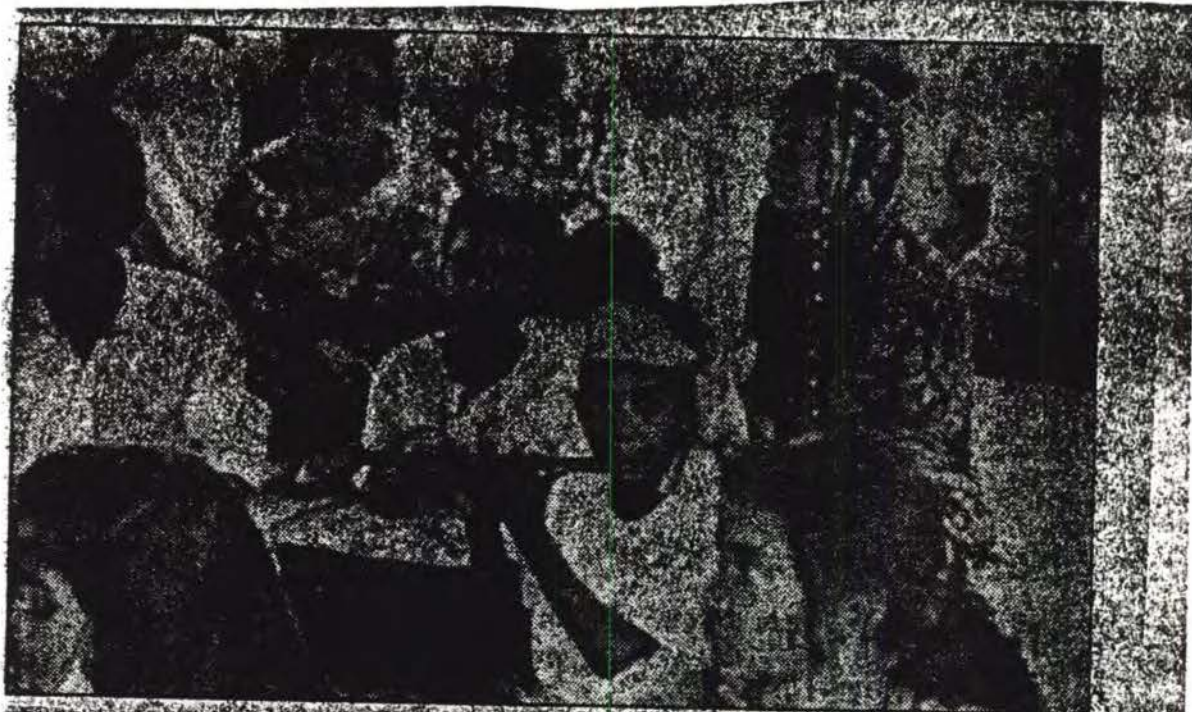
Grameen Bank founder Prof. Md Yunus and Deputy Managing Director Khaleel Shams briefing the members Saturday about Hillary Clinton's visit. — Star photo



The specially made pavilion for Hillary Clinton and Chelsea. The visitors will sit on the empty benches and talk to Grameen Bank members. — Star photo



Women giving food to children in the slums of Madras. — Star photo



The five children in the picture above will welcome the US 1st Air Division. — Star photo

Sunday, April 2, 1995

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

28/1 TOYNBEE CIRCULAR ROAD, DHAKA-1000

Sunday, April 2, 1995

Chaitra 18, 1401 BS : Shawal 29, 1415 Hijri

Welcome Hillary

US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton arrives in Dhaka today (Sunday) on a three-day goodwill visit. Bangladesh extends a hearty welcome to the distinguished visitor — an ardent advocate of the rights of the underprivileged, the women and the children. Accompanied by her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, the US First Lady, during her visit, will see the development activities of some government and non-government organisations here in Bangladesh. This paper hopes that Hillary Clinton's visit to Bangladesh will help strengthen the cause that she has so ardently been advocating and also cement further the existing friendly relations between Dhaka and Washington.

The current visit to South Asia by the US First Lady is significant in view of the region's endemic poverty problem. One-fifth of the global population inhabit this region where there is also the world's largest concentration of poverty. Deprivations of the underprivileged, the women and the children coexist in South Asia with its massive poverty problem. Viewed in this context, the South Asian economic landscape can be considered an appropriate setting for the US First Lady to appreciate the dimensions of the poverty-related problems for the redress of which she has been calling for international actions. Also, the visit is an opportunity for her to fathom the efforts that are in place in South Asia at both governments and non-governmental levels for improving the conditions of living for the teeming millions in this region.

The South Asian countries have all undertaken reforms aiming at creating opportunities for market-oriented competitive economic growth and also for flourishing of private initiatives by facilitating the access, on the part of the underprivileged, to the market. Such reforms are now underway in South Asia, though the pace and speed of the same vary depending upon specific circumstances in individual countries. During her visit to Bangladesh, Hillary Clinton will have the opportunity to get a first-hand view of the situation here. The dimension of poverty problem in Bangladesh is so vast that economic reforms, without targetted interventions by both the government and the NGOs in harness, will not succeed much in making a dent in the abysmal conditions of living that the vast millions face in their day-to-day life. Such interventions in recent years have yielded some good results and the same should be supported now on a wider scale for the success of poverty alleviation programmes.

The current visit by Hillary Clinton to Bangladesh is the first ever by any US First Lady. That she has made it possible on her part to make this trip of "goodwill" nature to this country will bear out her deep convictions in the causes she has espoused at various international forums. Her recent initiative at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen merits here mention. At that summit, she announced a major new US initiative which aims to improve the education of women and girls in developing countries. The US programme sets aside about \$100 million for a ten-year period which she hopes will lead to a 20 per cent increase in the number of girls who complete primary education and a 20 per cent increase in the number of women who are functionally literate.

There is no denying that progress for empowering women or freeing people from the bondage of inhuman conditions worldwide depends on international cooperation — working together in partnership — to create conditions around the globe that enable the underprivileged — women, men and children — to reach their potential and flourish within their respective families and societies. This paper believes that the visit to South Asia by the US First Lady who is her husband's closest political adviser and a strong advocate of women's and children's rights, will contribute a lot to strengthening such international cooperation.

Expressmail

Views expressed are not necessarily shared by the Editor.

Poverty Alleviation and Hillary Clinton

"Poverty alleviation" — a phenomenon has now been the concern of all countries — both rich and poor. Bangladesh's Grameen Bank can claim to be a model for the alleviation of poverty of the Third World women and the poor. When in Bangladesh the rich in cities are defaulters to repay the loan worth US\$ 9 billion taken from commercial banks, the poor in villages are never got such prevelage for the last 18 years since the birth of Grameen Bank. The above opinion was given in a letter to the daily "Washington Post" by no less a person than the US President Bill Clinton.

The fact deserves to be considered with more importance and emphasis. It may be so that the process of making and implementing the decisions has been leanings towards biasedness, autocracy and non-accountability. Whereas in the lower level, particularly at village level, it may not be so.

Poverty may be the outcome due to challenges by nature and man. Widespread ignorance, lack of skill, illiteracy, absence of jobs, in a nut shell, are responsible for depriving people of food, clothing, shelter, little basic healthcare services. Bangladesh is primarily an agro-based country having a very limited quantity of cultivable land. Imports of industrial products, consumer goods are significantly colossal. Massive ecological imbalance has now-a-days been prominent mainly due to acute shortage of water and also deforestation.

Unfortunately signs of desertification prevail in western region. There is acute siltage of rivers, Draught, floods and absence of storage facilities of water aggravate the sufferings of the villagers. There is pulling back of 80 per cent of project money to donor countries. Ninety-five per cent of development budget depend on foreign loans. Thirty-eight of foreign exchange earnings are spent in debt servicing. All these help create low purchasing power of our people. Besides women particularly at villages with no jobs, unemployment add to it adversely.

Few NGOs are successful in creating jobs to rural women. Successful trade courses, vocational training, scientific approach, scientific demarcation of areas, work, research and finally exploration of markets — local and international, can primarily be responsible for it. To enrich it, activities in this regard need to be more competitive, broad-based, not selectives in the long run. Widespread imparting of primary education, trade courses, manpower, vocational and management training for small-scale business, scientific selection of works, production and above all information and training for marketing — local and international — will help a great deal in alleviating poverty.

In this context, we urge upon US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to kindly look into it.

Md. Anwarul Afzal
Ex-Secretary, Rajshahi University Central Students Union,
Khataswar Raminagar, Raminagar, Naogaon.

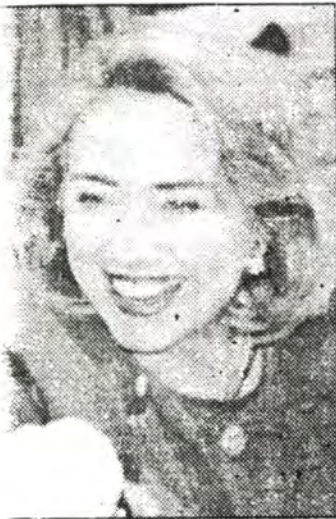
Don't keep it bottled up!

Write to:

Expressmail

38/1 Tejgaon Circular Road (2nd floor), Dhaka-1000

The Financial Express
April 2, 1995



Welcome Hillary!

A warm reception awaits United States First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton when she arrives in the city Sunday on a three-day unofficial visit, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and his wife will greet the American First Lady at the airport.

This is the first time that the wife of a president of the United States is visiting Bangladesh.

Hillary Clinton will arrive in Dhaka from Kathmandu where she flew from New Delhi. Earlier, she visited Pakistan on the first leg on her four-nation South Asian trip.

She an eminent lawyer in her country, is involved with different socio-economic welfare activities.

She attended the recent social summit in Copenhagen where she made particular mention about Bangladesh in the context of the role by Grammen Bank in the uplift of rural women.

Hillary Clinton will flew to Jessore Monday to see some projects

See Back Page Col 1

Welcome Hillary

From Page 1 Col. 8
of the Grameen Bank and the BRAC.

She will visit the ICDDR'B and will have some other engagements.

The United States First Lady is expected to meet President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

She is expected to leave the city on April 4.

As an excellent student and a girl scout, Hillary Rodham Clinton enjoyed sports and was always interested in politics.

She met Bill Clinton, a fellow student, in Yale Law School in 1965. Later, she left Washington and "followed her heart to Arkansas."

Hillary married Bill Clinton in 1975.

The couple both taught on the law faculty of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Their daughter, Chelsea, was born in 1980.

Hillary Diane Rodham was born October 26, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois, daughter of Dorothy Rodham and the late Hugh Rodham. She and her two younger brothers grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois, as a close-knit family.

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chaired an education committee that set public school standards in Arkansas, managed a home, and cared for her husband and child.

On many occasions, Hillary Clinton has spoken about the need "to find the right balance in our lives." For her, the elements of the balance are family, work, and public service.

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As First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary continued to work tirelessly on behalf of children and families. In addition to chairing the Arkansas Education Standards Committee, she founded the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families.

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Hillary also served on the board of the Arkansas Children's Hospital. In recognition of her professional and personal accomplishments, Hillary was named Arkansas Women of the year in 1983 and Arkansas Mother of the year in 1984.

Upon taking office, the President made health care one of his highest priorities. He appointed the First Lady to head his Task Force on National Health Care Reform. Like her predecessors, Hillary Rodham Clinton brings to the role of First Lady of the United States her own special talents, experience, style, and interests.

The Financial Express
April 2, 1995

WORLDWATCH



KATHMANDU: US First Lady Hillary Clinton bows in a traditional Asian greeting while meeting a woman at a local crafts fair in Kathmandu March 31.
-- Reuter

April 2, 1995

It is a rare honour for us that Hillary Clinton begins a three-day visit of Bangladesh today. Unofficial though, it is a great occasion for Bangladesh. Since our Liberation in 1971, we had one other such visit of as much importance, that of US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on October 30, 1974. After Kissinger, during the subsequent 22 years, we had much lesser mortals such as Vernon Walter and Jean Kirkpatrick, two US Permanent Representatives to the UN gracing us with their visits in early 1980's. John C. Whitehead, Deputy Permanent Under-Secretary of the US State Department was second highest ranking official after Kissinger to visit Bangladesh in mid 80's. Robert Flatten — Bangladesh Desk Officer in the US State Department came calling during the later years of Lt. Gen. Hussain Muhammad Ershad and was received in state by our fallen President. All Americans — any American for that matter — were important to him. Their visits gave him respectability and photo opportunities. Then the latest visitor in the series from the USA before Hillary Clinton was Robin Raphael, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Bureau in the State Department last year. Raphael is otherwise known as FOB, that is friend of Bill (Bill, of course, means Bill Clinton).

Wife of former American vice president Dan Quayle had visited us in the middle of 1991, after the disastrous cyclone of April that year.

Besides these visits of the officials we had some Senators and Congressmen also visiting Bangladesh since our liberation, most prominent of them being Senator Edward Kennedy and Congressman Stephen Solarz. Senator Kennedy came to visit us soon after our liberation with his nephew Joseph P. Kennedy, the latter now a prominent Congressman in his own right and in the great family tradition. Congressman Solarz was the last legislator to visit us and that was in the late 80's.

Stephen Solarz had played an important role in our fight to get back our democracy from Ershad and the coterie of his generals, the bureaucrats and the politicians, most of them rejected by the people. Solarz visited Bangladesh, and met our leaders including the present Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and the leader of the biggest opposition party, Awami League. He had also held a press conference in Washington D.C. on 14 April 1988 an open hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Sub Committee on Asia and the Pacific of which he was the Chairman. The hearing was on democracy, human rights and how to make election in Bangladesh credible.

Senator Edward Kennedy comes from the most distinguished and well known political family of the USA. His visit in

In the Footsteps of the Kennedys

Hillary Clinton carries the idealism and concern displayed by John and Edward a decade apart, writes Mohiuddin Ahmed

1971 to the refugee camps set up along the borders in India to accommodate millions of our people driven out by Pakistani military rulers still brings back to our memory sufferings of our people of those days of blood and fire. I have still got in my collection some of those news clippings and photographs showing Senator Kennedy visiting the relief camps in heavy downpour and ankle-deep mud. Senator Kennedy could not bear the sights of dying and dead children in those make-shift camps, — one photograph showing him turning away his face.

Senator Kennedy's open condemnation of Pakistan military regime during the visit of the refugee camps for the blood bath in Bangladesh forcing ultimately 10 millions of our people to run away from their homes and safety cost him the visa that was given to visit Pakistan after India. After the withdrawal of the visa by the Pakistani military junta Senator Kennedy did not come to Bangladesh to see how 75 million people were living in terror.

President Nixon and Henry Kissinger did not support us in our War of Liberation 24 years ago. And Henry Kissinger was not all love for Bangladesh during his visit in 1974 either. But we had the support of people like Senator Kennedy, Senator George McGovern, Senator William Saxton and Senator Eugene McCarthy and many other leaders in politics and churches, education and human rights campaign. We sincerely remember the contribution, support and prayers of all those Americans across the USA. Their prayers had sustained us in our war of survival.

We were sustained in our indomitable spirit by people like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. The Declaration of American Independence was a source of great inspiration to us, as to any other people in any other part of the world. Pursuit of happiness and living in and with dignity and in freedom were our aims also as it was in the American War of Independence.

We also had our own George Washington who inspired and led us to our freedom. But whereas the American George Washington is given place of honour everywhere in the USA, our George Washington — Ban-

gabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman — is not even uttered or mentioned in our state controlled radio and television, or for that matter, in anything official!

The people of Bangladesh are poor. And that attracts many people to this country. But what is not understood in many countries is that we have a tradition for about 180 years of electing our representatives. In many affluent countries of the world, people have not seen a ballot paper or a polling booth, much less an election. We are so much more advanced in this respect!

Ambitious and adventurous generals like those in Latin America and Africa have derailed our democracy and freedom several times during the past 20 years and some of the colonels and majors killed our Father of the Nation, his wife, his three sons, (one was only 10 years) and the two daughters-in-law (one was pregnant), among others. These killers have not been tried in any court. Rather, they have been glorified with diplomatic assignments in our embassies abroad.

Bill Clinton was inspired by a handshake with President John Kennedy in the White House lawn when Clinton was a school lad of only 17 years. I have seen the clip of that famous television film several times since Clinton had announced his candidacy for the office of the President in 1991. John Kennedy had inspired many millions all over the world. As a young man of 19, I too, had tremendous admiration for this American President. His handsome look, his beautiful wife and the two children looking like butterflies seem to me to be an ideal family.

The youthful look of President Clinton, the elegance of Hillary and the charms of their daughter Chelsea resemble the Kennedy family. Vice President Al Gore, his wife Tipper and their children are assets to Clinton presidency. The spontaneous dailies of the two women, Hillary and Tipper, immediately following the nomination of their husbands on the stage of Madison Square Garden where the Democratic Party had held its convention in the summer of '92 is one of my memorable experiences of New York City.

Hillary Clinton is a distinguished guest from the USA. She has been

involved in the programmes for the poor and needy people. It is that concern that brings her to Bangladesh. The couple's commitment to the affirmative action programmes like that of the Kennedys' endear them to us. We welcome her in our midst with all our warmth and sincerity. We know she is not visiting us holding any official position, but she is our most welcome guest nonetheless.

Addressing the veterans of the Second World War last summer in the beach of France, President Clinton had said the immortal words, "You are the forces of freedom. When you were young, you have saved the world, the world is enjoying 50 years of freedom because of your heroism. We are the children of your sacrifice."

Then his speech in Port-au-Prince, just two days ago last Friday, on the occasion of transfer of command from American forces to the UN forces reiterating his commitment to Democracy and human rights are of as much inspiration to us as to those in Haiti and all over the world.

We fought in 1971 in our War of Liberation so that we could live in peace, happiness and dignity. But we continue to remain poor and with hardly any progress, economic or otherwise. We should not remain this poor and illiterate if our resources and foreign aid were not misallocated and mismanaged. We had overthrown a dictator in a people's upsurge in the December of 1990 and then got an elected government which, we thought, would be accountable and transparent. But the accountability of our government is more a misnomer than a practice of democracy. We do not have a functioning and effective Parliament which is now nearly dead following the resignation of all the members of our opposition parties. The resigning members, 147 in number, are about half of the Parliament.

Our state controlled television and radio are the best examples of an unresponsive government. Our TV does not tell anything about the continuing fertiliser crisis, soaring foodgrain prices and police killing of 7 (seven) poor farmers two weeks ago in several places of Bangladesh — their unforgivable crime having been their demand for fertiliser at the government fixed price!

Our longest days is not yet over either. Our battle for freedom continues — freedom from hunger, illiteracy and diseases. Our fight for dignity for the farmers, workers and everybody goes on.

And we know we shall overcome someday. And we know we have the support of Hillary Clinton in our struggle. She demonstrates this with her visit to Bangladesh today.

The writer is former Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, former Deputy Permanent Representative, the Bangladesh Mission to the UN, New York

Hillary the most colourful American First Lady

Special to the INDEPENDENT

The Independent starts profiling who Hillary Rodham Clinton is from today

Hillary Rodham Clinton has been called many things since she became America's First Lady. To her fiercest critics she is a radical feminist; to her most ardent admirers she is a disciplined political operative, an eloquent advocate who needs no notes when speaking. In softer profile, Mrs. Clinton comes across as a well-organised working mother and her husband's closest confidant. But long before she was a Democrat, a lawyer, or a Clinton, Hillary Rodham was a Methodist. And that, say those who know her now as well as those who knew her when, is the way the First Lady is best understood. She thinks like a Methodist, talks like a Methodist and wants to reform society just like a well-Sunday-schooled Methodist churchwoman should. "I am," she told NEWSWEEK in an exclusive interview at the White House recently, "an old-fashioned Methodist."

In any other place, from almost any other woman, such an admission would be insignificant. Americans want their First Family to be religious, but not strongly so.

As Ronald Reagan understood—and Jimmy Carter painfully learned—vague belief firmly held is the most appropriate White House religion. Politicians may not care and the media may scoff, but the Clintons are perhaps the most openly religious First Couple this century has seen. The president is a hymn-singing, sermon-loving, liberal Southern Baptist who studied under the Jesuits at Georgetown and feels at home in any kind of pew.

But Mrs. Clinton is cut from old, less expressive Methodist stock, and these days she feels like a battered woman. Her public role has diminished, and she's being blamed for the failure of health-care reform in a bitter political season. Meanwhile, evangelists of the religious right scorn her as a Mary Magdalene, while pundits in the secular press ridicule her spirituality as flaky New Age blather. All this has taught her a great deal of sympathy for Christian fundamentalists. Like them, she believes she has to overcome her own prejudices.

Indeed, at one point in the conversation, the First Lady even submitted to a brief examination of her faith:

"Do you believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?"

"Yes."

"The atoning death of Jesus?"

"Yes."

"The resurrection of Christ?"

"Yes."

The interview was conducted in the Map Room around a makeshift folding table that looked like it had just been cleared of dishes. Mrs. Clinton's aides were fearful that no matter what she said, she would be accused of trying to manipulate her public image. She glanced down often at her hands. She hesitated to name her favourite Bible passages, convinced she'd be misunderstood: "If I quote a Bible Scripture, people are always looking for the hidden meaning in it." Or, worse, that her words might be turned against her in the latest rush to judgement.

British roots: Can this Hillary Clinton be real? Though conservatives may doubt her religious convictions, and liberals wish them away, Hillary Rodham Clinton is as pious as she is political. Methodism, for her, is not just a church but an extended family of faith that defines her horizons. Through her father's family, she can trace her roots back via her grandparents' stories to early 19th-century England and Wales—close to the beginnings of the original Methodist movement. Her mother taught Sunday school. Though her father was seldom seen at First United Methodist Church in Park Ridge, Illinois, where Hillary grew up, she vividly recalls that "he said his prayers kneeling by his bed every night of his life, until he had (his) stroke."

The First Lady is a Methodist by choice as well as by chance. Of the three Rodham children only Hillary continued to attend



Hillary beaming a smile just hours before she left for journey that takes her to Bangladesh today.

The Independent
April 2, 1995
Page 1 of 2

Sunday services as an adolescent. "She's really a self-churched woman," says the Rev. Donald Jones, her former youth minister, who developed his privileged suburban students' social consciences by taking them to visit migrant workers' children. More than other Protestants, Methodists are still imbued with the turn-of-the-

century social gospel, which holds that Christians have been commissioned to build the Kingdom of God on earth.

As a bright, well-educated woman growing up in the turbulent '60s, Hillary Rodham defied that generation's rebellious stereotype. At Wellesley, she continued



The American First Lady leaving President Clinton alone for a few minutes to pause and ponder over some burning world issues in Washington recently.

to attend church, joined the interdenominational chapel society and took a year of required Bible study - an experience, she says "I'm very grateful for."

She also read *Motive*, a now defunct magazine for college-age Methodists. "I still have every issue they sent me," Mrs. Clinton says. But the issue she remembers best contained an article by a Methodist theologian, Carl Oglesby, called "Change or Containment." "It was the first thing I had ever read that challenged the Vietnam War," Mrs. Clinton recalls. Partly because of that war, she switched from being a Goldwater Republican to a McGovern Democrat. But she remained a devout Methodist. Although the United Methodist Church had by then dropped most of its traditional taboos against alcohol and dancing, Hillary was conservative in her social habits.

In a letter to Jones from college, she wrote that she was having "as much fun as any good Methodist can." Even today, says Jones, "when Hillary talks it sounds like it comes out of a Methodist Sunday-school lesson."

That should be no surprise. In Arkansas, Hillary taught Methodist Sunday school. She also attended church regularly and, in the Methodist tradition of favouring lay preachers, she spoke often at church gatherings on "Why I am a United Methodist." Even her cam-

paign to reform Arkansas's public schools, says the Rev. Clinton Burleson, her former pastor in Little Rock, was "grounded in Methodist social concerns. That's who Hillary is. She's not a woman who would be in harmony with [Methodism's conservative] evangelical movement."

Perhaps, but after two years in the White House, Mrs. Clinton is showing another side of her Methodist self.

The religious books she reads are mostly by popular evangelical and spiritual-guidance authors, like Tony Campolo, Father Henri Nouwen and the Rev. Gordon MacDonald, and the only religious magazine she sees these busy days is *Christianity Today*, an evangelical weekly. She says she also keeps a copy of "The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church" in her private quarters, along with the Bible. The two volumes reflect her search for religious balance. "I think that the Methodist Church, for a period of time, became too socially concerned," she says, "too involved in the social gospel, and did not pay enough attention to questions of personal salvation and individual faith."

It is, for me, both a question of grace and of personal commitment."



Hillary with the UN Secretary-General Dr. Boutros-Boutros Ghali in New York recently.

The Independent
Page 2 of 2
April 2, 1995

APPEAL

HILLARY CLINTON US FIRST LADY IS MOST



WELCOME IN DHAKA CITY. REQUEST VISIT THE NEAREST GENEVA AND MARKET CAMPS WHERE THE MOST WRETCHED STRANDED PAKISTANIS OF THIS CENTURY HAVE BEEN LIVING FOR THE LAST 24 YEARS. VIOLATION

OF HUMAN RIGHTS RAMPANT. CHASTITY OF WOMENFOLK NOT SAFE. ALL APPROACHES FAILED. KINDLY SPARE FEW MINUTES OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO SEE THE CONDITION YOURSELF AS SEEING IS BELIEVING.



ALHAJ M. NASIM KHAN
LEADER OF STRANDED PAKISTANIS
AND CHIEF PATRON, SPORC
GENEVA CAMP, MOHAMMADPUR, DHAKA.

The Morning Sun
April 21, 1995

A journey from Arkansas

WASHINGTON, Apr 1 (USIS): When President Bill Clinton was governor of Arkansas, he met Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank, a revolutionary Bangladeshi organization that extends credit primarily to women who wish to establish small business.

Journey : Arkansas

Contd from page 1

Yunus' scheme was so simple and compelling that Clinton decided that the Grameen system would benefit businesses in southern Arkansas, which had been hard hit by declining jobs in agriculture and industry.

And earlier this month in Copenhagen at the UN World Summit on Social Development, Hillary Clinton reported that the Grameen Bank has not only improved the immediate circumstances of thousands of families, it has also fostered a greater sense of purpose and community among the people. "The bank believes that if you give people access to credit and ask them to take responsibility, in return they will achieve greater economic and social independence," Mrs Clinton said.

Muhammad Yunus believes that "credit is a human right and the poor are your best credit risk." The non-profit Grameen Bank provides small loans to the

poorest women in rural areas in Bangladesh. The bank also lends to farmers and fishermen.

As a result of the Yunus-Clinton meeting, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation asked the Shorebank Corporation of Chicago to help create a new bank holding company in Arkansas modelled on the Grameen system. Shorebank had been the sponsor of the first US Grameen community development programme which was designed to help residents in Chicago's minority neighbourhoods.

The Arkansan programme, which is known as the Good Faith Fund, now supports new and existing local business in small towns in Southern Arkansas. In addition, Grameen-based projects and hundreds of other micro enterprise businesses are bettering American communities in 44 states and the district of Columbia.

A profile

As an excellent student and a girl scout, Hillary Rodham Clinton enjoyed sports and was always interested in politics, reports UNB.

Hillary was born on October 26 in 1947 in Chicago, Illinois. She and her two younger brothers grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois, as a close-knit family.

Hillary entered Wellesley College in 1965. Graduating with high honours, she then enrolled in Yale Law School, where she served on the Board of Editors of the Yale Review of Law and Social Action. There she met Bill Clinton, a fellow student.

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Hillary married Bill Clinton in 1975.

The couple both taught on the law faculty of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Their daughter, Chelsea, was born in 1980.

While at Yale, she developed a strong concern for protecting the interests of children and their families.

Hillary Clinton served as First Lady of Arkansas for 12 years. During that time, she worked as a full-time partner of a law firm, chaired an education committee that set public school standards in Arkansas, managed a home, and cared for her husband and child.

*The Morning Sun
April 2, 1995*



Hillary Clinton arrives today

Hillary Rodham Clinton arrives in Bangladesh today (Sunday) in the penultimate leg of her 12-day tour of South Asia, on a two-day visit encooned in tough security, unprecedented goodwill and a worldwide concern for the underprivileged women.

Billed as a private visit, the wife of the American president is expected to stay in the Sonargaon Hotel rather than in a state guest house to illustrate the point.

And yet her two-day stay in Bangladesh would have all the formalities of an official visit.
 — last page col-6

Foreign Minister A S M Mustazur Rahman is likely to receive her when she arrives in Dhaka from Kathmandu by a special US Air Force plane.

Her daughter, Chelsea, and the remainder of the 60 members of her entourage would also be received by appropriate political leaders and officials.

She is due to meet Bangladesh President Abdur Rahman Biswas on Sunday and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia the following day.

The US embassy will hold a reception for Hillary Clinton on Sunday which is expected to be attended by leading politicians, intellectuals and senior government officials.

The US First Lady will also hold a reception on Monday exclusively for women where Begum Zia and opposition leader Sheikh Hasina are likely to be the prominent guests. Begum Zia will also host a dinner for her on Monday evening.

Hillary Clinton has already visited Pakistan, India and Nepal. She flies off to Colombo on Tuesday on the last leg of her 12-day swing across south Asia during which her major theme was to underline international concern for underprivileged women and children.

But the main focus of trip apparently is Bangladesh. She is expected to study the operation of the Grameen Bank, a non-government organisation (NGO) which has achieved an economic miracle in the rural countryside by an innovative credit programme for the poor.

Enamoured with its success, Hillary Clinton has already replicated the model in Arkansas state in US.

Hillary Clinton is expected to be very busy on Monday. She will fly to the north-western town of Jessore from where she will drive to Rishipara village. There she will see how the poor Bangladeshi womenfolk have changed their life-style by generating income with the help of a small bank credit.

She is also expected to observe how women, looked down upon by the conservative male-dominated society, have broken the taboo and established themselves as partners equal to their menfolk.

She will also see some more NGO projects in the area. She will visit the nearby Churamankathi village where BRAC, rated as the biggest NGO in the world, is running a number of non-formal schools mainly for girls.

But the Grameen Bank and BRAC are facing fierce criticism from some Islamic clerics who believe that the NGOs are encouraging the women to break away from Islamic conservatism.

A group calling itself Anti-Islam and Anti-state Activities Resistance Committee held a rally in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar on Saturday to denounce the government for allowing NGOs to operate freely in Bangladesh. One of their leaders also criticised Hillary Clinton for only seeing the NGO projects during her visit.

NGO representatives said the Islamic group held the rally at the place where a rally of the poor people was to be held on the same day. But the government did not permit them to hold such rally.

A US security squad worked in close liaison with their Bangladeshi counterparts to work out a full-proof security arrangement for the American First Lady.

Commandos and sharpshooters will take up posts around the Sonargaon Hotel resulting in some occasional restrictions on traffic in the nearby areas.

An advance security team was here long before when Ms Hillary's visit was being considered and later security teams arrived here much ahead of the arrival of the First Lady. Unlike other south Asian countries, where security for VIPs are a great hazard because of insur-

gency and ethnic violence, Bangladesh poses no such problems to the top international figures. Nonetheless, the American government is taking no chance and all arrangements have been completed yesterday for the arrival of the First Lady.

She will arrive shortly after 2 pm in the afternoon.

"The security in Dhaka and Jessore is something rare in this country", said an official requesting anonymity but he adds "what is the beauty of this is that there is no much evidence of this on the ground — it is more invisible". Security has been tightened

manifold compared to what was done during the visit of former vice-president Dan Quayle's wife here in the wake of catastrophic cyclone in early, 1991.

Hillary Clinton carries with her importance much more than being the wife of the American president as the prominence she enjoys in the administration is wellknown. Her role in the presidential election and before that to the run-up to the nomination of the democratic party was something more influencing than most other first ladies.

While announcing the visit of his wife to South Asia last month, President Bill Clinton called his wife the best imaginable emissary to deliver a message to the region that his administration's concern for those countries is deeper than traditional geopolitics.

The Morning Sun

April 2, 1995

Hillary keen in politics

As an excellent student and a girl scout, Hillary Rodham Clinton enjoyed sports and was always interested in politics, reports UNB.

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On many occasions, Hillary Clinton, has spoken about the need "to find the right balance in our lives." For her, the elements of that balance are family, work, and public service.

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Hillary also served on the board of the Arkansas Children's Hospital. In recognition of her professional and personal accomplishments, Hillary was named Arkansas Woman of the year in 1983 and Arkansas Mother of the year in 1984.

Upon taking office, the President made health care one of his highest priorities. He appointed the First Lady to head his Task Force on National Health Care Reform. Like her predecessors, Hillary Rodham Clinton brings to the role of First Lady of the United States her own special talents, experience, style, and interests.

BWF welcomes Hillary's visit

President of Bangladesh Women Forum (BWF) advocate Ferdousi Sultana today welcomed the visit of US First Lady Ms Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter Chelsea to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

In a statement, the BWF President expressed the hope that this visit of the US First Lady would surely contribute to realising rights of the oppressed women of the developing world.

"We are sure that your unflinching stand in favour of the oppressed women will show them a ray of hope in their life," she said in the statement.

The Bangladesh Observer
April 2, 1995



Warm welcome awaits Hillary

Diplomatic Correspondent

The US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will be accorded a warm reception when she arrives in Dhaka today (Sunday) on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, the first by the wife of an American President.

She will fly from Kathmandu by a special flight on the fourth leg of her current 12-day five-country tour in South Asia covering Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman and his wife will receive the US First Lady Hillary Clinton at the airport. She will be accompanied by her daughter Chelsea and a team of senior officials and the US media.

Though termed as an unofficial visit, the trip of the US First Lady is being considered as the growing interest of the US Administration

under President Clinton towards Bangladesh and other South Asian countries. Mrs Clinton started her South Asia trip on March 24 focusing on humanitarian issues in Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

During her three-day sojourn here, the US First Lady will meet President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Mrs Clinton, who is an eminent lawyer in her country and working for the cause of the women and children around the world, will hold an exclusive meeting with the leading women representatives in bureaucracy, religious and educational institutions, NGOs, human rights organiza-

See Page 10 Col. 2

tions.

The US Embassy will host a reception in honour of the US First Lady where she will meet leading political leaders, top civil and military officials and eminent figures in business and professions.

The US First Lady, who addressed the recent UN World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen praised the role of the Grameen Bank in the uplift of rural women in Bangladesh. She will fly to Jessore on Monday to see some of the Grameen Bank projects and educational programmes run by BRAC, the leading NGO in the country.

In her live televised interview by CNN on March 19, Mrs Clinton said that she was particularly interested in the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. Prof Mohammad Yunus who received world accolade for his innovative idea of the Grameen Bank to help the rural poor people, became a personal friend of President Clinton and Mrs. Hillary Clinton.

Before leaving for Colombo on April 4 at the last leg of her current South Asian tour the US First Lady

will visit the ICDDR,B, the unique research institute of its kind in the developing world working in the fields of diarrhoeal diseases, cholera, nutrition, population control, sanitation and AIDS. The internationally known ICDDR,B has technical research collaboration with the University of John Hopkins, University of Michigan, University of California in the USA and it is funded by donors like USAID, Ford Foundation and Population Council.

The Bangladesh Observer

April 2, 1995

'Human issues' focus of Hillary's trip

WASHINGTON, Apr. 1: US First Lady Hillary Clinton's current visit to five South Asian countries including Bangladesh is for the purpose of "learning as much as she possibly can about the kinds of issues she has always cared about, human issues," says a USIS press release.

In an interview March 19 on CNN's "Late Edition," before setting out on this trip which has already taken her to India, Pakistan and Nepal, Mrs Clinton said, "I want to see some of the programmes that they are doing there trying to help children and women and very poor people pull themselves up, take opportunity by giving it to them through credit and other approaches, and see what I can learn." She said she is particularly interested in the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh which extends credit primarily to women, and these women then are able to take better care of themselves by establishing small businesses.

Following are excerpts of an unofficial transcript of Mrs Clinton's interview:

CNN: A year ago you were on the Hill championing the cause of health care reform here in the United States. Now you're five days away from leaving on this major trip to Asia, to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka. What is the first lady up to?

MRS CLINTON: Well, I think it's all pretty much the same kinds of issues that I've always cared about now for more than 25 years, and that I guess you could describe are the human issues. I mean, what do we do to make sure that children have healthy futures and they get the education they need? And that certainly is what I tried to do promoting health care, because I was particularly concerned about children. And what I'm hoping is that not only here at home but abroad that all of us will recognize that as we move into this global economy, we have to be very conscious and aware of what we are doing or not doing

on behalf of our children and other vulnerable people.

CNN: Why Asia?

MRS CLINTON: Well, the State Department and the administration are very hopeful that our relations with South Asia, the five countries that I'm going to be visiting, will continue to be strengthened. This is an important part of the world strategically. There's a lot at stake for the entire world. There are a lot of American interests at stake. We've had a number of successful trips there already by Secretary Brown and Secretary O'Leary promoting business. And I think that the president feels that this is a part of the world that needs our attention, and I was delighted to be asked to go to talk about some of these human issues.

CNN: Now, you have said on many occasions, and you repeated it recently in Copenhagen and New York, in one way or another, that women in many societies around the world have been marginalized.

... So what exactly are you hoping to accomplish? Are you going to go over there and rattle their cages, if you will, to say, you know, "Change the way your societies work"?

MRS CLINTON: No.

CNN: What are you trying to do?

MRS CLINTON: No, not at all. I'm going to learn as much as I possibly can about what is being done there, what they are doing to help themselves. There are some wonderful programmes in all five of these countries that are aimed at giving women the education they need, the skills that they require to take care of themselves and their families. I'm particularly interested in the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh which extends credit primarily to women, and these women then are able to take better care of themselves by establishing small businesses. In fact, you know, we, when my husband was governor of Arkansas, followed the example of the Grameen Bank and

set up such a fund in Arkansas dealing with poor people in our state.

So I think there are lessons we can learn. I'm not about to go and try to tell anybody what to do. I think that is not my role. I think it's presumptuous even if someone were to suggest it. I do believe that as the world becomes more competitive, we also become more connected. And we need to be respectful of each other. We need to learn from each other's cultures. And I think that will help us be sure that we have a global community.

CNN: You have pointed out specifically that women bear the brunt of poverty and illiteracy around the world.

... Talk a little bit about that and what is being done or what you would like to do to change that?

MRS CLINTON: Well, you know, that's true in our country as well, that the poorest of the people in our country are single women with their children. And that is a pattern that unfortunately holds throughout the world. Now, luckily our people are nowhere near as impoverished as the billion people who live at a totally absolute poverty level, less than a dollar a day of income around the world. And there are very many people who are now convinced that if we help by investing in women, for women to take some responsibility and have some power over their own futures, that is not only good for the women; it helps their children, it helps their husbands, it helps the larger society.

So I'm particularly interested in speaking with women and learning from women in these five countries about what they are doing, because I think there are direct links. And we saw that when we were in Denmark as to how, yes, the more developed countries need to be aware of what is happening, but we also need to understand that a lot of these countries, and particularly the women in these countries, are doing some rather remarkable things for themselves.

The Daily Star
April 2, 1995

Warm welcome awaits the US First Lady

By Staff Correspondent

A warm welcome awaits US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton when she arrives in the capital this afternoon at 2-15 on a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and his wife will receive the distinguished visitor at the Zia International Airport.

The entourage of Hillary

Editorial on Page-4

Clinton will comprise nearly 60 members including a 20-member media-team.

Hillary and the members of her entourage, which include her daughter Chelsea, will be staying at the Sonargaon Hotel.

This is for the first time that a US first lady is visiting this part of the world. On March 24, Hillary began her extensive goodwill trip to South Asia.

Although Hillary does not hold an official position in the US administration, her visit will carry all the trappings of a state visit that is expected to forge even closer ties with South Asia, particularly Bangladesh.

A three-layer security blanket has been put into force for the US First Lady. This includes members from the US Secret Service, the FBI and local security personnel.

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US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Warm welcome

From Page One

Two bullet-proof limousines have already been flown in for her use. A special communications link has also been set up with Washington, it is learnt. Over 100 rooms have been reserved for the use of the visiting US entourage at the Sonargaon Hotel. A special co-ordination office of the US Embassy has also been set up there.

After her arrival today, Mrs Clinton will pay a courtesy call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the Bangabhaban.

The US Embassy in the city will hold a reception this evening at 7 in her honour, which will be attended by a select gathering.

The invitees also include leading politicians from the ruling party and the opposition parties, top civil and military officials, intellectuals and other community leaders.

Tomorrow, Hillary will fly to Jessore in the morning where she will see the workings of Grameen Bank projects. The trip will take her to Rishipara village at Mashihati by road from Jessore.

She will also go to Churamankathi village to see a BRAC-run non-formal primary school. She will return to Dhaka in the afternoon.

The US First Lady will hold a reception exclusively for women leaders at the US embassy tomorrow at 5:30 pm. Some 25 distinguished women leaders who are known for their work in different fields have been invited.

Hillary Clinton will meet Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Hare Road office. She will also be hosted a dinner by the Prime Minister at 8 pm.

Hillary will visit the ICDDR, B on April 4 at 10 in the morning. She will leave for Colombo at 10-45 am on the last leg of her current South Asian tour.

Although Hillary holds no official position in the US administration, "the way she fulfills her role as the first lady marks a real departure," wrote a leading US commentator recently. President Clinton consults her on political policies and trusts her as his closest adviser, he wrote.

Hillary will arrive in Dhaka from Kathmandu on the fourth leg of a five-nation South Asian tour.

The Daily Star

Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Dhaka, Sunday, April 2, 1995

Welcome to Hillary

Whatever maybe the official label put on it — she no doubt deserving the trappings of a state visit as the 'US' First Lady — we prefer to describe her visit as the magic name Hillary's pilgrimage to where the Clinton family's heart has always lain — Bangladesh. She and her daughter Chelsea are arriving here because of the magnetising pull of Prof. Yunus Grameen Bank. It is not just a Bangladeshi celebrity bringing them here; for, they have met him quite a few times over, and could have done so anywhere else if they wished. In fact, it is the much broader concern for the under-privileged women and children which Prof. Yunus has himself addressed tangibly to set a trend in rural revolution that has drawn her to his sites of some remarkably pioneering projects.

The Clinton family has been fond of Prof Yunus and his work without the slightest hint of patronisation and, that is where the genuineness of their love for the Grameen Bank lies almost as an article of faith. Their setting up of the good Hope Fund modelled on the Grameen concept a decade ago in Arkansas followed by the replication of the same in some other countries, have proved that the task of serving the poor is frontierless and indivisible.

So we see in her visit a rare kind of a prospect for bridge-building not only between the people of the USA and that of Bangladesh but also in terms of globalisation of poverty concerns which have been addressed rather inadequately so far by the world leadership.

It does us proud that she tied up her South Asian visits "keeping Grameen Bank and Bangladesh in focus." In diplomatic parlance, her trip reflects the measure of importance South Asia as a region has been enjoying with the White House lately.

For our part, we shall be content with her contributions to global awareness-building on child welfare and women empowerment issues.

Hearty welcome to Hillary, Chelsea and other members of the US contingent.

Omphalos of the Empire: Savage War of Peace

Waliur Rahman

More people below poverty line live in this area than the entire planet taken together. Hillary Clinton's encounter with poverty and its benighting impact on human beings will be far removed from Rhode's Empire of 'bread and butter' and an untouched area of inviting the initiative of men of character and leadership.'

Hillary Clinton's love for Albert Camus and Picasso is not for nothing: she is deeply conscious that plague never dies or disappears; it hides itself in everything only to reappear. The mindless destruction of the Spanish Civil War left in its wake a scar on human spirit: soon degenerated into the wasteland of Second World War. Guernica's savage and emotional vignette is always a reminder of man's beastiality to man.....

First Lady Hillary Clinton embraces the vision of activist and compassionate government of her husband — she wants to play a more solid and meaningful role. The role of first lady was more difficult in 18th and 19th centuries. Abigail Adams was taunted with the derisive name 'Mrs. President'? But 20th century has given them more leeway. Woodrow Wilson's second wife Edith Bolling Galt encoded and decoded sypher messages. Eleanor Roosevelt was the genteel, sophisticated — perfect mate for her husband. Jacqueline Kennedy gave a certain sophistication to the office with her background of French culture, love for the arts and the finer things of life. Barbara Bush was the beloved first lady.

Hillary Clinton gives the impression of discarding the Cinderella syndrome: once you get the Prince Charming, you live happily ever after.

She eschewed the ceremony and the ritual of the camelot White House and has chosen to take on the challenge of the problems both in America and the world at large. The same idealism that prompted her to strive relentlessly

for the gigantic task of reaching health care to all the American homes is prompting her to take interest in the world's poor.

If you don't build the castle of peace in human minds, effort to build peace in the world outside will be infructuous. The US First Lady's resolve to accept this challenge is to be seen in her present visit to an area which boasts itself of inhabiting 1.2 billion people — about one fifth of the world population. This is the same area which the Cambridge historian, John Seeleys thought as an immense 'Majestas Romanna Paclis' established among two hundred and fifty million of human beings... Thomas Carlyle, Benjamin Disraeli, Cecil Rhodes all developed this romantic and imperial sensitivity. The Primrose League with its motto 'emporium et libertas', together with Disraeli's Crystal Palace speech of 1872 made imperialism a powerful force characterised by a drive to 'occupy, fortify, grab and brag'.

But today's answer is to be found in 'Imperium in Imperio' — power is higher dispensation and not in the chivalry and swashbuckling Don Quixote of Jennyson's Idylls of the King!

More people below poverty line live in this area than the entire planet taken together. Hillary Clinton's encounter with poverty and its benighting impact on human beings will be far removed from Rhode's Empire of 'bread and butter

and an untouched area of inviting the initiative of men of character and leadership.' Her peripatetic journey in the 'Omphalos of the Empire' (Pax Britannica) will bring her to the world moulding itself in post — 1947 as independent states. India the mightiest and most energetic is the veritable power house of synergy: implosion of economic libertarian policies are beaconing her to the 21st century. Pakistan's self-inflicted wound of righteousness is stalling her movement forward. Their nuclear programmes deprive them both of scarce resources. Sri Lanka is surging ahead in spite of a bloody ethnic war. The new government of Ms. Chandrika Kumaratunga has a big advantage — she is experimenting with ideas — and she will succeed.

In Bangladesh we have some problem — we seem to have run out of ideas. The US First Lady would do well to note that the HDI ranking of Sri Lanka is 90, with 135 for India, 132 for Pakistan and 146 for Bangladesh.

In the happenstance of her being in 'a rats alley' of political reflection, she may realise that in this sub-continent consensus politics is in the retreat, at least in this moment. Nelson Mandela here will be hard put to invite their former jailers to attend inaugural ceremonies! But the religion of peace and ahimsa — Buddhism flourished in this very South Asia.

vastly exaggerated compared to the power of ideas'. This was certainly at the back of her mind, when the US First Lady addressed the UN World Summit of Social Development in Copenhagen on March 8 where she announced new American initiative to fight female illiteracy in Asia, Africa and Latin American to ensure women's empowerment.

Forty thousand children die everyday. Three days' death toll of children is equivalent to the total people annihilated in Hiroshima and Nagasaki! Thus a total of 15 million children perish every year!

Born on the blood of three million martyrs, the new nation of Bangladesh did not do all that badly as the WB statistics show: The GDP growth was 7% with small industries accounting for 17%. People living below poverty line was 50%, unemployment 15%, and external debt was only \$ 690m. dollars. But today the proportion of population living below absolute povertyline is 86% in Bangladesh, 40% in India and 32% in Pakistan. She will note that in Bangladesh in 1992, 600000 children died before the age of 5, 48 million people did not have access to health services, 30 million people consumed less than 1000 calorie per day, per capita, 42 million adults are illiterate, 11.5 million children under five are malnourished and five million children in the primary schoolage were out of school. It is a grim picture. It is no wonder, therefore, that



the US First Lady has chosen to visit Bangladesh, primarily at the invitation of Prof. Mohammad Yunus who as the Chief of Grameen Bank is on a mission to attack the problems enumerated above.

Economic security for Bangladesh cannot be ensured without empowering women. Grameen Bank is just doing that. Other NGOs such as BRAC and Proshika are also engaged in the same direction. They are responding. The most disadvantaged and benighted in Bangladesh have proved that they are more credit-worthy than the most affluent in the society.

Hillary Clinton was much moved during her recent Italian journey at the massacre at the Abbey of Monte Cassino; over 60 thousand died; and later at Nettuno and Anzio where thousands of American marines lie in peace in the military cemeteries. This is

The Daily Star April 2, 1995 1st

Bangladesh always a model of self reliance: Hillary

The United States First Lady, Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Sunday paid glowing tributes to Bangladeshi people as a model of "self-reliance and resilience" reports BSS.

"I have long admired the determination and creativity of Bangladeshi people", she said in a statement upon arrival here on a three-day visit.

"This nation has always been a model of self-reliance and resilience, one whose successes in building a free society and a vibrant economy have much to teach the world", the American President's wife said.

She expressed the hope that during her stay, she will learn more about special efforts being made to help women and children achieve their full potential in life.

Ms. Clinton said it is a great privilege on her part to visit this country as a part of her tour of South Asia and she thanked all of the people of Bangladesh for affording her

this opportunity.

Hillary Clinton's visit to Bangladesh is the first ever by a President wife of the United States.

She is known to have expressed her keenness several times earlier to visit this country.

In the recent world social summit in Copenhagen, she made particular mention about Bangladesh in the context of laudable efforts being made by the "Grameen" Bank in the uplift of women and rural development.

Mrs. Clinton, herself an eminent lawyer, is known for her penchant for social welfare activities.

According to an earlier report: A warm welcome was given to the United States First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton when she arrived here Sunday afternoon on a three-day visit.

Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman, and his

Contd. on page 8 col. 2

Hillary calls on Biswas

US First Lady Madam Hillary Rodham Clinton called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Begum Biswas at Bangabhaban Sunday afternoon, reports BSS.

Welcoming Mrs Hillary Clinton in Bangladesh, President Biswas said that her visit would further strengthen the existing excellent bilateral relations between the two countries. He gave an outline of the functioning of the judicial system and legal profession in Bangladesh. In this connection, he asserted that rule of law has been prevailing in the country and briefed Mrs Clinton about the democratic process and the functioning of the democratic institutions in Bangladesh.

President Biswas said that government efforts are being supplemented by the NGO's for alleviating poverty and enhancing mass literacy in the rural areas.

Mrs Hillary Clinton said that she is very much interested to see some of the rural development projects including those of Grameen Bank and added that they are trying to get ideas from Bangladesh for helping the poorer section of the people in the United States. She said that they are keenly observing the development of Bangladesh through democratic processes. She showed keen interest in the opportunities of legal profession prevailing in the country.

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Hillary

Contd. from page 1

wife welcomed, the wife of President Bill Clinton, who flew in here in a special plane from Kathmandu. The United States ambassador David N. Merrill and his wife were present.

She is accompanied by her daughter Chelsea.

The American First Lady is currently on a swing of five South Asian countries.

Bangladesh is the penultimate hop of the trip.

A red carpet rolled down as the aircraft carrying the First Lady and others touched the VIP terminal of the Zia International Airport.

State Minister for Women Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman was present at the airport.

Two tiny tots greeted Mrs. Clinton with bouquets and she affectionately patted them.

Resplendent in a dark dress, Hillary Clinton was quickly conducted to the waiting car by the United States security people. The car has been specially slow in for the visit.

Hillary meets

Contd. from page 1

Minister-in-attendance and State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs, Begum Sarwari Rahman was present.

Besides, Secretary to President Ataul Ataul Haq, Foreign Secretary Farook Sobhan, Military Secretary to the President Major General Sardar Md Ali Hasan, US Ambassador David Merrill, Asstt. Secretary of State, Ms Robin Raphel, Deputy Chief of Staff Ms Melanne Verveer were among those present on the occasion.

The Bangladesh Times
April 2, 1995

To an Uncrowned World Empress

Zazabar Osman

Truth is life and death like light and shade;
Truth is creation and destruction like day and night;
But yet human desire never ends in diurnal life;
Man is the supreme truth of creation, and men's
Deeds reflect in the visage of unending power;
Creator happily lives in creation, and in jocund mood
Directs the worthiest creation to love the unworthy one;
The "have not" seeks the sympathy of the "Have" and
The depressed longs for the favour of the affluent.

Man and humanity are the greatest truth
In the brazen field of the earth, and the worshippers.
Of truth and beauty are the greatest friend
Of mankind and the finest creation of Almighty,
God freely moves in all hearts of the worshipper
Of truth and beauty — to serve the depressed
Humanity and suppressed populace means
To serve the greatest truth that remains
Inspid and invisible in human heart;
Man's desire means God's desire, God and man,
Man and God are in no way separable one.

O Uncrowned world Empress move in every
Heart, move in every shed - move from west
To East, from North to South and abate the sufferings
Of the wretched and fulfill the desire of God.

One day this war-trodden world will smile
In joy with the touch of its worthiest son
And the pain of the depressed life will go on
The wane; the snow-clad fields of Siberia,
The pungent sands of Sahara and the alluvial
Land of the Far-East will leap up in mirth;
• Good conscience will prevail upon the bad one
And the pain of a thousand years' depressed
Humanity will speak in glee to a new lease
Of life; man will embrace man forgetting
All caste and creed; that day we will hear
The song of life and humanity in all the
Discordant fields of the ether and the earth.

Ether finds no distinction between a man and a man
In the mystery of creation. God's desire remains
Inspid and unexpressed, - light haunts shade,
Shade haunts light — all come by turn,
And all go by turn in diminishing way,
But the greatest truth plays diabolic role
With time and eternity sitting in His golden throne.

O the uncrowned world Empress, the divine
Soul, remember your past in dream's kingdom and
In soul's empire and set yourself to the service
Of humanity; O be a worshipper of mankind
And move from church to mosque, from temple to
Pagoda and dedicate yourself to the cause of the
Greatest cause, to the desire of the greatest desire.

When soul, the king of body will eschew its den
Pulse-beat will be stopped - soul, the representative
Of divinity - not of caste and creed of the earth.
Will be coming again and again in various forms.

If the world be burnt under the burning sun,
If mankind be vanished from the surface of the
Earth by the ever cruel behest of the ether,
Nothing but deeds will remain in full lustre;
If you love the soil, the air and the sky
Of the earth, you will have the immense



Hillary Rodham Clinton

Love of the inmates of this planet, and will have
The love of the greatest power that controls
Heaven and Earth — a centre of all powers.

After completion of the works of this world, you
will go to the region of an unknown star
Crores of light years away this planet,
Where deeds alone shine forgetting transience of life;
In that far off country of the invisible star, lies
No racial feuds and distinction of nations;
In that far off region, lies eternal serenity
And harmony of life-ever green nature,
Eternal spring, sportive and dancing fairies,
Walk jovially with serene lustre of democracy;
Who render service to mankind and go there,
Shine in their own splendour, pride and glory;
When the infinite touches, finite becomes intransient.

One day, the obscure fields of the world will be
Illuminated with the bright light of democracy
And peace, and in that divine flood of light,
the fairies of the heaven will bathe and sing
The eternal song of divine life and deeds;
O if you leave behind the truest deeds and
Love mankind, you will shine in the sky
Of this planet like an evening star with a
Serene look; the moon will smile, the sun
Will be eclipsed-light and shade will walk
Together, but you will move from Niagra to
Nippon, from Siberia to Falkland with divine deeds
And desire, love and respect for mankind;
You will live in rock, hill, sand, water, air and
Light of this earth with the Whirl of time,
O be merged in the entity of eternal beauty
And truth, and serve the truest purpose of God

The Morning Sun April 3, 1995

Mrs Clinton's trip

Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit to Bangladesh comes at a time when the country's women are engaged in an uphill battle against the forces of obscurantism. A group of elements has just called for a ban on the activities of NGOs, and that is a sure sign that there are people in this society who obviously feel threatened at the erosion of their authority. Many of the NGOs have over the years done a remarkable job in transforming the lives of Bangladesh's women. That basically has been an injection of the spirit of independence and confidence in women who, in an earlier time, were condemned to life without things lively.

Mrs Clinton's particular experience will be coming to a country whose politics is dominated by women. The hereditary bit apart, a good measure of credit must go to the nation's prime minister and the leader of the opposition for the courage with which they have restored the base for democracy. That is the positive aspect of societal life Hillary Clinton will observe. And yet she must remember that not long ago, a feminist writer was forced into exile by elements not taking kindly to her expression of opinion. In this country, women have been stoned in medieval fashion. Mrs Clinton will be told the story of Noor Jahan. If her attention holds, one could tell her the tragic tales arising out of the demands made by men tempted by the wealth of their in-laws.

The wife of Bill Clinton goes beyond the mere calling of the politically ceremonial. She has appreciated the value of the individualistic. Which is why her visit comes wrapped in substance. We welcome the US first lady. More importantly, we cheer the arrival of a person who knows where she stands on the issues.

The Morning Sun
April 3, 1995

The lady with the Message

Sayed Eqbal Rezvi

The First Lady of USA Hillary Rodham Clinton now on a visit to Bangladesh was given a rousing reception. She will be visiting a number of development projects of Grameen Bank and BRAC apart from other engagements. She will hold a reception exclusively for women leaders at the US embassy this afternoon. About 25 distinguished women in different fields, including those engaged in social and community service and NGO affairs have been invited to attend the reception. Widely known as a champion of women empowerment, her visit has given a new impetus to those working in the field of women development and children affairs. Although Hillary holds no official position in the US administration, the way she fulfils her role as the First Lady marks a real departure, comments a leading US writer recently. According to the writer President Clinton consults her on political issues and trusts her as his closest adviser.

Hillary arrived in Dhaka from Kathmandu on the fourth leg of a five nation South Asian tour. She is visiting Bangladesh at the

invitation of Prof Muhammad Yunus, Founder-Managing Director of Grameen Bank. The rural revolution initiated by Prof Yunus actually influenced her to make the present visit. On a visit to the USA in January this year Prof Yunus invited the First Lady to visit Bangladesh and have a personal glimpse of the different development projects for the landless and poor women taken up by his Bank. It is relevant to point out here that the link between the US President's family and the Grameen Bank is more than a decade old. It was in the mid-eighties when Bill Clinton as Governor of Arkansas invited Prof Yunus to initiate a Grameen Bank Project called "Good Hope Fund" in Little Rock. Later similar other projects on Grameen Bank model were introduced in many other countries including the USA. The invitation to the First Lady by Prof Yunus worked. The White House then decided to take special advantage of Hillary's trip to the region

after President Clinton felt that the US has given scant attention in the recent years to South Asia. Hillary's visit apparently is unofficial, yet it has been given an official colour. She was received at the ZIA international airport, Dhaka by the Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and his wife.

Prof Yunus told a weekly that Hillary will meet the borrowers of Grameen Bank and exchange views with them. She will be acquainted with the banking activities of the Bank. Being the wife of the US President she is an important person. While visiting the different people-oriented and poverty alleviation projects of Grameen Bank and BRAC she will have a better idea regarding this poverty stricken region. She is an important personality in USA by virtue of her personal career and identity. So her beliefs and thoughts will definitely influence other people of USA and

even President Clinton, thus commented Prof Yunus.

The visit to Bangladesh of the First Lady was welcomed by an eminent poet of English Zazabar Osman. After submitting a poem dedicated to Hillary Clinton he mentioned the names of his poems in which he invited President Clinton to visit Bangladesh. In his collection of poems "Harbinger of Peace," published recently he called Clinton "Harbinger of peace." Addressing the President he said:

O harbinger of peace, we hear the reverberation

Of your promise sitting far away from you;

Peace and prosperity walk side by side

Like truth and beauty. War and peace are like

Fire and water. War cracks have been

Never lauded by the wise, rather they are damned:

O harbinger of peace, work for one country.

One nation and one religion- this earth is for

One race and one religion- human and humanity.

Humankind is the cardinal thing of human race.

In two other poems dedicated to President Clinton -Come See and Love You and I poet Zazabar Osman wished that the American President will make time to visit this impoverished country. But he says, at least the visit of Hillary Clinton has partly fulfilled his desire. He wished Hillary Clinton will carry back with her the message of peace, goodwill and fraternity of the peace loving people of Bangladesh and impress upon the American leader to visit Bangladesh and share the sentiments and good wishes of the toiling people of this land.

During her visit to India Hillary Clinton spoke to vegetable vendors and embroidery workers in a sweltering tent in the industrial

city of Ahmadabad organised by Self-employed Women's Association (SEWA). Its chief 62-year old Ela Bhatt, a follower of Mahatma Gandhi is trying her best to ensure better treatment for the often oppressed, illiterate women who struggle to provide for their families. The members of SEWA narrated to Hillary their past woes and sufferings and how SEWA has changed their life pattern. A young women told the First Lady, "now they can fearlessly walk into the village council and speak our minds there."

Hillary Clinton is visiting Bangladesh at a moment when political confrontation is taking a serious turn. There is no iota of doubt that her visit will be a source of encouragement to all those organisations working for poverty alleviation and removed of gender discrimination from this country obsessed by vile and malicious propaganda of extremist elements. At least Hillary will tell the women that they are strong, they can never be a burden and can become positive economic components if properly organised.

The Morning Sun

Hillary's help sought

Harkin Bill costs jobs of 50 thousand

Some 50,000 child labourers have been retrenched from the country's garments sector following the introduction of Harkin's Bill in US Congress, without taking rehabilitation measures for them.

This was disclosed at a workshop in Dhaka on Sunday where the speakers appealed to the authorities concerned for rehabilitation of the hapless children, reports UNB.

The much-talked Harkin's Bill, formally known as Child Labour Deterrence Act 1994, was introduced in early 1993 to prohibit import of commodities manufactured with child labour.

Bangladesh's burgeoning garments sector, which exports readymade garments worth nearly two billion US dollars annually—about half the volume going to the United States—has freed almost all the factories from child labour since October 31 last year in a bid to retain the US market. About 60,000 children were employed in this sector.

"The bill has been introduced for serving coterie interest neglecting the fundamental rights of children working for food and shelter," said Barrister Nazmul Huda, MP, while inaugurating the workshop on "Child and Female Labour in the Development of Bangladesh and Human Rights".

Barrister Huda, a former Minister for Information, hoped that visiting US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton would see herself the condition of children and women in Bangladesh and assist actively for their well-being.

No controversy arises when children in developed countries work on holidays. But children in developing nations, working merely for food, are put on dock and vehemently criticised. "It's very much unfortunate," said Huda.

Bangladesh Garments Sramik Federation organised the workshop at the Engineers' Institution auditorium in city which was also addressed by its President Mohammad Khurshid Alam and Brother Jarlath D' Souza.

Khurshid said concept of human rights and welfare varies in developed and developing countries. "To maintain subsistence level in our country where most people live below the poverty level is a real human right," the trade union leader observed.

More than one crore under-aged labourers work in different sectors in Bangladesh for their subsistence, Khurshid informed the function.

Only about 7,000 out of more than 50,000 child labourers removed from garment factories are getting education provided jointly by the government, ILO, UNICEF and BGMEA in Dhaka and Chittagong, he said, adding more facilities should be extended for the rest.

The Federation President urged the government and international organisations to take long-term rehabilitation programme for the jobless children.

Like 'Food for Education' programme, the government has to provide Tk 700 monthly for a retrenched garment sector child labourer for education and livelihood, Khurshid said.

He also urged the governments of USA and Canada to increase their garments quota for Bangladesh to enhance the employment opportunities for millions of unemployed women.

Law against

Contd from Page-1

the country and the rest is in the pipeline.

The meeting discussed the introduction of an anti-hoarding law while Food Minister said the government was examining the issue.

A draft policy on food was also discussed in the meeting.

The meeting was also informed that the draft policy would be finalised with the recommendations basing on the opinions of the standing committee members and a workshop to be held at the national level in this connection.

The members of the committee including Abu Abbas MP, MA Matin MP and Mosharaf Hossain MP attended the meeting.

The Morning Sun
April 3, 1995



Hillary Clinton receiving Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the American Embassy in city on Sunday.

Poverty alleviation success acclaimed

US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on Sunday acclaimed the remarkable progress achieved by Bangladesh in the fields of family planning, education and poverty alleviation, reports BSS.

Praising the leadership of Begum Zia, the US First Lady said that she conveyed US President Bill Clinton's thanks to the Bangladesh Prime Minister for her commendable support to UN peacekeeping missions across the world.

Hillary Clinton was making a brief address at a reception accorded to her by the US Embassy in Dhaka in the evening. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attended the reception.

The US First Lady said she and her husband know that Begum Zia's government has achieved remarkable progress in the fields of family planning, education, poverty eradication and other programmes.

She said she is happy and delighted to be in Bangladesh and is impressed by the wonderful and warm hospitality. She said she was looking forward to coming to Bangladesh for a long time.

Mentioning that Grameen Bank and some other rural development programmes have set an example in the developing countries, the US First Lady said her country has much to learn

Last page col-6

Poverty

Contd from Page-1

from Bangladesh in the field of family planning, Grameen Bank and some other development models.

Hillary Clinton was all praise for Bangladesh soldiers saying they have been doing wonderful jobs at different peacekeeping missions.

She said she is going out of Dhaka to get herself acquainted with nation building activities in the country by meeting people there.

Earlier on her arrival at the Baridhara embassy premises, the Prime Minister was received by Hillary Clinton and US Ambassador David N Merrill. As Begum Zia and Hillary Clinton entered the reception lounge and stood at the raised platform to give audience to the guests the US Ambassador made an introductory speech.

The US First Lady exchanged pleasantries with the guests. Begum Zia greeted them.

US Assistant Secretary of State MS Robin Raphel, political leaders, high civil and military officials, distinguished citizens of Bangladesh and diplomats were present at the reception.

The Morning Sun
April 3, 1995

Bangladesh has much

Staff Correspondent

Hillary Rodham Clinton showered effusive praise on Bangladesh, saying its successes in building a free society and vibrant economy have much to teach the world, as she arrived in Dhaka on Sunday to a hearty reception by her hosts.

"I have long admired the determination and creativity of the Bangladeshi people," she said in a written statement made available to newsmen.

"This nation has always been a model of self-reliance and resilience, one whose successes in building a free society and vibrant economy have much to teach the world," the US First Lady said.

She indicated that the highlight of her two-day visit to Bangladesh was to see how the hitherto impoverished women in the countryside had successfully fought poverty by working together with their menfolk to raise the standard of living.

"During my stay, I hope to learn more about the special efforts being made to help women and children achieve their full potential in life," Mrs Clinton said.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman and his wife welcomed Hillary Clinton and her daughter Chelsea at the Zia International Airport. Two small children presented her bouquets of roses.

The 707 Boeing with stars and stripes on its tail, the official aircraft carrying the US First Lady and

her entourage, landed at the ZIA at 3-10 PM.

Sunday was a day of all formalities for Mrs Clinton. She called on Bangladesh President Abdur Rahman Biswas. Later, she hosted a reception where she met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and the main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina — the country's most powerful women politicians.

Today (Monday) she will fly to Jessore in southwestern Bangladesh to see some rural areas where poor women have fought poverty by working alongside their menfolk. These they were able to do with the help of Grameen Bank, a rural bank which has accomplished an economic miracle by extending credits particularly to poor women. She will also see few non-formal schools run by BRAC, another and perhaps the world's biggest, non-government organisation.

UNB adds: She will visit communities to see first hand how men and women are creating a "seamless" web of services as well as training, educational and economic opportunities which support, empower and nurture children and their families.

On her return from Jessore, Hillary will attend a dinner to be hosted in the evening in her honour by Begum Khaleda Zia at the Prime Minister's 30 Hare Road residence.

Before leaving for Colombo on Last page col-1

Bangladesh

Contd from page 1

Tuesday morning, Hillary is scheduled to visit the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh, which has made significant contribution in combating water-borne epidemics globally.

She is also expected to meet the local press at the Zia International Airport before her departure.

Hillary's tour is the first top-level visit from the United States which is showing growing interest in South Asia, home to nearly one billion people, apparently for its potentials for development.

A White House spokesman told the press in Dhaka that "Mrs Clinton is very excited about her trip to Bangladesh."

Mrs Clinton's visit to Bangladesh as well as other countries of the region is part of the US administration's continuing effort to develop and strengthen US relationships in this increasingly important part of the world.

Earlier, after her arrival in the city Mrs Clinton called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the Bangabhaban.

Welcoming Mrs Clinton in Bangladesh, President Biswas said that her visit would further strengthen the existing excellent bilateral relations between the

two countries.

He gave an outline of the function of the judicial system and the legal profession in Bangladesh.

Hillary Clinton said she is very much interested to see some of the rural development projects.

Begum Biswas, Minister-in-Attendance State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman, David N Merrill, US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel and Deputy Chief of Staff Melanne Verwee were among those present.

A meeting of 2 Hillarys

KATHMANDU, Apr 2 (Reuters): US first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton today met Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to climb the world's highest mountain Everest located in Nepal.

"She is a charming lady. I enjoyed the meeting," Sir Edmund, a 75-year-old New Zealander, told Reuters.

The meeting dubbed a "Hillary-meets-Hillary" encounter was Clinton's last engagement before she left the Himalayan kingdom for Bangladesh, the next leg of a South Asian tour that has already taken her to Pakistan and India.

The Morning Sun
April 3, 1995

the same place we understand, where five hundred years ago, the Turkish buccaneer Barbarossa (red beard) commanding the fleet of Ottoman Sultan Suleiman II with two thousand men came to have a glimpse of the most famous beauty of the time, Giulia Gonzaga!...

The Americans in the cemeteries did not perhaps see a Giulia Gonzaga, but they saw peace, wrested from Hitler's aggression. The First Lady knows well that the peace can very easily be lost in the quicksand of political bankruptcy and the quagmire of poverty and hopelessness. Her visit to the sub-continent will bring her face to face with this reality.

The only superpower with a six-and-a-half trillion dollar GDP, America can bequeath a permanent legacy to the world so that the agony of Monte Cassino or the silence of Nettuno do not haunt us anymore. A Wellesley graduate and a methodist, the First Lady has abiding faith in the innate goodness of human beings, its unbounded potential. As President Clinton is privy to her thought that there is always a tomorrow with hope, we can also learn from her that politics is the art of the possible. An *a priori* condition of the culture of democracy and civil society is tolerance. Didn't Cicero say, 'one should not listen to those who maintain that political enemies merit boundless hatred'?

Omphalos of the modern day sort... is it Pax Americana?

A very hearty welcome to Bangladesh.

The writer is former Bangladesh Ambassador to Italy and Switzerland and Additional Foreign Secretary.

Hillary lauds remarkable progress in poverty alleviation

US First Lady praises Khaleda's leadership

US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Sunday acclaimed the remarkable progress achieved by Bangladesh in the fields of family planning, education and poverty alleviation, reports BSS.

Praising the leadership of Begum Zia, the US First Lady said that she would like to convey US President Bill Clinton's thanks to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for her commendable support to UN peacekeeping missions across the world.

Hillary Clinton was making a brief address at a reception

Indo-Nepal talks on friendship treaty fail

accorded to her by the US embassy in Dhaka Sunday evening. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attended the reception.

The US First Lady said she and her husband President Bill Clinton know that Begum Zia's government has achieved remarkable progress in the fields of family planning, education, poverty alleviation and other programmes.

She said that she is happy and delighted to be here in Bangladesh and impressed by the wonderful and warm hospitality. She said that she was looking forward to come to Bangladesh for a long time.

Mentioning that she knows that Grameen Bank and some other rural development programmes had set an example in the developing countries, the US First Lady said that her

country has much to learn from Bangladesh in the field of family planning, Grameen Bank and some other development models.

Hillary Clinton was all praise for Bangladesh soldiers saying they have been doing wonderful jobs at different peacekeeping missions.

She said she is going out of Dhaka to get herself acquainted with nation-building activities in the country by meeting people there.

Earlier on her arrival at the Baridhara embassy, the Prime Minister was received by the US First Lady Hillary Clinton and US ambassador David Merrill. As Begum Zia and Hillary Clinton entered the reception lounge and stood at the raised platform to give audience to the guest. The US ambassador made a brief introductory

speech.

The US First Lady exchanged pleasantries with the guests. Begum Zia greeted them.

US Assistant Secretary of State Ms Robin Raphel, political leaders, high civil and military officials, distinguished citizens of Bangladesh and diplomats were present at the reception.

3, 1995

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Hillary Clinton welcomes Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the reception hosted by the American Embassy in Dhaka on Sunday.

The Bangladesh

Hasina exchanges views

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina exchanged greetings with US First Lady Hillary Clinton and welcomed her visit to Bangladesh during a private conversation at a reception at the US Embassy on Sunday evening, reports UNB.

During the tete-e-tete, Hasina exchanged views with Hillary Clinton on condition of women and children in Bangladesh as well as poverty and environmental issues facing the country.

Hillary expressed her keen interest in development of women and children, and protection of human rights. The US First Lady also underscored the need for setting up more schools to

Last page col-6

Hasina

Contd from page-1
spread women education.

A press release of Awami League said Hasina told the US First Lady that they (AL) have been waging movement for ensuring people's voting right in the interest of democracy and political stability.

In this context, Hasina mentioned that fundamental and human rights were being denied here by blocking the path for holding trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the press release added.

The Awami League President hoped that Mrs. Clinton's visit here would be "pleasant and fruitful". She appealed for continued US aid and assistance to Bangladesh.

Through the US First Lady, Hasina also sent her greetings and good wishes to President Bill Clinton and invited him to visit Bangladesh.

Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, SAMS Kibria and Abul Hassan Chowdhury also attended the reception from Awami League.

When contacted, SAMS Kibria said Hasina's discussion with Hillary seemed to have been "very cordial".

GB ready to receive guest at Moshihati

JHENIDAH. Apr 2 (UNB): Grameen Bank has set up 19 stalls in Rishipara at Moshihati village of Kaliganj thana on the occasion of US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit here Monday.

Founder of the Bank Prof Muhammad Yunus will take the distinguished guest around the area where tight security has already been imposed by the US secret service agents and local Special Security Force.

The stalls displayed products and activities how Grameen Bank is helping to improve conditions of the poor, particularly women and children.

The displays include rice-

Last page col-7

GB ready

Contd from page-1

husking cane and bamboo works, kantha stitching embroidery, weaving of jamdani saree and grameen checks, production of imitation jewellery, and nursery plants.

A lotus-shaped bamboo bench has been specially made on which the American First Lady will sit with daughter Chelsea and talk to the women who have improved their living standard with help from Grameen Bank.

During her trip to Moshihati, wife of the US President will visit some houses built with Grameen Bank loans and also see the improved sanitation facilities set up with assistance from the organisation.

Itinerary of the American First Lady's day-long visit also include witnessing physical display and cultural show presented by the children of the families under the Grameen Bank programme.

In Uttarpara of Churamankathi in Jessore district, Hillary Clinton will see the functioning of a non-formal school run by BRAC and the activities of Dogachhia Mukta Mahila Samity project by another NGO, "Bachte Shekha" (Learning to Live).

Mrs Clinton will also be apprised of the government's "Food for Education" and the Girls' Stipend programmes during her visit to Baliadanga in Panchbaria of Jessore.

The Morning Sun
April 3, 1995

Rural development programmes termed models

US has much to learn : Hillary



Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter Chelsea at the Zia International Airport on their arrival on a three-day visit yesterday.

— Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has said the rural development programmes of Bangladesh are models for developing countries.

The United States has much to learn from Bangladesh about family planning, the Grameen Bank and other development models, said President Bill Clinton's wife, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day visit.

Mrs Clinton also conveyed her husband's thanks for Dhaka's support to United

See also Page 9

Nations peacekeeping missions across the world. She was all praise for Bangladesh soldiers doing duty under UN peacekeeping operations.

Hillary Clinton was speaking at a reception in the city hosted by the US Ambassador at his Baridhara residence, which was also attended by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Mrs Clinton also said she and her husband knew that Begum Zia's government had achieved remarkable progress in the fields of family planning, education, poverty alleviation and many other programmes.

US Assistant Secretary of State Ms Robin Raphel, politicians, high civil and military officials, diplomats and members of the elite attended the reception late in the afternoon.

Earlier, soon after her arrival, Mrs Clinton called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the Bangabhaban in the afternoon.

Welcoming her, President Biswas expressed the hope that her visit would further strengthen the excellent bonds between Dhaka and Washington.

Giving an outline of the country's judicial system, the

See Page 12 Col 3

The Daily Star
Page 1 of 2 April 3, 1995



Hillary Rodham Clinton welcomes Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the reception hosted by the American Embassy in Dhaka yesterday to mark the visit of the US First Lady.

— PID photo

US has much to learn : Hillary

From Page 1

President told the US First Lady that there is rule of law in the country and democratic institutions are functioning.

The President also appreciated the role of the NGOs in supplementing government efforts to alleviate poverty and expand mass literacy.

Mrs Clinton, herself an accomplished lawyer, discussed the prospects for the profession in Bangladesh with the President. She said the United States is keenly observing the development of Bangladesh through the democratic process. She also said that she was interested to see quite a few rural development projects during her short trip with a view to getting fresh ideas to help the poorer section of the American society.

Minister-in-attendance and State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Sarwari

Rahman was present during the audience with the President.

Today, Mrs Clinton and members of her entourage have a busy schedule. They will leave early this morning for Moishahati, in Kaliganj thana of Jessore district, to see a Grameen Bank project.

She will also visit a non-formal school run by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) at Uttarpara of Churamankathi and a women's development programme of *Banchte Shekha*, an NGO, at Dogachia of the district.

She will also witness a joint exercise by contingents of the US and Bangladesh Air Force at the BAF Base in Jessore.

Arrival

Earlier, Hillary Clinton and her daughter Chelsea were given a warm welcome when a special US Air Force plane

touched down at the Zia International Airport at 3:10 yesterday afternoon.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and Mrs Rahman greeted the US First Lady at the gangway.

A red carpet was rolled out at the VVIP terminal for the distinguished guest, who arrived on the fourth leg of her five-nation South Asian swing.

On arrival, Mrs Clinton expressed her admiration for the Bangladeshi people and lauded them as a model for self-reliance and resilience.

She would learn more about special efforts being made to help women and children achieve their full potential, the US First Lady said in a statement issued upon her arrival.

State Minister for Women Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, US Ambassador in Dhaka David N Merrill and Mrs Darlene Merrill were also present at the airport.

Two little children presented Hillary and Chelsea Clinton with bouquets on the tarmac after being introduced to the line of presentees.

Shortly afterwards, Hillary Clinton boarded a special limousine guarded by securitymen which took her to the Sonargaon Hotel where she will be staying during her visit.

The Daily Star
Page 2 of 2
April 3, 1995

Hasina exchanges pleasantries with Mrs Clinton

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina exchanged greetings with US First Lady Hillary Clinton and welcome her visit to Bangladesh during a private conversation at a reception at the US Embassy yesterday evening, reports UNB.

During the 10-minute tete-tete, Hasina exchanged views with Hillary Clinton on the condition of women and children in Bangladesh, as well as poverty and environmental issues facing the country.

The Awami League president hoped that Mrs Clinton's visit here would be "pleasant and fruitful." Hasina, through

See Page 12 Col 3

Hasina-Hillary

From Page 1

the US First Lady, also sent her greetings and good wishes to President Bill Clinton.

AL leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, S A M S Kibria and Abul Hassan Chowdhury also attended the reception.

When contacted, S A M S Kibria said Hasina's discussion with Hillary seemed to have been "very cordial".

Hillary meets Hillary

KATHMANDU, Apr 2: US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton today met Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to climb the world's highest mountain the Everest located in Nepal.

"She is a charming lady. I enjoyed the meeting," Sir Edmund, a 75-year-old New Zealander, told Reuters.

The meeting dubbed a "Hillary-meets-Hillary" encounter was Clinton's last engagement before she left the Himalayan kingdom for Bangladesh, the next leg of a South Asian tour that has already taken her to Pakistan and India.

Clinton returned from a jungle safari weekend in Nepal's foothill forests to meet the man who scaled the 8,848-metre (29,028 feet) Everest in 1953 with Nepal's Tenzing Norgay Sherpa.

June Hillary, the mountaineer's wife, presented Clinton with a book on *Sagarmata*, a local name for the Everest.

Her husband now runs a trust that does work to help the Sherpa community, the famed Himalayan porters and shepherds, in the district where the Everest is located.

Reception at US Embassy

The visiting US First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, held a reception at the American Embassy at Baridhara in the city yesterday evening, reports UNB.

It was attended by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and some of her cabinet colleagues, and opposition leaders — Awami League president Sheikh Hasina, Jatiya Party leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Matur Rahman Nizami.

US Ambassador in Dhaka David N Merrill, Mrs Darlene Merrill and senior diplomats of the mission were also present.

Mrs Clinton greeted each of the guests who also included representatives of leading NGOs, women organisations, bureaucrats, journalists and the elite.

The Daily Star
April 3, 1995



US First Lady Hillary Clinton walks with Nepalese Queen Aishwarya upon her arrival in Katmandu March 31. Mrs. Clinton's arrival in Nepal marked the third country in her 12-day goodwill tour through south Asia. (Reuter)

Hillary Clinton

(Contd. from page 1)

Kumaratunga at Temple Trees.

She will visit the Kelaniya Raja Maha Viharaya and the 'Samata Sarana' Home tomorrow before leaving the island.

She is also expected to meet many prominent Lankan women during her stay here.

Mrs. Clinton is on the last leg of a South Asian tour which has already taken her to Pakistan,

India, Bangladesh and Nepal. She will be accompanied by her daughter Chelsea, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Robin Raphel and several other senior officials.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made for her visit by the U.S. Secret Service in collaboration with the Sri Lankan police.



US First Lady Hillary Clinton and her daughter Chelsea were greeted by the children of Mashihati village in Jhenidah where they went to acquaint themselves with the grassroots level operation of Grameen Bank on Monday. Founder of the widely acclaimed NGO Prof. M. Yunus is also seen among the children—Times.

Bangladesh Times
Apr 13, 1995



Hillary Clinton talking with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia before the dinner hosted by the Prime Minister at her Hare Road office in honour of the US First Lady on Monday.

Hillary visits NGO projects in Jessore US to give aid for spread of female education

PANCHIBARIA (Jessore), Apr 3 : The visiting US First Lady Ms Hillary Rodham Clinton disclosed here today that the United States had a plan to extend Assistance to Bangladesh to spread female education.

Talking to BSS Ms Clinton expressed her satisfaction over the level of awareness of women in Bangladesh.

Earlier, Ms Clinton was greeted by thousands of people of the adjoining villages as she entered the premise of Panchbaria-Balidanga Government Primary School.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Ms Sarwari Rahman and Secretary Primary and Mass Education Division Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed received the US First Lady at the school gate. As Ms Clinton entered the school where Food-for-Education Programme had been introduced last year, students welcomed her with physical training display and songs.

Ms Sarwari Rahman and Kazi Rakibuddin briefed Ms Clinton about the favourable impact of the food-for-education programme to reduce dropouts and increase enrolment in primary schools. She was told that a family having two school-going children and belonging to underprivileged sections of society are given 20 kg wheat a month while a family with one school-going child is given 15 kg wheat a month out of a total of 387 students of

fit.

She moved from one class of the school to another and talked freely with the students.

Later, Ms Clinton together with her daughter Chelsea went to the adjoining Panchbaria Secondary Girls High School and spent sometime with the students of Class VII. She also introduced her daughter, a tenth grader, to the students of the class.

In her introductory remarks she said, showing the world map, "I have come all the way from our country to acquaint myself better with your condition and enhance my experiences about your country." She wanted to know from the students the subjects taught in their classes. Some of the students promptly replied to the queries of the US First Lady.

She frankly narrated her experiences how their family

moved from Arkansas state to the White House when Mr Bill Clinton became President of the United States. She also shared her experiences of the visits to other South Asian countries like India, Pakistan and Nepal with the students of the school.

Then Ms Clinton on her way to Dhaka drove in a motorcade to the airport where she posed for group photographs with Bangladeshi and US Airforce Crew.

Ms. Clinton and their daughter Chelsea were seen off at the Jessore airport by Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hussain Chowdhury, senior civil and military officials.

MASHIHATI VILLAGE

According to another reports : It was indeed a memo-

Contd. on page 6 col. 1

Bangladesh Times

April 3, 1995

10f 2

US to give aid for spread

Contd. from page 1

rable experience for the people of this remote village, 20 miles from Jessore, as the US First Lady Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton visited them Mashihati, Jhenidah today.

Ms Clinton together with her daughter Chelsea spent more than an hour in the sultry Chattr with the otherwise neglected people of this quiet village to better acquaint herself with the grassroot operations of the country's Grameen Bank.

Prof M Yunus who is the founder of the widely acclaimed NGO, received Ms. Clinton and introduced her to the members of the bank.

Earlier, minor children belonging to the village greeted Ms. Clinton heartily with songs and physical training (PT) display. She was visibly impressed with the performance of the tiny tots and exchanged greetings with them. She was thankful to the villagers for their long wait for her. Minister in waiting Ms. Sarwar Rahman, who is State Minister in charge of Women and Children Affairs, was present. As her motorcade drove from airport to the village hundreds of people greeted her waving hands from both sides of the road.

Deputy Head of Mission of US Embassy James Nach and a White House press team were among others who accompanied the US First Lady.

Talking freely with some of the members of Grameen Bank Ms. Clinton said, "I have heard about the bank 10 years before. Now I have come to learn from you how the bank has benefited you to become self-reliant in society."

Ms. Shcfali, S Ambia and Ms. Rina narrated their stories to the visiting US First Lady how they have been benefitted becoming associated with the Grameen Bank. Rina who is chairman of a group said with confidence, "before becoming Grameen Bank member I was a pauper. Today I have a house, a few head of cattle and poultry birds. I also send my children to school and follow the disciplines of the bank."

She dwelt at length the long story of the gradual enhancement of the ceiling of Grameen Loan with the improvement of her financial condition.

Ms Clinton also replied to some of the queries of the Grameen Bank members.

In reply to one of the questions she said, "I have started earning since I was 13. Sometimes my income exceeded the income of my husband. I have stopped earning since moving to the White House when my husband became the President."

Responding to another question she said, "I wish I could have one or two more children. But we are so happy with our daughter that we thought of taking no more child

we are proud of Chelsea."

Referring to observations of one of the members Ms Clinton said she would convey her invitation to President Bill Clinton to visit Bangladesh at his convenient time.

Ms. Clinton showed interest in some of the products displayed in stalls under a beautiful thatched roof. All the products put on display in 18 stalls were manufactured by members of the Bank. The products included jamdani saree, bamboo and cane furniture, brass wares, etc. One of the Grameen members showed her the technique to wear a saree. She was given some local products as gifts.

Narrating experiences to become a Grameen Bank member Ms Najma said, "Some well-to-do members of society discouraged me to become a member. They wanted us to be permanently dependent living on their left-overs." She said, "Association with the Bank has given me a new identity and made me self-reliant in society." She boastfully recalled her experiences when members of such families were seeking their cooperation. Ms. Najma has another identity as a member of the Union Parishad. She was informed that dowry practice and divorce rate had gone down in the area.

During the course of free and frank exchange of views with the members of Grameen Bank Ms Clinton said, "Today you have learnt how to take collective decision. It will take you a long way," she observed.

As Ms Clinton entered the venue of the stalls tiny tots received her singing gambhira, jari and other folk songs reflecting the cultural heritage of rural Bangladesh.

BRAC SCHOOL

According to another report from Churamankathi, Jessore, it was a pleasant surprise for the children of BRAC school when the US First Lady Ms Hillary Clinton with her daughter Chelsea visited them here today.

The children and local people greeted them heartily by clappings and singing.

As she entered the school premises BRAC Executive Director Fazle Hasan Abed received her.

He briefed her how the programme of Non-Formal Primary Education (NFE) introduced by BRAC had been started with 22 schools in 1985. The number of such schools today is 29 thousand covering 55 out of 64 administrative districts of the country.

Mamata Rani Biswas, a teacher of the school narrated to the US First Lady the functioning of the school. Replying to Ms Clinton's query Mamata said the school timing was flexible suiting the needs of the children in their families. She was further informed that

students had their lessons simultaneously with time for fun, singing, dancing, acting and games.

Ms. Clinton had words of praise for the performance of the programme of BRAC. Mr Abed presented Ms. Clinton with a video cassette on the school programme.

CWFP CLINIC

Later, Ms. Clinton walked through the "Kutchra" road braving scorching heat to visit a satellite clinic run by Concerned Women for Family Planning (CWFP) in the same village.

As she was walking with her daughter the people of the village gathered on both sides of the road to have a glimpse of the US First Lady. She waved to the people smilingly.

Executive Director of CWFP welcoming Ms Clinton to the clinic premises narrated different aspects of ongoing and perspective programmes. She said CWFP was responsible for distributing contraceptives to women and providing health and nutrition education services to mothers and children.

She further informed Ms. Clinton that CWFP was operating 22 project sites covering a total of about 1.4 million population.

BSS adds the US-Bangladesh joint training programme designed to enhance the knowledge and capabilities of Bangladesh Air Force personnel in aeromedical operation for mass evacuation during natural disaster is in progress at the BAF Base, Mafur Rahman here according to an ISPR press release.

A joint team of experts from the United States Air Force and the Bangladesh Air Force along with their aircraft and helicopters are taking part in the programme.

Bangladesh Times
Apr. 3, 1995

2 of 2

Water withdrawal causes environmental damage : Khaleda

Hillary all praise for Food for Education programme

Visiting US First Lady Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton Monday highly appreciated Bangladesh's Food for Education Programme terming it as a unique venture, reports BSS.

"I do not know whether such an excellent programme exists in anywhere in the world," Mrs Clinton said while narrating her experience to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia after visiting a number of socio-economic development projects.

She had a meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda

Zia at 30, Hare Road just before attending the dinner given in her honour by Begum Zia.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia welcomed Mrs Clinton when she along with her daughter Chelsea reached at 6:45 pm at Hare Road to attend the dinner.

During the talks, the US First Lady, said that she was impressed with all the programmes she saw in Dhaka and Jessore. She was particularly enthusiastic about the Food for Education Programme as she believed the venture would be very effective in spreading literacy among the rural masses.

The US First Lady lauded the cooperation existing between the government and non-government organisations, saying they were supplementing each others' efforts in various socio-economic development projects.

Expressing her happiness over the scenic beauty and landscapes of Bangladesh Mrs Clinton said that she was impressed to see the excellent use of the land under cultivation in the countryside.

The US First Lady said the US journalists accompanying her had widened their experience by what they saw today in

Bangladesh.

The US journalists, she said, would convey the messages of achievements and excellent work being done by the Bangladeshis in various fields to the American people to better understand the aspirations of the people of Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia briefly apprised Mrs Clinton her government's socio-economic development activities for the benefit of the people.

Begum Zia said food production could have been even better had there been no shortage of water and prevalence of drought condition in the northern parts of Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said there had been serious environmental damages caused due to diversion of water during the dry season from the upstreams of international rivers. It was important, Begum Zia said, to solve this problem.

Ms Clinton expressed the hope that this problem would be solved by Bangladesh and its neighbour through discussions.

Ms. Hillary also commended participation of Bangladesh's armed forces in the UN peace keeping forces in various parts of the world.

Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman, US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister ANM Eusuf, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan and US Ambassador in Bangladesh David N Merrill were present.

After the talks, the Prime Minister introduced Mrs Clinton with the guests at the dinner. Political leaders, diplomats, and representatives from different professional bodies attended the dinner.

Mrs Clinton witnessed a cultural show after dinner.

Hasina fails to have private meeting with Hillary

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina's efforts for a private meeting with the visiting US First Lady Hillary Clinton failed, it has been learnt from reliable sources, says Media Syndicate.

According to sources, Awami League tried its utmost to arrange a private meeting between Sheikh Hasina and Hillary Clinton but US Embassy officials informed them that they were unable to do anything in this regard. They were told that the US First Lady was visiting Bangladesh at the invitation of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to observe the condition of women and children in the country and also the progress achieved in rural areas, and that she was

Contd. on page 8 col. 5

Hasina fails to

Contd. from page 1

not eager about political matters.

According to another source, after the US Embassy expressed its inability regarding the matter Awami League made contacts with US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel, who is also travelling with Hillary Clinton, for a private meeting for only five minutes but she also expressed her inability to keep the request.

Enraged Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina informed the US embassy that she would not be attending the reception arranged by the Embassy. The US Embassy left embarrassed at this and made special requests to her to attend the reception. Sheikh Hasina then agreed to attend the reception on condition that she would do so after Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had left the venue. Accordingly she attended the reception arranged by the US Embassy Sunday and talked to Hillary Clinton for a few minutes.

Bangladesh Times

THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER

DHAKA TUESDAY APRIL 4 1995

Welcome To Hillary In Bangladesh

Amid the warmest welcome of the people, US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in Dhaka Sunday. This is the first ever visit to Bangladesh of an American First Lady. Behind the hilarious warmth with which she has been received in Bangladesh is, in the main, the fact that she somehow remains almost naturally identified with this country because, chiefly, of her interest in children and women, or children and their mothers.

And we can assure her she will see quite a few of them (to use an uncharacteristic Bangladeshi understatement). So many of them indeed will come her way, not wholly literally, because she would be moving along roads and in transports that will keep her away from the actual (physical) human landscape represented by those in whom she is so profoundly interested—women and children.

The human scene will be seen replicated nearly all over the South Asian region she has planned to tour—India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. It wears about the same features to be attractive to those whose feelings for these twin classes of humans are genuine. And we state with a real sense of pride that Mrs Hillary's are immaculately so, for it has been an integral part not only of her social interests but of her academic ones too. She has allowed them to grow with her, which is what has drawn her so close to the people of this country.

We feel tempted not to leave off and indulge in the generalities of welcome to our honoured guest. We instead are trying to add some fuel to the flames, (if that is the phrase to use). The flame is her warm interest in the welfare of children and women, and the fuel we are trying to provide is to place before her the reality of children and women's problems in Bangladesh. To prevent that almost effortlessly translating into a cliché, we would point out, in a nutshell, that this is a gigantic third world problem, and one as big, if not bigger, for Bangladesh.

We appreciate deeply her interest in Mr Yunus' Grameen Bank and his idea of welfare for women (plus children) as part of a plan to alleviate poverty. It is working well and, we hope, if allowed to operate as it has started to do, it could do a lot to provide relief.

Yet, we do not pretend to accept that this will more than scratch the problem of poverty—or, for that matter, of children and mothers in this country. If, even so much may have been done or is being planned (in theory), so much inevitably remains as the greatest challenge to Afro-Asian LDCs (least developed countries). Bangladesh, like eighteenth century Ireland, is one of them with her women and children. Of Irish poverty Jonathan Swift has drawn a lurid picture in his classic performance, as the greatest ironist in literature in his Modest Proposal. We have no Bangladeshi edition of Swift, nor has S. Asia.

Literary giants like Swift have long been dead and buried. But the social problem of poverty with the newly created Irelands across the third world remains. These lots of women and Children stay at the centre of social development in these poverty-ridden parts of the world. South East Asia including Bangladesh is the most representative part of the region—and the problem. In concrete terms the problems in the main are: literacy, health care and the decay and death that follows from hunger and undernourishment and so on. It affects nearly 80% of the populations—only to indicate in passing the actual size of the problem, besides the potential.

The ironic part of the scene is that national governments are, either from misconceived notions of development, inadequacy of resources used as an excuse, or simple lack of interest in the grass-roots welfare problems of the nation, have been found less than interested in overcoming the problem, the Copenhagen summit and the declaration in which it has urged national governments to do at least 20% of their spending on poverty notwithstanding.

It is in such facts that Mrs Hillary will discover her area of action—beyond those of her noble theoretic ones. The great thing about the honoured visiting US First Lady is that at least here is a lady, holding a high socio-political position, interested, beyond question, in a real third world problem. She could, if she willed, do a lot to make the aid receiving 3rd world countries abide by conditions set by giver countries: the main one would be—yes, a string attached to it—that top priority would be given to poverty alleviation in these countries, with tangible results in this respect for eligibility for continued aid.

In a word, social development in these S. Asian countries, is so great a problem that leverages like this need to be used by the World Bank, IMF and the donor countries. Mrs Hillary Clinton as the First Lady of America could help a lot in this matter. This we say because we believe she means serious business in respect of welfare of women and children.



US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton talking to the members of Grameen Bank during her visit of Grameen Bank activity at village Mashhat in Jhenaida district on Monday. She is flanked by her daughter Chelsea and Grameen Bank Managing Director Dr. Mohammad Yunus.

The Bangladesh Observer
April 4, 1995

Hillary impressed with Grameen Bank

MASHIHATI (Jhenidah), Apr. 3:—It was indeed a memorable experience for the people of this remote village, 20 miles from Jessore, as the US First Lady Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton visited them here today, reports BSS.

Ms. Clinton together with her daughter Chelsea spent more than an hour in the sultry Chaitra with the otherwise neglected people of this quiet village to better acquaint herself with the grassroot operations of the country's Grameen Bank.

Prof. M. Yunus, who is the founder of the widely acclaimed NGO, received Ms. Clinton and introduced her to the members of the bank.

Earlier, minor children belonging to the village greeted Ms. Clinton heartily with songs and physical training (PT) display. She was visibly impressed with the performance of the tiny tots and exchanged greetings with them. She was thankful to the villagers for their long wait for her. Minister in waiting Ms. Sarwari Rahman, who is State Minister in charge of Women and Children Affairs, was present as her motorcade drove from airport to the village. Hundreds of people greeted her waving hands from both sides of the road.

Deputy head of mission of US embassy James Nach and a White House Press team were among others who accompanied the US First Lady.

Talking freely with some of the members of Grameen Bank Ms. Clinton said, "I have heard about the bank 10 years before. Now I have come to learn from you how the bank has benefited you to become self-reliant in society".

Ms. Shefali, S. Ambia and Ms. Rina narrated their stories to the visiting US First Lady how they have been benefited becoming associated with the Grameen Bank. Rina, who is chairman of a group said with confidence, "before becoming Grameen Bank member I was a pauper. Today I have a house, a few head of cattle and poultry birds. I also send my children to school and follow the disciplines of the bank".

She dwelt at length the long story of the gradual enhancement of the ceiling of Grameen loan with the

improvement of her financial condition.

Ms. Clinton also replied to some of the queries of the Grameen Bank members.

In reply to one of the questions she said, "I have started earning since I was 13. Sometimes my income exceeded the income of my husband. I have stopped earning since moving to the White House when my husband became the President".

Responding to another question she said, "I wish I could have one or two more children. But we are so happy with our daughter that we thought of taking no more child... We are proud of Chelsea".

Referring to observations of one of the members Ms. Clinton said she would convey her invitation to President Bill Clinton to visit Bangladesh at his convenient time.

Ms. Clinton showed interest in some of the products displayed in stalls under a beautiful thatched roof. All the products put on display in 18 stalls were manufactured by members of the bank. The products included Jamdani saree, bamboo and cane furniture, brass wares etc. One of the Grameen members showed her the technique to wear a saree. She was given some local products as gifts.

Narrating experience to become a Grameen Bank member Ms. Najma said, "some well-to-do members of society discouraged me to become a member. They wanted us to be permanently dependent living on their left-overs". She said, "association with the bank has given me a new identity and made me self-reliant in society". She boastfully recalled her experiences when members of such families were seeking their cooperation. Ms. Najma has another identity as a member of the Union Parishad. She was informed that dowry practice and divorce rate had gone down in the area.

During the course of free and frank exchange of views with the members of Grameen Bank Ms. Clinton said, "today you have learnt how to take collective decisions. It will take you a long way", she observed.

As Ms. Clinton entered the venue

of the stalls tiny tots received her singing Gambhira, Jari and other folk songs reflecting the cultural heritage of rural Bangladesh.

Visits BRAC school

It was a pleasant surprise for the children of BRAC school when the US First Lady Ms. Hillary Clinton with her daughter Chelsea visited them here today.

The children and local people greeted them heartily by clappings and singing.

As she entered the school premises BRAC Executive Director Fazle Hasan Abed received her.

He briefed her how the programme of Non-Formal Primary Education (NFE) introduced by BRAC had been started with 22 schools in 1985. The number of such schools today is 29 thousand covering 55 out of 64 administrative districts of the country.

Mamta Rani Biswas, a teacher of the school narrated to the US First Lady the functioning of the school. Replying to Ms. Clinton's query Mamata said the school timing was flexible suiting the needs of the children in their families.

Ms. Clinton had words of praise for the performance of the programme of BRAC. Mr. Abed presented Ms. Clinton with a video cassette on the school programme.

Later, Ms. Clinton walked through the "Kutcha" road braving scorching heat to visit a satellite clinic run by Concerned Women for Family Planning (CWFP) in the same village.

As she was walking with her daughter the people of the village gathered on both sides of the road to have a glimpse of the US First Lady. She waved to the people smilingly.

Executive Director of CWFP welcoming Ms. Clinton to the clinic premises narrated different aspects of ongoing and perspective programmes. She said CWFP was responsible for distributing contraceptives to women and providing health and nutrition education services to mothers and children.

She further informed Ms. Clinton that CWFP was operating 22 project sites covering a total of about 1.4 million population.

Hillary

From Page 1 Col. 4

It was important, Begum Zia said, to solve this problems.

Ms Clinton expressed the hope that this problem would be solved by Bangladesh and its neighbour through discussions.

Ms Hillary also commended participation of Bangladesh's armed forces in the UN peace keeping forces in various parts of the world.

Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman, US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister A.N.M. Eusuf, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan and US Ambassador in Bangladesh David N Merrill were present.

After the talks, the Prime Minister introduced Ms Clinton with the guests at the dinner. Political leaders, diplomats, and representatives from different professional bodies attended the dinner.

Ms Clinton witnessed a cultural show after dinner.

The Bangladesh Observer
April 4, 1995



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia receiving Hillary Rodham Clinton at the dinner hosted by her in honour of the US First Lady at the PM's Hare Road office on Monday.

PM's dinner for US First Lady Food for education a unique project

US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on Monday lauded various development efforts in Bangladesh, especially the government's Food for Education Programme, reports UNB.

"How did the project begin? I don't believe there is any such programme in the world," an official quoted Hillary Clinton as saying during a meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Clinton had 15 minutes of talks with the Prime Minister at her Hare Road office from 6.45 pm before joining a dinner Begum Zia hosted in honour of

the US First Lady.

The US First Lady said she was very much impressed by the ongoing development programmes in Bangladesh and called the cooperation between the government and NGOs as excellent.

She acclaimed the performance of the Bangladesh Army as UN peacekeepers and expressed her happiness over the cooperative relations between Bangladesh Air Force and the US Army.

Hillary Clinton said the US journalists accompanying her

Last page col-2

Food for education

Contd from Page-1

had widened their knowledge about Bangladesh and were moved by the excellent works being done by Bangladesh people.

She said she was also impressed while flying over the countryside. "I saw excellent land and cultivation here."

Briefing the US First Lady on her government's development programmes, Begum Zia said the country's food production would have been better had there been no scarcity of water caused by drought in the northern part of the country.

She said the country had also experienced serious environmental degradation due to unilateral withdrawal of water upstream during the dry season. "It is very important to resolve the prob-

le US First Lady hoped that the water problem would be resolved by Bangladesh and her neighbour.

Earlier on her arrival at the Hare Road office, Hillary Clinton

was received by the Prime Minister and together they gave some time to the photographers for a picture session.

Attired in black skirt and light green tops, the First Lady also had a multi-coloured scarf around her shoulders. The Prime Minister was wearing a light yellow saree.

After the talks, the Prime Minister took the US First Lady to an open air dinner party, attended by Ministers, MPs, diplomats, politicians, vice-chancellors of different universities, representatives of various professions, and senior civil and military officials.

The Prime Minister introduced the guests to the US First Lady.

Begum Zia, Hillary Clinton, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Dr Kamal Hossain, Prof Mohammad Yunus and US Ambassador in Dhaka David N Merrill shared the same table at the dinner.

Later, the US First Lady enjoyed a musical soiree presented by noted artistes of the country.



মার্কিন ফার্স্ট লেডী হিলারী রডহ্যাম ক্রিনটন গতকাল বিনাইদহ জেলার মশিহাটি গ্রামে গ্রামীণ ব্যাংকের কার্যক্রম পরিদর্শনকালে ব্যাংকের মহিলা সদস্যদের সহিত কথা বলেন। পার্শ্বে তাঁহার কন্যা চেলসিয়া ও গ্রামীণ ব্যাংকের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ডঃ মোহাম্মদ ইউনুস



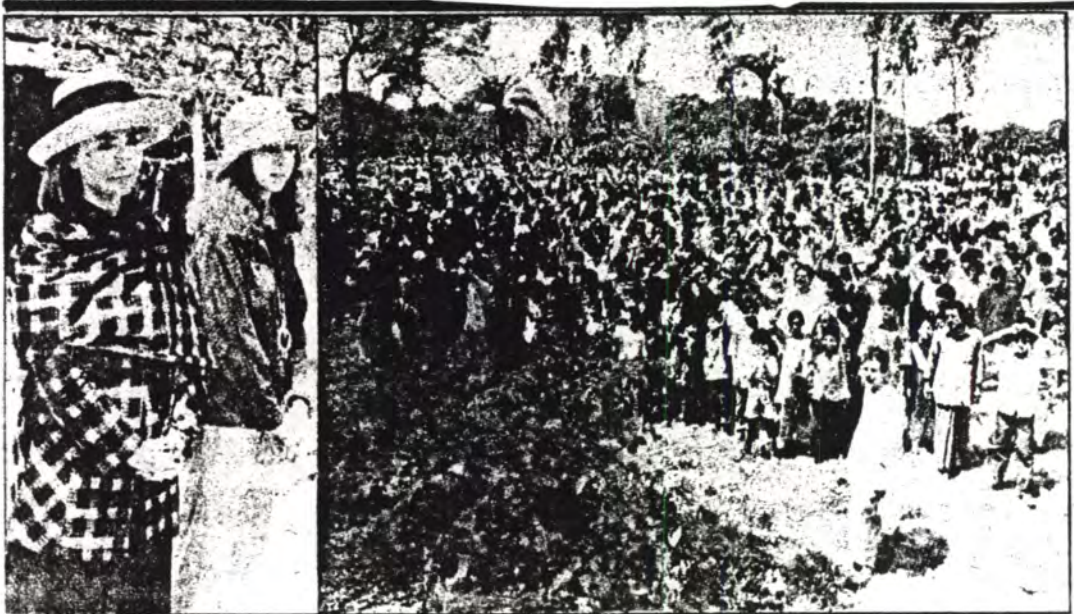
প্রাথমিক ও গণশিক্ষা বিভাগের সচিব কাজী রকিব উদ্দিন আহমেদ (মাঝে) গতকাল যশোর জেলার পঞ্চবাড়িয়া-বালিডাঙ্গা সরকারী প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়ে মার্কিন ফার্স্ট লেডী হিলারী রডহ্যাম ক্রিনটনকে শিক্ষার বিনিময়ে খাদ্য কর্মসূচী সম্পর্কে অবহিত করেন

April 4, 1995



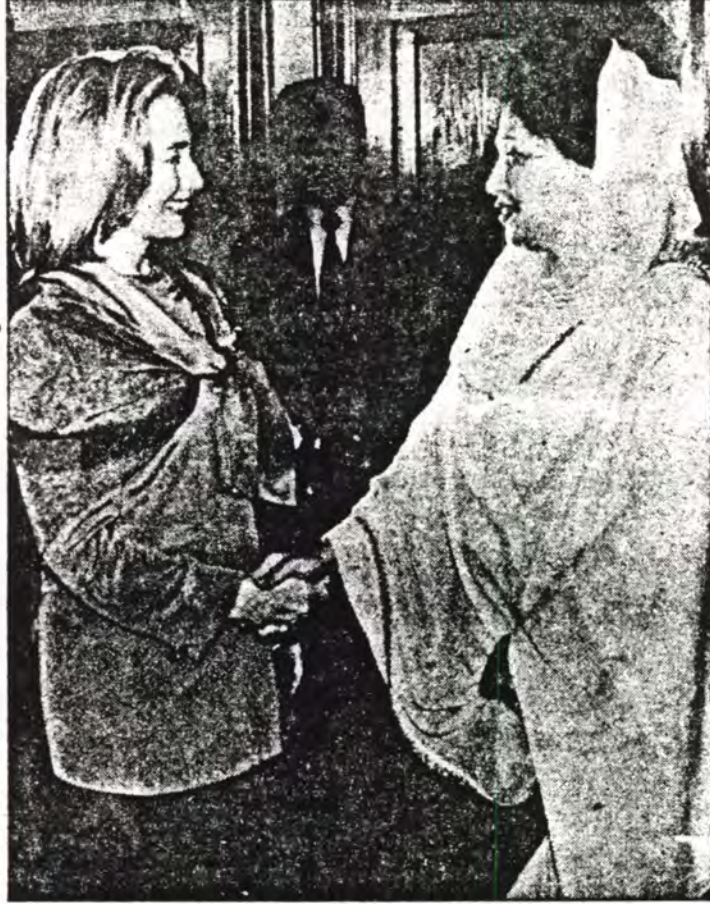
বাংলার ঐতিহ্যবাহী জামদানি পরেছেন মার্কিন ফাশ্‌ট লেডী হিলারী ক্রিনটন

ছবি : আমিনুল ইসলাম শাহীন



হিলারী ও চেলসিকে এক নজর দেখার জন্যে যশোরে উৎসুক জনতা

-পত্রিকা ফটো



গতকাল সোমবার হিলারী রডহ্যাম ক্রিনটনের সম্মানে প্রধানমন্ত্রী বেগম খালেদা জিয়া কর্তৃক তার হেয়ার রোড কার্যালয়ে আয়োজিত নৈশভোজে প্রধানমন্ত্রী মার্কিন ফার্স্ট লেডীকে অভ্যর্থনা জানাচ্ছেন



যশোরের কবিগড়ায় সোমবার মার্কিন কাষ্ট লেডি হিলারি ক্লিনটনকে আমদানি শাড়ি পরিবেশনা করা হয়

—জনকণ্ঠ

Jane Kauthe

হিলারি ক্লিনটন ॥ গণতন্ত্রের রাজকুমারী



সোমবার হিলারি রডহ্যাম ক্লিনটনের সম্মানে প্রধানমন্ত্রী খালেদা জিয়া তার হোয়ার রোডে কার্যালয়ে আয়োজিত নৈশভোজে মার্কিন কাষ্ট লেডিকে অভ্যর্থনা জানান



হিলারী ক্লিনটন গতকাল ঢাকায় মার্কিন রাষ্ট্রদূতের বাসভবনে এক চা-চক্র অনুষ্ঠানে বাংলাদেশে নারী উন্নয়নের সঙ্গে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিশিষ্ট মহিলা নেতাদের সঙ্গে মতবিনিময় করেন



মার্কিন ফার্স্ট লেডী হিলারী ক্লিনটন গতকাল খিনাইদহ জেলার মশিহাটি গ্রামে গ্রামীণ ব্যাংকের কার্যক্রম পরিদর্শনকালে ব্যাংকে মহিলা সদস্যদের সঙ্গে কথা বলছেন। পাশে তার কন্যা চেলসিয়া ও গ্রামীণ ব্যাংকের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ডঃ মোহাম্মদ ইউনুস ASKER KAGOR



গতকাল যশোর জেলার পঞ্চবাড়িয়া-বালিডাঙ্গা সরকারি প্রাথমিক
বিদ্যালয়ে মার্কিন ফার্স্ট লেডী হিলারী রডহ্যাম ক্রিনটন



মার্কিন ফার্স্টলেডি হিলারী রডহ্যাম ক্রিনটন গতকাল সোমবার বিনাইদহ জেলার
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তাকে উপহার দেওয়া জামদানি শাড়ি পরেন **BHOJEN KAGOL**

Water issue to be solved thru talks, hopes Hillary

Visiting US first Lady Ms Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday highly appreciated Bangladesh's food for education programme terming it as a unique venture, reports BSS.

"I do not know whether such an excellent programme exists in anywhere in the world," Ms Clinton said while narrating her experience to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia after visiting a number of socio-economic development projects yesterday.

She had meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at 30, Hare Road last night, just before attending the dinner given in her honour by Begum Zia.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia welcomed Mrs Clinton when she along with her daughter Chelsea reached at 6:45 PM at Hare Road to attend the dinner.

During the talks, the US First Lady, said that she was impressed with all the programmes she saw yesterday in Dhaka and Jessore. She was particularly enthusiastic about the food for education programme as she believed the venture would be very effective in spreading literacy among the rural masses.

The US first lady lauded the cooperation existing between the government and non-government organisations, saying they were supplementing each others' efforts in various socio-economic development projects.

Expressing her happiness over the scenic beauty and landscapes of Bangladesh, Ms Clinton said that she was impressed to see the excellent use of the land under cultivation in the countryside.

The US first lady said the US journalists accompanying her had

widened their experience by what they saw in Bangladesh.

The US journalists, she said, would convey the messages of achievements and excellent work being done by the Bangladeshis in various fields to the American people to better understand the aspirations of the people of Bangladesh. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia briefly apprised Ms Clinton her government's socio-economic development activities for the benefit of the people.

Begum Zia said food production could have been even better had there been no shortage of water and prevalence of drought condition in the northern parts of Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said there had been serious environmental damages caused due to diversion of water during the dry season from the upstreams international rivers. It was important, Begum Zia said, to solve this problem.

Ms Clinton expressed the hope that this problem would be solved by Bangladesh and its neighbour through discussions.

Ms. Hillary also commended participation of Bangladesh's armed forces in the UN peace keeping forces in various parts of the world.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister A.N.M. Eusuf, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan and US Ambassador in Bangladesh David N Merrill were present.

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Ms. Clinton witnessed a cultural show after dinner.

New Nation (Independent)



US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton talking to the members of Grameen Bank during her visit of Grameen Bank activity at village Mashihati in Jhenaida district yesterday. She is flanked by her daughter Chelsea and Grameen Bank Managing Director Dr

Hillary's visit an indelible imprint

Special Correspondent

The US First Lady Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton leaves here today for Sri Lanka at the end of a brief but hectic tour of Bangladesh. The Indian ocean island will be the last country on her current 12-day South Asian sojourn—the first ever to be undertaken by an American president's wife. From this point of view, if not for any other consideration, the visit is historic and will leave an indelible imprint on the mind of the peoples of the South Asian subcontinent.

For Mrs Clinton it is the first international tour of any significance without her husband. But she is an important person in her own right. A Yale law graduate with professional excellence, Mrs Hillary Clinton is suave, scholarly and politically mature—an indispensable asset for her husband. During her tour of the subcontinent—she has tried to keep as low a profile as possible—she has focused on women's and children's issues of which she is an outspoken and effective spokesperson. She has never shied away from issues of public interest even at the risk of getting involved in controversy. She was the driving force behind the Clinton administration's now defeated health plan.

The only other First Lady to visit this subcontinent was Mrs Jackie Kennedy, who toured Pakistan and India in 1962. But that visit was marked by the personal charm of Mrs Kennedy, and the media commented mostly on her wardrobe and her camel-riding skills. But Mrs Clinton's visit, by contrast, is like a business tour with focus on tough issues like

Wherever she has gone, she made it a point to visit projects on women and children: Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Delhi and a handicraft exhibition in Kathmandu. In Bangladesh, she met government and opposition leaders at a US Embassy reception in Dhaka. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia graced the occasion. It was gracious of the US First Lady to receive the Prime Minister personally. Mrs Clinton had also time for a tete-a-tete with opposition leader Sheikh Hasina.

She devoted almost the whole of Tuesday, the second day of her stay in this country, to seeing development projects outside of Dhaka. She flew to Jessore, and braving the scorching sun, visited projects run by Grameen Bank, BRAC and another NGO. The Clintons are great admirers of Grameen Bank's innovative rural banking system which has been replicated in different countries of the world as a way of poverty alleviation and empowerment of women. They became familiar with the working of Grameen Bank after their meeting with Professor Yunus in Little Rock, Arkansas when President Bill Clinton was governor of that state. Since that eventful meeting, the Clinton couple have become champions of the Grameen Bank philosophy that "credit is human right and the poor are your best credit risk." Again, since that meeting some ten years ago, Mrs Hillary Clinton, then the first lady of little known Arkansas state, had been looking forward to visiting Grameen Bank projects in Bangladesh. Finally, her wish has been fulfilled.

also seen it lush green vegetation, its meandering rivers (some with dry beds though), its changing countryside. She has met the people whose creativity and resilience she praised upon arrival here. Her words of praise were most flattering. She has instilled a sense of new confidence in the people; she has won their heart.

Mrs Clinton's visit to this part of this world will help open up this region where the United States, to quote a report, "has some of its weakest national security, business and social links." By deciding to undertake this very important, if tiring, tour of five countries of the subcontinent, Mrs Clinton has shown political sagacity and diplomatic acumen. Her visit has struck a new chord: She has built a psychological bridge between the United States and South Asia. She saw for herself the changing economic, social and political landscape of this huge geographical entity in one go as she jetted from one country to another. Her visit has come at a time when the subcontinent is virtually in ferment: Almost endless ethnic violence in Pakistan's commercial capital, Karachi; armed insurrection in Kashmir and prime minister Narasimha Rao's declining political fortune following election debacle in several key states; a small demonstration in communist-run Nepal's capital Kathmandu greeted her upon arrival there; and a political impasse in Bangladesh. After she visits Sri Lanka on the last leg of her tour, she will have met three heads of government who belong to her gender, and another politically strong woman in India who may be waiting in the wings. In Bangladesh, she has met the country's two most powerful ladies: The prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina who, until her voluntary resignation in December last, was the leader of the opposition in Parliament.

tough: they cannot afford to be easy-going housewives looking after the White House kitchen and taking care of the children only. The present day first lady is a close adviser of her husband's administration and exercises great influence on decision-making. The pressure of living under the intense scrutiny of the media can at times be unbearable. Mrs Nancy Reagan in her memoirs, "My Turn" has lamented, "Life in the White House is magnified: The highs were higher than I expected, and the lows were much lower." Controversies swirl around first ladies. And Mrs Clinton, despite her intellectual ability and political foresight, has not been above controversy. But in her case, the media in her country has not been as unforgiving as they have been in the case of some other first ladies. She may have taken a political battering in the failure of the administration's health care bill but Americans by and large hold her in esteem for her many qualities of head and heart.

Her goodwill mission of South Asia will be one more feather in her hat.

US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton exchanging views with the distinguished ladies involved in woman development activity in Bangladesh at a tea party held at the residence of US Ambassador in Dhaka yesterday.



Water figures in Hillary-Khaleda talks

US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Monday lauded various development efforts in Bangladesh, especially the government's Food for Education Programme, reports UNB.

"How did the project begin I don't believe there is any such programme in the world," an official quoted Hillary Clinton as saying during a meeting with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

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She acclaimed the performance of the Bangladeshi Army as UN peacekeepers and expressed her happiness over the cooperative relations between Bangladesh Air Force and the US Army.

Hillary Clinton said the US journalists accompanying her had widened their knowledge about Bangladesh and were moved by the excellent works being done by Bangladeshi people.

She said she was also impressed while flying over the countryside. "I saw excellent land and cultivation here."

Briefing the US First Lady on her government's development programmes Khaleda Zia said the country's food production would have been better had there been no scarcity of water caused by drought in the northern part of the country.

She said the country had also experienced serious environmental

See Back Page Col. 4



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia receiving Hillary Rodham Clinton at the dinner hosted in honour of the US First Lady by the prime minister at her Hare Road office Monday. —PID photo

Hillary-Khaleda

From Page 1 Col. 3

degradation due to unilateral withdrawal of water upstream during the dry season. "It is very important to resolve the problem."

The US First Lady hoped that the water problem would be resolved by Bangladesh and her neighbour.

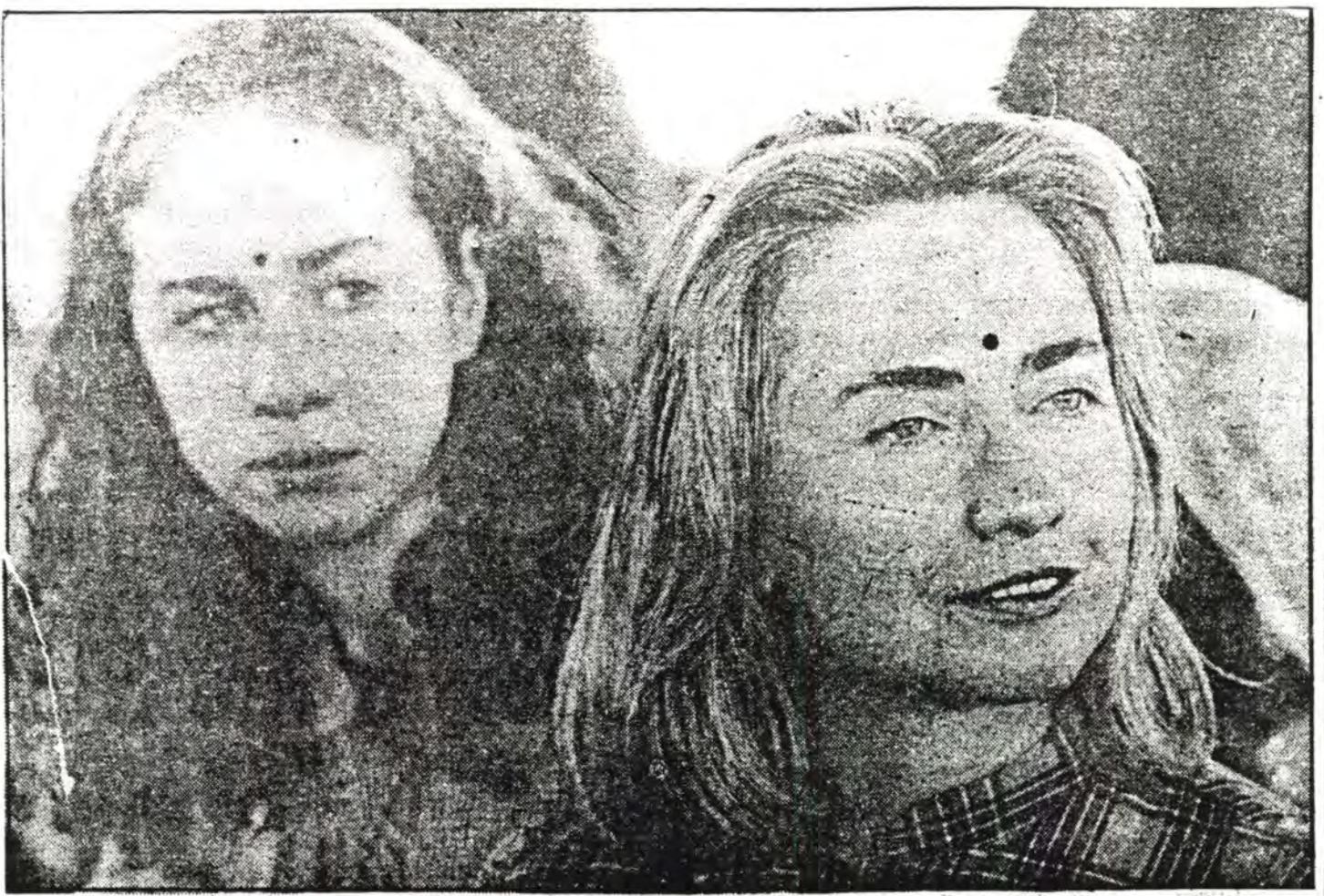
Earlier on her arrival at the Hare Road office, Hillary Clinton was received by the prime minister and

together they gave some time to the photographers for a picture session.

Attired in black skirt and light green tops, the First Lady also had a multi-coloured scarf around her shoulders. The prime minister was wearing a light yellow sari.

After the talks, the prime minister took the US First Lady to an open air dinner party, attended by ministers, MPs, diplomats, politicians, vice-chancellors of different universities, representatives of various professions, and senior civil and military officials.

Financial Express



আমেরিকার ফার্স্ট লেডী হিলারী ক্লিনটন গতকাল সোমবার কিনাইদহ জেলার মসিহাটি গ্রামে গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক প্রকল্প পরিদর্শন করেন। এসময় ব্যাংকের মহিলা সদস্যগণ তাকে একটি জামদানী শাড়ি উপহার দেন। মিসেস ক্লিনটন শাড়ি পরতে পারেন না জানালে তাকে শাড়ি পরায় কয়েক শেখানো হয়। গ্রামীণ ব্যাংকের মহিলা সদস্যদের হাতে তৈরী স্যামগ্রীর একটি স্টল পরিদর্শনকালে ক্লিনটন তনয়া চেলসিয়া একটি টিপ নিয়ে কপালে পরেন এবং মাকে হু পরিচয় দেন।



বঙ্গলগার দেশে শাড়ি পরিহিতা প্রিন্সেস

I've started earning since I was 13

MASHIHATI (Jhenaidah), Apr 3 (BSS): It was indeed a memorable experience for the people of this remote village, 20 miles from Jessore, as the US First Lady Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton visited them here today.

Ms Clinton together with her daughter Chelsea spent more than an hour in the sultry Chaitra with the otherwise neglected people of this quiet village to better acquaint herself with the grassroot operations of the country's Grameen Bank.

Isa M Yunus who is the founder of the widely acclaimed NGO, received Ms Clinton and introduced her to the members of the bank. Earlier, minor children belonging to the village greeted Ms Clinton heartily with songs and physical training (PT) display. She was visibly impressed with the performance of the tiny tots and exchanged greetings with them. She was thankful to the villagers for their long wait for her. Minister in waiting Sarwari Rahman, who is State Minister in charge of Women and Children Affairs, was present. As her motorcade drove from airport to the village hundreds of people greeted her waving hands from both sides of the road.

Deputy head of mission of US embassy James Nach and a White House press team were among others who accompanied the US First Lady.

Talking freely with some of the members of Grameen Bank Ms Clinton said, "I have heard about the bank 10 years before. Now I have come to learn from you how the bank has benefitted you to become self-reliant in society."

Ms Shefall, S Ambia and Ms Rina narrated their stories to the visiting US First Lady how they have been benefitted becoming associated with the Grameen Bank. Rina who is chairman of a group said with confidence, "before becoming Grameen Bank member I was a pauper. Today I have a house, a few head of cattle and poultry birds. Also send my children to school and follow the disciplines of the bank."

She dwelt at length the long story of the gradual enhancement of the ceiling of Grameen loan with the improvement of her financial condition.

Ms Clinton also replied to some of the queries of the Grameen Bank members.

In reply to one of the questions she said, "I have started earning since I was 13. Sometimes my income exceeded the income of my husband. I have stopped earning since moving to the White House when my husband became the President."

Responding to another question she said, "I wish I could have one or two more children. But we are so happy with our daughter that we thought of taking no more child. We are proud of Chelsea."

Referring to observations of one of the members Ms Clinton said she would convey her invitation to President Bill Clinton to visit Bangladesh at his convenient time.

Ms Clinton showed interest in some of the products displayed in stalls under a beautiful thatched roof. All the products put on display in 18 stalls were manufactured by members of the bank. The products included Jamdani saree, bamboo and cane furniture, breas wares etc. One of the Grameen members showed her the technique to wear a saree. She

Narrating experiences to become a Grameen Bank member Ms Najma said, "some well-to-do members of society discouraged me to become a member. They wanted us to be permanently dependent living on their left-overs." She said, "association with the bank has given me new identity and made me self-reliant in society." She boastfully recalled her experiences when members of such families were seeking their cooperation. Mrs Najma has another identity as a member of the union parishad. She was informed that dowry practice and divorce rate had gone down in the area.

During the course of free and frank exchange of views with the members of Grameen Bank Ms Clinton said, "Today you have learnt how to take collective decisions. It will take you a long way," she observed.

As Ms Clinton entered the venue of the stalls tiny tots received her singing gambhira, jari and other folk songs reflecting the cultural heritage of rural Bangladesh.

Visits BRAC school

Report from Churamankathi says: It was pleasant surprise for the children of BRAC school when the US First Lady Ms. Hillary Clinton with her daughter Chelsea visited them here today.

The children and local people greeted them heartily by clappings and singing.

As she entered the school premises BRAC Executive Director Fazle Hasan Abed received her.

He briefed her how the programme of non-formal primary education (NFE) introduced by BRAC had been started with 22 schools in 1985. The number of such schools today is 29 thousand covering 55 out of 64 administrative districts of the country.

of the school narrated to the US First Lady the functioning of the school. Replying to Ms Clinton's query Mamata said the school timing was flexible suiting the needs of the children in their families. She was further informed that students had their lessons simultaneously with time for fun, singing, dancing, acting and games.

Ms Clinton had words of praise for the performance of the programme of BRAC. Mr Abed presented Ms. Clinton with a video cassette on the school programme.

US to help spread female education

PANCHBARIA (Jessore), Apr 3 (BSS): The visiting US First Lady Ms Hillary Rodham Clinton disclosed here today that the United States had a plan to extend assistance to Bangladesh to spread female education.

Talking to BSS special correspondent Nurul Huda MS Clinton expressed her satisfaction over the level of awareness of women in Bangladesh.

Earlier, Ms Clinton was greeted by thousands of people of the adjoining villages as she entered the premise of Panchbaria-Balidanga Government Primary School premises.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Ms Sarwari Rahman and Secretary Primary and Mass Education Division Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed received the US First Lady at the school gate. As Ms Clinton entered the school where food-for-education programme had been introduced last year, students welcomed her with physical training display and songs.

about the favourable impact of the food-for-education programme to reduce dropouts and increase enrolment in primary schools. She was told that a family having two school-going children and belonging to underprivileged sections of society are given 20 KG wheat a month while a family with one school-going child is given 15 KG wheat a month. Out of a total of 387 students of the school, 244 enjoy the benefit.

She moved from one class of the school to another and talked freely with the students.

Later, Ms Clinton together with her daughter Chelsea went to the adjoining Panchbaria Secondary Girls High School and spent some time with the students of class VII. She also introduced her daughter, a tenth grader, to the students of the class.

In her introductory remarks she said, showing the world map, "I have come all the way from our country to acquaint myself better with your condition and enhance my experiences about your country." She wanted to know from the students the subjects taught in their classes. Some of the students promptly replied to the queries of the US First Lady.

She frankly narrated her experiences how their family moved from Arkansas state to the White House when Mr Bill Clinton became President of the United States. She also shared her experiences of the visits to other South Asian countries like India, Pakistan and Nepal with the students of the school.

Then Ms Clinton on her way to Dhaka drove in a motorcade to the airport where she posed for group photographs with Bangladeshi and US Airforce crew.

Ms Clinton and their daughter Chelsea were seen off at the Jessore Airport by Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hussain Chowdhury, senior civil and military officials.

Hillary denied a seat in Harvard

Special to the INDEPENDENT

PART TWO

In the White House family quarters, the ethos is more Methodist than Baptist. Liquor is served—something a staunch Southern Baptist would hesitate to do. But you have to ask for it, which is the moderate Methodist way. On Sundays it's Methodist, not a Baptist, church the First Family most often attends. And 14-year-old Chelsea Clinton is being raised a Methodist.

The Methodist ethos extends to politics as well. The First Lady's speech in April 1993 calling for "remodelling society by redefining what it means to be human in the 20th century" may have startled some listeners, but its ambitious optimism was fully consonant with the Methodists' liberal social creed. Indeed, Mrs. Clinton's many speeches defending the universal healthcare coverage resonated with the moral rhetoric of resolutions adopted by the church's governing General Conference. Her favourite adjective is a Methodist byword: inclusive, "Hillary views the world through a Methodist lens," say the Reverend Jones, who is still a welcome guest at the White House, "And we Methodists," he adds wryly, "know what's good for you."

Political friend: If the Kennedy era was Camelot and the Reagan White House a ranchero on the Potomac, the Clinton presidency—in the figure of its formidable First Lady—is Washington's Methodist Moment. And Methodists have waited a long time for the moment to arrive. With more members (8.8 million) than the Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Congregationalists and American Baptists combined, the United Methodists dominate mainline American Protestantism and its chief ecumenical agency, the National Council of Churches.

But the last time the Methodists or the mainline had a political friend in the White House was during the Great Society phase of the Johnson administration.

Jimmy Carter confided mostly in fellow Southern Baptists. The Reagan-Bush administrations assiduously courted the emergent religious right—and ignored what they regarded as the religious left, as represented by the mainline churches' liberal Washington lobby. Significantly, that lobby is housed on Capitol Hill in the Methodist Building.



The US President and his wife Hillary showing warmth in personal relations

Despite what some critics believe, the First Lady is not markedly feminist in her religion. She thinks abortion is "wrong but, like her husband, she says, 'I don't think it should be criminalized.'" She does not follow feminist theology and seems unaware of the upheaval its most radical exponents have created among Methodists in the name of greater inclusiveness.

As long as they are in the White House, the First Family has elected to worship at Foundry United Methodist Church, less than a mile away. There they find spiritual support from pastor J Philip Woganman, a liberal social-ethics professor who tries he says, to be "prophetic" in his sermons "without embarrassing the president." Generally the First Family slips into the same pew, three rows down from the front off the right center aisle.

It's a mixed congregation in a mixed urban neighbourhood. As Woganman proudly points out, young singles and married couples usually sit up front on the far left, gays prefer the far right. African-Americans congregate in the center and older white congregants—including Senate Republican leader Robert Dole and his wife, Elizabeth—favour the sections near the door. Very inclusive. Very Methodist. Very Hillary. *Bartholomew Clinton*

An outstanding student, Clinton excelled in nearly every endeavour she undertook. She maintained good grades, earned Girl Scout merit badges and DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) community-service awards, played the piano, took ballet lessons, engaged in competitive sports, and performed household chores for an extra potato with dinner rather than for an allowance. A highly skilled member of the debating team and a participant in the student government in high school, she was a National Merit Scholarship finalist and a member of the National Honour Society. During the summers she worked as a lifeguard at a municipal swimming pool. Even as a teenager, she displayed a predilection for social activism. Spurred by the Reverend Don Jones, her youth minister at the First United Methodist Church, she organised baby sitting services for local migrant workers. Taking his white, middle-class charges into Chicago's inner-city neighbourhoods, Jones introduced them to black and Hispanic youth in an effort to eradicate prejudice among his pupils. On one occasion, the two groups of young people discussed the relevance of Picasso's painting *Guernica* to their own lives; on another day, in 1962, Jones took the teenagers

to listen to a speech by the civil rights leader the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to whom Jones introduced the teenagers backstage. Sensing Clinton's insatiable intellectual curiosity, Jones lent her books by the theologians Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Reinhold Niebuhr, and Paul Tillich as well as J.D. Salinger's novel *The Catcher in the Rye*.

Despite her association with children from lessprivileged backgrounds and her exposure to a variety of philosophies, Clinton remained, like her parents, staunchly Republican, campaigning enthusiastically for Barry Goldwater in the presidential campaign of 1964. After graduating in 1965 from Maine South High School in the top 5 per cent of her class, which voted her the student most likely to succeed, Clinton enrolled at the all-female Wellesley College, near Boston, Massachusetts, where she promptly became head of the local chapter of the Young Republicans. It was not long, however, before the turbulence of the late 1960s reinforced the teachings of her youth minister and led her slowly leftward in her politics. The assassinations of Malcolm X in 1965 and of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy in 1968, coupled with the violence Clinton witnessed at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in the summer of 1968, dovetailed with her keen sense of social justice to convert her wholeheartedly to the democratic party. She campaigned for Eugene McCarthy for president in 1968, worked to enroll more black students at Wellesley, organised the school's first teachings on the Vietnam War (which turned into antiwar protests), and wrote her senior thesis on poverty and community development.

In 1969 Clinton graduated from Wellesley with a bachelor's degree in political science. As president of the student government, she was selected by her classmates to deliver the school's first student commencement

address, immediately following a speech by Senator Edward W. Brooke, a liberal Republican from Massachusetts. After shock-

ing her audience by castigating Brooke for the irrelevance of his remarks, she spoke about her classmates' college experience in terms of what it had meant to them personally. "We are, all of us, exploring a world that none of us understands and attempting to create within that uncertainty," she told her fellow graduating seniors. "But there are some things we fell, feelings that out prevailing, acquisitive, and competitive corporate life, including, tragically, the universities, is not the way of life for us. We're searching for more immediate, ecstatic, and penetrating modes of living," Clinton's words and her photograph were published in Life magazine. The national publicity she received through the article and through her victories as a contestant on the television quiz show College Bowl enhanced her already impressive resume and helped to ensure that she would have her pick of the best law schools.

Clinton enrolled at Yale Law School, in New Haven, Connecticut, after a Harvard professor told her that his university did not need any more female students. At Yale she served on the editorial board of the now-defunct Yale Review of Law and Social Action and presided over a mass meeting that was called in the spring of 1970 to formulate a response to the trials of the Black Panthers Ericka Huggins and Bobby Seale, which were then underway at a courthouse near the university. Recalling the campus atmosphere at the time in a speech to other Yale alumni in October 1992, she said that "there was a great amount of fer-

ment and confusion about what was and wasn't the proper role of law school education. We would have great arguments



Hillary with Indian PM P.V. Narasimha Rao just before her visit to Bangladesh

Hillary honours Yunus

an INDEPENDENT report

While strolling in a village near Chittagong University in 1976, a Bangladeshi economics professor had an idea that ultimately would dramatically improve the lot of many of the world's diligent poor.

Watching a woman weave cane chairs, Muhammad Yunus asked her how much she earned for a day's work.

The young professor, born to a prosperous business family, was stunned to learn that after paying a money lender the weaver was left with only a pittance.

Moved by her plight, Yunus came up with a plan to help the rural poor by lending without collateral. Starting small, his Grameen Bank loaned a total of 1,000 taka to 10 people in the village of Jobra.

The bank has grown to some two million borrowers in more than 34,000 Bangladesh villages. Ninety-four per cent of the borrowers are women. The bank has served as a model for development workers in 70 other countries, including the United States.

American First Lady Hillary Clinton greeted an old friend when Yunus gave her a first-hand look at his famed bank's operations in Bangladesh.

When her husband was governor of Arkansas in the 1980s, Bill Clinton asked Yunus to replicate his small-loans project in that state, one of America's poorest. So Yunus helped establish the Good Faith Fund in the Arkansas town of Pine Bluff.

Some US experts doubted if Arkansas would line up for such small loans as the project could offer. Yunus was not surprised when they were proved wrong.

"Academics have their ideas about the world and the reality is so different," says Yunus, who puts his faith in the "capability of human beings."

President Clinton, who has deemed Yunus worthy of the Nobel Prize, lavishes praise on the 55-year-old winner of the 1984 Magsaysay prize for community service and the 1994 World Food Prize.

"I was just blown away," Clinton told an interviewer last year. "He made enterprise work. He promoted discipline, not dependence." That is the name of the game these days in Washington, where the new Conservative Congress is wrestling with the knotty issue of welfare reform.

American lawmakers who want to move people off the welfare rolls and into jobs might well view

Yunus' bank as a more effective antidote to poverty than traditional give-aways. When Yunus had his fortuitous idea in Jobra 19 years ago, half a world away Hillary Clinton already was working in her own way on behalf of the poor.

In 1976, her young husband had just been elected the Arkansas attorney general. As an adjunct professor of law at the University of Arkansas, she directed the school's legal aid clinic, which served the state's poor.

In the following year, she founded and presided over Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, a non-profit group whose mandate was to identify the problems facing low-income children.

When her husband was elected governor for the first time in 1978 Mrs. Clinton already was on the board of the Children's Defence Fund.

Her major effort during her husband's presidency was considered by some a personal failure. She and Democratic Party leaders were unable to

drum up sufficient support for the Clinton administration's health-care package, which was rejected by Congress.

But Mrs. Clinton showed keen interest in Yunus' Grameen health project, which would charge village families a small fee for treatment and could eventually become self-financing.

Inevitably, Mrs. Clinton's visit to a Grameen Bank project site, a village near Jessore, was carefully orchestrated. She saw village women performing a variety of income-producing work such as pottery making and cane weaving.

She and her daughter, Chelsea, 15, were welcomed by singing and dancing children.

Security, provided by US Secret Service agents as well as Bangladeshi units, will be exceptionally tight.

On her visit in Bangladesh Mrs. Clinton was told that the Grameen Bank's default rate is 2 per cent, low compared to the nation's commercial banks, and that the good repayment rate is attributable to gender. Simply put, the bank targets women because it considers them more reliable than men.

Mrs. Clinton and Yunus are in full agreement that children order the priorities of women, making them less likely to waste money and more willing to use it for household improvements.

That proposition seems as likely to be true in Pine Bluff as it is in Jobra.





US First Lady Hillary Clinton speaks with a group of women at a Grameen Bank village in Jessore (See also Page 1). - Reuter photo

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The Independent

Clinton to visit Bangladesh, Hillary tells the Independent

Grameen Bank a model for other countries to follow

from A. Hossain
Special to the Independent

RISHIPARA (Jhenidah), Apr 3: American First Lady Hillary Clinton told The Independent today she is overwhelmed with the success of the poverty alleviation project run by the Grameen Bank and said it is a model for others to follow.

She spoke to this correspondent in a thatched house here, braving scorching heat. She perspired but seemed to ignore the heat as she walked about 600 yards from the metalled road to reach the shed constructed under the Grameen Bank project.

Her 15-year old daughter Chelsea appeared excited and smiled during the four-hour visit to the bank projects.

The blond, blue-eyed First Lady and her daughter donned cotton saris in a pattern called Grameen Cheque.

Hillary told this correspondent that the Grameen Bank project founded by her friend Dr Yunus is being replicated in President Clinton's home state.

She disclosed that President Clinton would visit Bangladesh in the near future to see for himself the Grameen Bank project

"I will brief him on the success story of the bank," she said, adding that the President could not make time to make this trip with her.

Clinton has said that Dr Yunus deserves the Nobel Prize for his innovative approach to poverty alleviation for distressed millions in the least developed countries.

"I'm proud of our daughter Chelsea," Hillary said when asked

Hillary honours Yunus a story in 'Newsmaker' column on page 16

why the Clintons did not go for more children. She disclosed that she had plans for one or two more children but abandoned the idea with Chelsea stealing the limelight.

Women beneficiaries of the Grameen Bank project took the First Lady by surprise when they asked how she earned her bread in the United States.

She said she had earned money since she was 13. She added that she earned more than her hus-

band before he was President.

She said she would return to the practice of law when her husband leaves the White House.

Dr Yunus was acting as a translator when the women were talking to the First Lady near their thatched houses. The women, who were once destitute, seemed surprised to see her freely talking to them and answering their questions.

"I am a woman just like you," she reassured the women.

Young girls welcomed the First Lady by putting red 'tip' on Hillary's forehead, while they greeted Chelsea with a green one.

Hillary and Chelsea defied strict security and protocol by eating puffed rice, locally called 'Moori,' which was offered by the women.

The First Lady ignored FBI secret agents when they were trying to block her way to the place where the puffed rice was being prepared. She won the hearts of 2,200 inhabitants of Rishipara when she freely mixed with them

and clapped hands as the women were singing songs greeting the distinguished guests.

It was a full day for the First Lady, who charmed villagers who welcomed her historic visit with singing and dancing by children and moving demonstrations by poor women of the dignity of work.

Obviously impressed by the diligence of her hosts and delighted by their friendliness, Mrs. Clinton responded warmly, especially to the women and children, the focus of her South Asia tour.

Much of the talk during her tour of villages near Jessore was of projects that improve the lot of the poor, but there were lighter moments, as when the honoured guest cheerfully draped herself in the sari.

"I don't know how to wear it," she said, "but I would love to."

Thousands of villagers lined the road from the Jessore Air Base to the villages to see Mrs. Clinton, but many of them saw only her tightly guarded motorcade.

Mrs. Clinton appeared genuinely moved by the accomplish-

See Page 16 Col 8

ments of women who had been helped by small loans from the Grameen Bank.

"I am overwhelmed," she told The Independent after hearing resilient village women tell their stories of how they had improved the lives of their families by hard work and with the aid of small loans.

Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea were greeted by Yunus, an old friend whose bank inspired a similar project in Arkansas when President Bill Clinton was governor of that state, one of America's poorest.

"I am very happy to see for myself what I have been hearing and reading about," Mrs. Clinton told women beneficiaries of the bank project.

"President Clinton and I would like to open similar projects in 40 states in the United States," she said. "We have already started in Arkansas."

Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea were charmed by a children's drama portraying Bangladeshi village life. The children sang folk and patriotic songs.

The Clintons toured stalls displaying handicrafts and other products made by the loan recipients.

Mrs. Clinton's motorcade took her to Uttar Churamankathi to visit one of the nation's 29,000 schools operated by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC).

"This is a remarkable achievement," Mrs. Clinton said. "I am happy to see the performance of the children."

The first lady and Chelsea sat on a bench to watch a class conducted at a girls' secondary school. She introduced her daughter, a tenth grader, to the class.

Using a world map to demonstrate, she said, "I have come all the way from my country to acquaint myself with your country."

She also witnessed a "Food for Education" programme at a school where food was distributed. The programme seeks to increase enrollment.

Before leaving Jessore for Dhaka, Mrs. Clinton posed for photographs with Bangladesh and U.S. military personnel taking part in a joint exercise to prepare for

The Independent

Here and There

Hillary's mother, daughter visit Ahsan Manzil

an INDEPENDENT report

The old mother of the US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and only child Chelsea yesterday visited the Ahsan Manzil to have a look into the rich past of Bangladesh.

Hillary's mother is currently accompanying Hillary on three-nation tour but yesterday did not go to Jessore district in Bangladesh to see for herself the Grameen Bank projects because of old age.

According to officials, Hillary's mother was enchanted the relics being preserved in the Ahsan Manzil.

The Ahsan Manzil, which was turned into a museum recently is attracting a huge number of visitors from home and abroad everyday.

It is now a number one tourist spot. The museum is contributing a mentionable amount of revenues to the government exchequer every year.

This building will remain as a milestone in preserving the historic and glorious past of our nation for the future generation.

Ahsan Manzil is situated on the northern bank of the river Buriganga. Once it was the residence of the Nawabs of Dhaka. This building is a witness to many events. Many historical, political, economic, social and cultural decisions of the sub-continent especially those of undivided Bengal were adopted at this Ahsan Manzil at the end of the 19th century.

Hence the building has a great contribution to the development of the sub-continent and the undivided Bengal. Therefore, the Ahsan Manzil has a long historical background. Even the distinguished guests from the overseas countries took hospitality of the Nawabs and stayed in the Ahsan Manzil.

Filtered water and electricity were supplied to the Manzil first and with this effort the journey of the old Dhaka toward the modern age and development started. In the middle of the 18th century, Sheikh Enayetullah, the then zaminder of Jalalpur pargana (now Faridpur-Barisal) built a pleasure house named 'Rangmahal' in place of the today's Ahsan Manzil. After his death his son Sheikh Matiullah sold this entertainment house to the

French traders. The French mercenaries built their business house here.

Khawja Alimullah, father of Khawja Abdul Gani bought this building from the French traders in 1835. He renovated the old building and shifted his residence from Begum Bazar to the Ahsan Manzil after making it fit to live in.

Nawab Abdul Gani rebuilt the building in 1872 and named it Ahsan Manzil after his beloved son Khawja Ahsan Ullah.



Ahsan Manzil museum

A devastating cyclone on 7 April, 1888 caused a heavy damage to the building. The tall dome of the two-storied building drew attention of the people from the far-flung areas.

Adorned with natural charm and beauty the Ahsan Manzil has two parts. The domed eastern part is called 'Rangmahal' while the western residential side 'Janana' or 'Andarmahal'. Moreover, the whole building is again divided into two equal parts. The sky-scraping eight-corner dome is based on the round room at the centre.

The drawing room, library and three guest rooms are at the eastern side on the first floor while the dance room, Hindustani room, and some residential rooms are at the western side on the same floor.

The dining hall is at the eastern side on the ground floor while the billiard room, darbar hall, toshakhana are at the west. The spacious verandah is extended toward the south.

The Ahsan Manzil was going to be destroyed for ever due to carelessness but at last this historic and traditional building was preserved. Work for turning this building into a museum started on 11 April, 1985 at the instruction of the government. In fact, work on this project began in March, 1986.

The Ahsan Manzil was turned into a complete museum at a cost of Tk 1357.94 lakh after long six years. The museum has 23 galleries in its 31 rooms. The Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated the Ahsan Manzil Museum on 20 September, 1992.

Clinton, Hillary stared at each other before they fell in love

Special to The INDEPENDENT

THIRD PART

to the East Coast in the summer of 1975 confirmed for Hillary

The solution to Clinton's dilemma—how to combine social activism and a legal career—presented itself in the figure of the civil rights lawyer and Yale alumna Marian Wright Edelman, the first black woman to pass the bar exam in Mississippi. After Edelman gave a speech at Yale in the spring of 1970 about her work in behalf of the poor and children's rights, Clinton volunteered to work for Edelman's Washington Research Project, the congressional lobbying and advocacy group that later became the Children's Defense Fund.

Edelman could not afford to pay her for her services, so Clinton applied for a Law Student Civil Rights Research Council grant, obtained a stipend, and spent the summer of 1970 in Washington D.C., interviewing the families of migrant labourers and reporting her findings to Senator Walter F. Mondale's subcommittee. Back at Yale, she augmented her knowledge of the nascent children's rights field with classes on child psychology and family law. Scheduled to graduate in 1972, she prolonged her education for a year in order to work at Yale's Child Study Center, where she helped research a book by Anna Freud, Joseph Goldstein, and Albert Solnit entitled *Beyond the Best Interests of the Child* (1973). During her final year at Yale, Clinton also performed legal research for the Carnegie Council on Children, specialising in the rights of children to education and medical care.

Meanwhile, in her second year at Yale Hillary Clinton had met her future husband, Bill Clinton, at the law library. According to the often-repeated story of their first meeting, the two of them stared at each other from opposite ends of a long corridor in the library until Hillary approached Bill and said, "Look, if you're going to keep staring at me, and I'm going to keep staring back, I think we should at least know each other. I'm Hillary Rodham.

What's your name?" From then on, Hillary and Bill were inseparable. As well matched temperamentally as they were intellectually, both were equally dedicated to public service. Having spent the previous year in Oxford, England on a Rhodes scholarship, Bill Clinton was then in his first year of law school. Before graduating in the

same class in 1973, the couple had spent the summer of 1972 in San Antonio, Texas, where Bill had run George S. McGovern's presidential campaign and Hillary had registered Hispanic voters.

For several months after her graduation, Hillary worked as a staff attorney for the Children's Defense Fund in Cambridge, Massachusetts while Bill taught at the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville. They kept in touch by telephone and occasional visits. In January 1974 Hillary Clinton moved to Washington, D.C., at the behest of John Doar, the special counsel to the House Judiciary Committee, who was in charge of the committee's inquiry into the impeachment of President Richard Nixon. One of only three women on the staff of

Is it a repeat of what they did at university?

forty-three lawyers, Clinton was put in charge of legal procedures.

She impressed her peers with her objectivity and her ability to distinguish advocacy from judicial guidance. Her colleagues found her to be energetic, emotionally supportive, and cooperative. When the impeachment staff was disbanded following Nixon's resignation, on August 8, 1974, Clinton was deluged with offers of high-paying jobs at prestigious law firms on the East Coast in addition to an invitation to return to her post at the Children's Defense Fund. To the

dismay of her friends and family, she instead joined Bill Clinton on the faculty of the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville in September 1974.

In the summer of 1974 Bill Clinton had launched a bid for a seat in the House of Representatives from Arkansas's Third Congressional District, a Republican stronghold Hillary became his unofficial campaign manager when she demonstrated her remarkable organising skills. Although Bill Clinton lost the election to the Republican incumbent, John Paul Hammerschmidt by four percentage points, he came closer to defeating Hammerschmidt than any Democrat before or since. During the campaign, Hillary had made extensive contacts throughout the state and discovered that she enjoyed teaching criminal law, running a legal-services clinic, and doing prison projects and advocacy work in the quiet college town in the Ozark Mountains. Visits to friends and family in Illinois and



that she was not missing anything by remaining in Arkansas. Upon her return to Fayetteville in August, Bill surprised her with a house and a proposal of marriage. When they were wed, on October 11, 1975, Hillary retained her maiden name, a decision that would surface as a controversial issue in her husband's subsequent political campaigns.

After Bill Clinton was elected state attorney general in 1976, he and Hillary moved to Little Rock, where she taught law as an adjunct professor at the University of Arkansas and directed the school's legal-aid clinic.

Earlier that year she had impressed Jimmy Carter with her work on his presidential campaign, which Bill had directed in Arkansas. In 1977 President Carter appointed her to the board of directors of the Legal Services Corporation, a Washington-based organization that provides federal funds to legal-aid bureau throughout the United States. In the same year she founded and presided over the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, a non-profit legal advocacy group whose mandate was to identify the problems facing low-income children, and she was among the first female associates hired by Rose Law Firm, where her salary enabled her and Bill to buy a house in the upper-middle-class suburb of Hillcrest.

In 1978 Hillary campaigned for Bill in his first run for governor, which he won by defeating his Republican opponent, A Lynn Lowe, by a margin of almost two to one. Hillary, who had recently been named to the board of directors of the Children's Defense Fund, continued to work at Rose Law Firm after the election, giving Arkansas something it had never had: a working first lady. After moving into the governor's mansion, Bill appointed Hillary chairperson of the Rural Health Advisory Committee, whose members dealt with the problems involved with providing health care in isolated areas. Neither Hillary's retention of her last name nor her assumption of official duties engendered much controversy at that time. In early 1980 she was made a partner at Rose Law Firm and gave birth to Chelsea Victoria Clinton, who was named after the song "Chelsea Morning."

In announcing the birth of a daughter to Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham, the governor offended some of his more traditional constituents, who began to carp that something must be wrong with his marriage if his wife would not take his name. Compounding his problems in 1980, the year Ronald Reagan would sweep Republicans into office in a nationwide landslide, was President Carter's decision to intern 18,000 Cuban refugees at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. After some of them rioted that summer, Bill Clinton's Republican opponent, Frank White, played on racist sentiments in his campaign and unseated Clinton, who fell into a period of despair. He traveled the state apologising for his mistakes and asking voters to forgive him, which they did by returning him to office in 1982.



A toddler feeling safe in embrace of Hillary



WHEN THE TWO MOST BEAUTIFUL LADIES MEET: The US First Lady Hillary Clinton welcoming Prime Minister Khaleda to an American reception Sunday, the US envoy David N. Merrill is also seen with them.